Name:

Participant Guide Fall 2026 - Part 2

MACOMB
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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LETTER FROM KURT

In a world that often views rules as outdated, rigid, or restrictive, it is easy to misinterpret the ultimate purpose of God's commands. Many people see the Old Testament law as a cold list of do's and don'ts that weigh us down. Instead, God gave them to His people out of deep love, establishing a gracious guide for how to love Him and love others.

This fall, we are taking a fresh look at the 10 Commandments to discover the heart behind the law. Throughout this series, we will see that God always establishes relationship before He demands obedience...both are necessary. As we step through these twelve weeks, we will explore how the first four commandments direct our devotion toward God, while the remaining six reveal how to love others in practical, everyday ways.

We will also see how Jesus did not come to abolish these commands, but to fulfill and expand them as a law written on our hearts. In a culture where authority is frequently ignored or resisted, unpacking these timeless truths together in our Life Groups is needed now more than ever.

It is my prayer that this study will move you beyond mere head knowledge and into a life of active obedience. We respond out of love for our Father, not a heartless obligation to keep a list of commands out of fear. May these discussions deepen your love for God, strengthen your relationships with others, and help you discover the true freedom found in Jesus Christ.

May God bless,

Kurt Charlton
Lead Minister

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The purpose of this guide is to help you dive deeper into our sermon series.

Sermon Notes

Bring this workbook to church each Sunday. As you listen to the sermon, make a note when you hear something that surprises you, intrigues you, bothers you, challenges you, or encourages you. Use this as a starting point for your group discussion.

Connect Questions

These questions will help you and your group members become more comfortable with talking and sharing with each other. Not only will you learn more about one another, the questions will help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.

Core Questions

These questions are the "meat" of the discussion and will point back to the sermon each week. Feel free to read and answer the questions before your group meets. They will also helpyou dig deeper into the Scriptures during your group discussions.

Change Questions

Conviction leads people to significant actions. At the end of Jesus' most famous sermon, he says if you do not put his words into practice, then you are a fool (Matthew 7:24-27). Life transformation is the ultimate goal of a follower of Christ. This happens through personal reflection and a genuine response to what you have heard from God. Feel free to answer the questions out loud when your leader reads them, or you can quietly reflect and write a response in your workbook. This is the time to go deep and make it personal.

Care Questions

Please focus this time on your own personal praises and requests instead of listing all of the bad things that happened to someone you know. We challenge you to get "deep" with one another relationally, which means becoming a little bit vulnerable as you are honest with one another.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. **You shall have no other gods before me.**
   Exodus 20:3

