

# RULES TO LIVE BY!



## 2. Put God First

### Introduction

In our last study we were introduced to the Ten Commandments. These commands were given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai, after God had dramatically delivered the people of Israel from 400 years of bondage and slavery in Egypt. God made a covenant with them, promising to take care of them as long as they obeyed Him. Although we are no longer under that Old Covenant, God's standards have not changed. In fact, Jesus gave greater insight into the meaning of these commands. We will begin with the first commandment.

### Scripture Reading:      **Deuteronomy 5:1-7**

- ❶ What do you think it means when it says, “no other gods before me”?

*(When God says ‘before me’ He does not just mean we should have no other gods as important as Him, but that we should have no other God except Him. He ALONE should be our God.)*

Often we take this lightly. We don't understand that God is very serious about this.

- ❷ In the Old Testament what were people to do if someone tried to persuade them to follow another god? See Deuteronomy 13:6-11

*(They were warned not to listen or follow. In fact the person who tried to lead them astray deserved to be put to death.)*

- ❸ Why do you think it is so serious in God's sight to lead someone astray? Discuss.

*(If someone is led astray he will face eternal separation from God. That is serious!)*

On the other hand, you and I are called to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people so they will be saved from eternal separation from God. What an important responsibility we have!

- ❹ What other warning does God give in Exodus 34:14-16 and Deuteronomy 7:3-4?

*(God's people were not to make a treaty with anyone who worshipped other gods, and nor were they to intermarry with them, or they would be led astray.)*

- ❺ Does this apply to Christians? If so, how does it apply? See 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

- ❻ The first commandment says, “You shall have no other gods before me.” What other gods is it possible to have? Discuss.

Although we may say we do not worship any other gods, there is a god that many Christians have been drawn away by.

7 What are the two masters Jesus is speaking about in Luke 16:13-15?

*(God and Money)*

8 How did the Pharisees react then they heard Jesus say this, and why? Luke 16:14-15

*(They sneered at Jesus and mocked Him because they loved money. Although the Pharisees prided themselves on loving God and obeying His commands, Jesus said that God knew who or what they really worshipped in their hearts.)*

9 Jesus gives some practical ways of determining our attitude to money and why it is important to handle it correctly in Luke 16:9-12. Read and discuss these verses.

10 What is your attitude to money? Let's give ourselves a personal checkup! Answer the questions below. You do not need to share your answers however if you answer 'yes' for most of the questions then you need to ask yourself whether money has become too important in your life.

	Yes	No.
1. Do you think about money a lot?		
2. Do you always want new things?		
3. Do you often keep back the 10% that belongs to God?		
4. Do you always wish you could earn more money?		
5. Do you compare yourself with others who seem to have more than you?		

## Conclusion

When the religious leaders questioned Jesus about what the greatest commandment was, He replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is what it means to have 'no other gods except me'. If we have made Jesus our Lord and Savior, then we are to have no other God except Him. And He is worthy of our total dedication. **Put Him first.** This is the first commandment.