

**THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM**  
**What's The Big Deal?**  
**Sermon 4.7.09**  
**Wayne Krause**

**Small Group Study for Week of July 4 -10**

**The Big Idea**

It's important to note that, before the Ten Commandments impact our life, God has already done what needs to be done to save us. The Ten Commandments reflect the character of God and have two main purposes. Firstly, before we are saved the Law tells us we are sinners and the natural consequence of that is that we are going to die. When we realise our need of salvation and meaning in life, we accept what Christ has done for us and the Bible says we pass from death to life. The Law now takes on an entirely different role. It no longer condemns, but points out the areas in our lives that need to change, so that we can become more like the one who saved us. Our becoming more and more like Christ happens as the first commandment becomes more and more central to our living.

**Group Reads Exodus 20:1-3**

**Questions:**

- \*1. How does the fact that grace (God saved the Israelites) comes before the Law impact our understanding of God and our motivation for living for Him?
  
2. It has been said that if you kept the first of the Ten Commandments we would be able to keep them all, discuss in the context of the other commandments? Pick a few of them to discuss. (We are not discussing perfection here - we are talking about commandment number one being the right motivation for the other nine commandments)

**Group Reads Mark 10:17-22**

3. Most Christians say that God is number one in their lives. The rich young man also believed he had kept all the commandments since he was a boy. Jesus, by asking him to do one thing, showed that he had been breaking at least the first commandment. What could God ask you to do that would show if you were breaking the first commandment?

**Comment:**

In the sermon Pastor Wayne pointed out the following areas that would help a person to determine whether they had other gods before the God of the universe:

- A. The person who has the God of the Universe as her/his number one God wants to grow more like Jesus
- B. The person who has the God of the Universe as his/her number one God would spend significant time with God
- C. The person who has the God of the Universe as her/his number one God will be studying the Scriptures to be able to give a reason for her/his faith. She/he will want other people to know about Jesus and His truths for living
- D. The person who has the God of the Universe as his/her number one God, will not be content to play church. They will know the church is the body of Christ and want to minister within and for the church.
- E. The person who has the God of the Universe as his/her number one God, will love the world that God has made, be wanting to look after God's nature the environment, will hate to see injustice done, will work for peace and helping the poor.

- \*4. How are you doing in each of these areas?

\*5. After acknowledging your need of God, what two things could you do to ensure that God is the number one God in your life? How could your Small Group help you?

\***Conclusion:** As noted in the Big Idea the Law before we are Christ followers condemns us, pointing out our need of Him so we can repent and accept Gods salvation. After we are saved the Law now points, within the security of our salvation, to the ways we can become more like Jesus. We still need to repent and ask forgiveness but we do so within the saving, secure relationship of God.

\*6. Which repentance do we need to make after this study? The one to enter into a relationship with God (if you need to do this the leader of your group will help you) or the one to say we want our relationship with God to become stronger?