2. **You shall not make any idols.**
   Exodus 20:4-6

3. **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**
   Exodus 20:7

4. **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**
   Exodus 20:8-11

5. **Honor your father and your mother.**
   Exodus 20:12

6. **You shall not murder.**
   Exodus 20:13

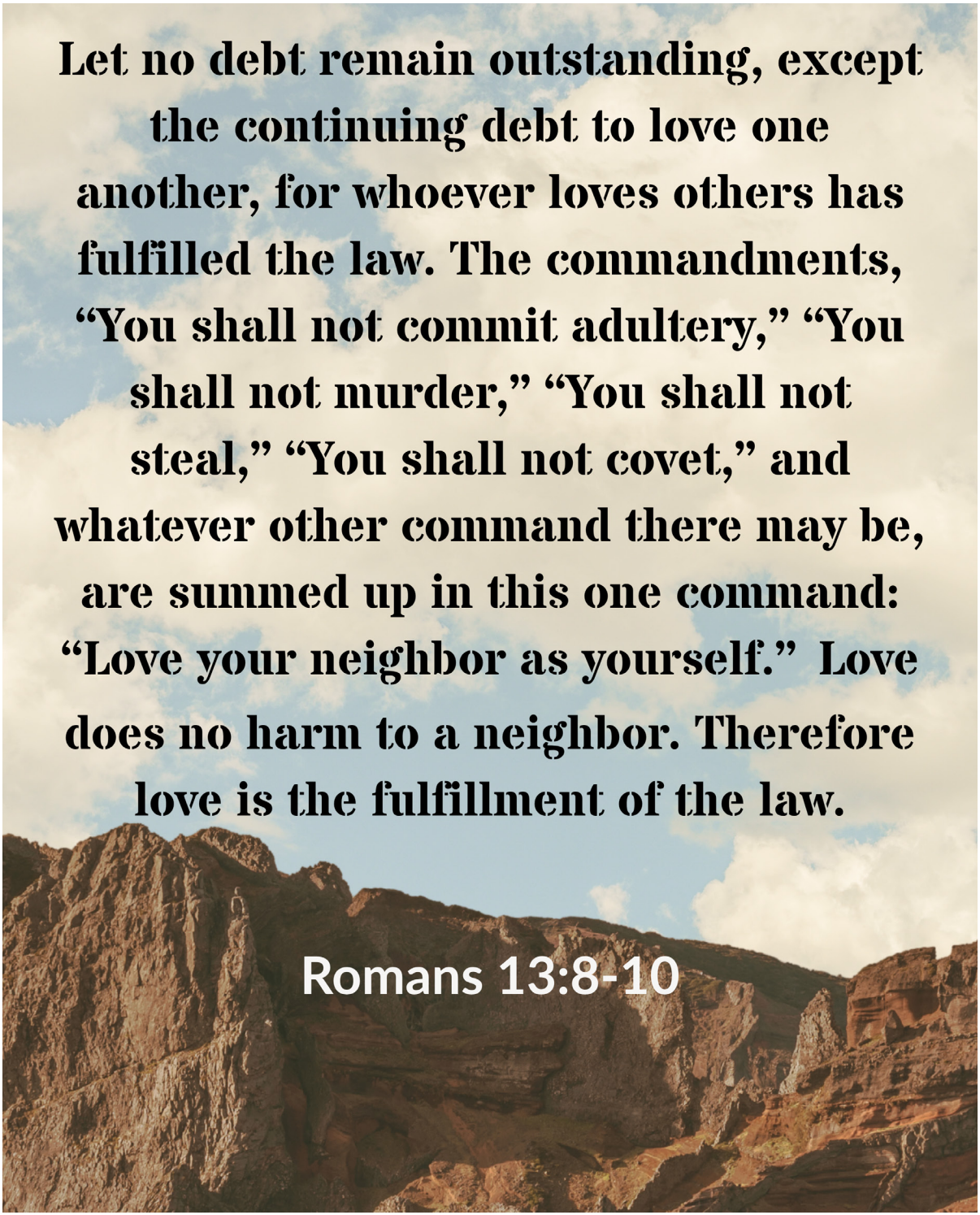
7. **You shall not commit adultery.**
   Exodus 20:14

8. **You shall not steal.**
   Exodus 20:15

9. **You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**
   Exodus 20:16

10. **You shall not covet.**
    Exodus 20:17

Suggested reading:
The 10 Commandments by Kevin DeYoung


Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
Romans 13:8-10

OCTOBER 25 - MURDER

OCTOBER 25 - MURDER

Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21-22

Connect Questions

(Points forward to the topic. Helps people become more comfortable with talking and sharing.)

1. **Do you like to watch crime shows or read murder mystery novels? Which ones are your favorite?**

2. **Why do you think there is such a fascination with serial killers and true crime in our society?**

3. **Who was your rival or archenemy growing up, and what made you harbor resentment toward each other?**

Core Questions

(Points back to the sermon. Heart of the discussion and digs deeper into Scripture.)

1. **Why do you think people have an innate belief that murder is wrong, and why would God include this in the Ten Commandments if nearly every culture already agrees on it?**

2. **What is the difference between killing and murder, and why is this distinction important when interpreting this commandment?**

3. **What are some specific situations where the Bible indicates this prohibition against murder does not apply?**

4. **How do you think Christians should respond to sensitive topics like suicide, abortion, and euthanasia?**

5. **Read Matthew 5:21-22. How does Jesus deepen and illuminate the original commandment?**

6. **Read Matthew 5:23-26. How do these illustrations demonstrate the urgent priority God places on dealing with anger and seeking reconciliation?**

7. **Read 1 John 2:9-11 and 1 John 3:15. How does John connect our love for others with our walking in the light and our eternal standing with God?**

Change Questions

(Points to application and personal reflection. Encourage people to answer out loud or internally.)

