

Va'etchan

→ Pass around copies of the 10 commandments and have each campers read one

→ Discussion:

10 Commandments

- Which is the most important?
- If you were allowed to pick one commandment to represent all 10, which would you choose?
- In Parshat Yitro, the fourth commandment reads “remember” the Shabbat. In Parshat Devarim, it says “observe” the Shabbat.
 - Which is more important?
 - Why do you think there are 2 different versions?

Covenant (read or have campers read quotes, then discuss)

כֹּט בְּכֹל-הַדֶּרֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר
צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם
אֶתְכֶם--תֵּלְכוּ: לַמַּעַן
תַּחֲיוּ, וְטוֹב לָכֶם,
וְהֶאֱרַכְתֶּם יָמִים, בְּאֶרֶץ
אֲשֶׁר תִּירְשׁוּ.

29 You shall walk in all the ways
which the Lord your God has
commanded you, that you may live,
and that it may be well with you, and
that you may prolong your days in the
land which you shall possess.

“A covenant made with God should be regarded not as restrictive but as protective.”
-Russel M. Nelson

- Why is it important to have covenant (brit)?
- Do you have any agreements/covenants? With who?
 - Parents, friends, teachers
- What was the purpose of the covenant that God made with the people?
- What made B'nai Israel special once they had a covenant?

כַּח וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם לַעֲשׂוֹת,
בְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם
אֶתְכֶם: לֹא תִסְרוּ, יְמִין

28 You shall observe to do
therefore as the Lord your God has
commanded you; you shall not turn
aside to the right hand or to the left.

ושמאל.

Intense questions:

- Do you think modern Judaism and the way we live our lives today adheres to the original commandments of God?
- Have we strayed to the left or right (from God's original commandments) or have we just adapted to them?
- Have we changed these commandments over time to make them more relevant?
 - In what ways have we changed them?
 - Are we doing the wrong thing by changing the commandments?
- How, as Jews, are we supposed to fit in and interact with the secular world while still holding strong to the commandments?
- **For example:**
 - **observance of Shabbat: Should you be cut off if you do not observe Shabbat?**
 - **Using God's name in vain: OMG!**
 - **Coveting: is jealousy ok? What is the line between coveting and being jealous?**

וְאֲנֹכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֲשֶׁר
הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם
מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים: לֹא־יִהְיֶה
לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים, עַל־
פָּנָי.

6 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.

ז לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה לְךָ פֶסֶל,
כָּל־תְּמוּנָה, אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׁמַיִם
מִמַּעַל, וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ
מִתַּחַת--וְאֲשֶׁר בַּמַּיִם,
מִתַּחַת לָאָרֶץ.

7 You shall not make for yourselves a graven image, even any manner of likeness, of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

ח לֹא־תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם,
וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם: כִּי אֲנֹכִי
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֵל קַנָּא--
פִּקְדַּי עוֹן אֲבוֹתַי עַל־בְּנֵי
וְעַל־שִׁלְשִׁים וְעַל־רִבְעִים,
לְשָׁנָאִי.

8 You shall not bow down unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate Me,

9 and showing mercy unto the thousandth generation of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

ט וְעָשִׂה חֶסֶד, לְאֲלֹפִים--
לֹא־אֲהַבִּי, וְלֹשְׁמֵרֵי מִצְוֹתַי

י לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת־שֵׁם־יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ, לְשׁוּא: כִּי לֹא
יִנְקֶה יְהוָה, אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־
יִשָּׂא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ לְשׁוּא.

10 You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that took His name in vain.

יא שְׁמוֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת,
לְקַדְּשׁוֹ, כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּךְ, יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ.

11 Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.

יב שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד,
וְעָשִׂיתָ כָּל-מְלֹאכְתֶךָ.
יג וַיּוֹם, הַשְּׁבִיעִי--שַׁבָּת,
לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: לֹא
תַעֲשֶׂה כָּל-מְלֹאכָה אֲתָה

12 For six days you should do labor, and do all you work;

13 but the seventh day is a Sabbath for the Lord your God, in it you shall not do any manner of work, you, nor you son, nor you daughter, nor any servant, nor you ox, nor you donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is living in your house; so that your servants may rest as well as you.

וּבִנְךָ-וּבִתֶּךָ וְעַבְדְּךָ-
וְאִמֶּתְךָ וְשׂוֹרְךָ וְחֹמְרְךָ
וְכָל-בְּהֵמֹתֶיךָ, וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר
בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ--לְמַעַן יִנוּחַ
עַבְדְּךָ וְאִמֶּתְךָ, כָּמוֹךָ.

יד וְזָכַרְתָּ, כִּי עֶבֶד הָיִיתָ
בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, וַיֹּצִיאֲךָ יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִשָּׁם, בְּיַד חֲזָקָה
וּבְזֹרֶעַ נְטוּיָה; עַל-כֵּן, צִוָּךְ
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, לַעֲשׂוֹת,
אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת.

14 And you shall remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out thence by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

טו כִּבֵּד אֶת-אָבִיךָ וְאֶת-
אִמְךָ, כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּךְ יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ--לְמַעַן יֵאָרִיכוּ

15 Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you; so that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you, upon the land which the Lord your God has given you.

יִמִּיד, וְלִמְעַן יִיטֵב לָךְ, עַל
הַאֲדָמָה, אֲשֶׁר-יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ.

16 Thou shalt not murder. Neither shalt thou
commit adultery. Neither shalt thou steal. either
shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbor.
טז לא תרצח, ולא
תנאף; ולא תגנב, ולא-
תענה ברעך עד שוא.

17 Neither shalt thou covet thy neighbor's
wife; neither shalt thou desire thy neighbor's house,
his field, or his servant, his ox, or his donkey, or
any thing that is thy neighbor's.
יז ולא תחמד, אשת
רעך; ולא תתאוה בית
רעך, שדהו ועבדו ואמתו
שורו וחמרו, וכל, אשר
לרעך.

Activity:

Go around in a circle and each person needs to say what 3-5 “rules” in their lives should be on the 10 commandments