1. **What types of people do you find it most difficult to show love to, and what feeds that resentment in your heart?**

2. **What relationships in your life have been damaged by anger, harsh words, or bitterness, and what steps can you take this week toward reconciliation?**

3. **How can you actively avoid hatred by redirecting your heart toward blessing and valuing others this week?**

Care Questions

(Points to one another and God. Try to focus on personal praises/requests of people in the group.)

1. **What is going on in <u>your</u> life?**

2. **What are <u>you</u> struggling with that we can pray for?**

3. **What are some ways God is blessing <u>you</u>?**

NOVEMBER 1 - ADULTERY

NOVEMBER 1 - ADULTERY

Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27-28

Connect Questions

(Points forward to the topic. Helps people become more comfortable with talking and sharing.)

1. **When was a time from your childhood you did something wrong and tried to cover it up?**

2. **How does our culture treat adultery and marriage, and what examples do you see in movies and television shows?**

3. **When have you physically removed an object to avoid temptation [any type of temptation]?**

Core Questions

(Points back to the sermon. Heart of the discussion and digs deeper into Scripture.)

1. **In your opinion, what is the greatest threat to marriage and family today, and how does culture encourage compromise in this area?**

2. **Read Matthew 5:27-28. How does Jesus expand our understanding of this commandment?**

3. **In what ways do men and women typically struggle with temptation and lust differently?**

4. **Read 2 Samuel 12:9. Why does God say David despised the word of the Lord when he**

5. **Read Psalm 119:9-11. How does the writer connect God's Word, purity, and our hearts?**

6. **Read Matthew 5:29-30. Why do you think Jesus gave these examples? What is the specific danger he mentions in both verses?**

7. **If Jesus were to give extreme examples to us today, what might he say?**

Change Questions

(Points to application and personal reflection. Encourage people to answer out loud or internally.)

1. **What are the triggers in your life that lead down a path of lust?**

2. **What practical boundaries or distractions do you need to cut out of your life this week to protect your heart and relationships?**

3. **How can you actively honor God and His Word by seeking purity in your thoughts and actions this week?**

Care Questions

(Points to one another and God. Try to focus on personal praises/requests of people in the group.)

1. **What is going on in <u>your</u> life?**

2. **What are <u>you</u> struggling with that we can pray for?**

3. **What are some ways God is blessing <u>you</u>?**

NOVEMBER 8 - STEALING

NOVEMBER 8 - STEALING
Exodus 20:15; Ephesians 4:28

Connect Questions
(Points forward to the topic. Helps people become more comfortable with talking and sharing.)

1. **What are some "free" items you like to take home from hotels, stores, restaurants, etc.?**

2. **Did you ever take anything as a child without asking, and what happened when you were caught?**

3. **Has anything valuable ever been stolen from you, and how did that experience make you feel?**

Core Questions
(Points back to the sermon. Heart of the discussion and digs deeper into Scripture.)

1. **When we first hear the eighth commandment, we usually think of taking a physical object from another person. What are some non-conventional or modern ways that people steal today?**

2. **Read Exodus 20:15. Every culture in history has established laws and ethical codes against stealing. Why do you think stealing is such a universal concern across human societies?**

3. **Does stealing hurt God in the same way that it hurts other human beings? How does God view our honesty regarding our daily responsibilities?**

4. **Read Ephesians 4:25-28. Which of the Ten Commandments do you recognize in these instructions, and how do they show the communal effect of sin?**

5. **According to Ephesians 4:28, what is the ultimate reason Paul gives for stopping dishonest behavior and engaging in honest labor?**

6. **How does Paul show that the Christian life is more than just avoiding negatives, it is about seeking positives?**

7. **Read Malachi 3:8-10. How does the Bible describe stealing in relation to our relationship with God, and what does this reveal about our stewardship?**

Change Questions

(Points to application and personal reflection. Encourage people to answer out loud or internally.)

1. **In what specific areas of your work, family, or personal life are you most tempted to cut corners or justify stealing?**

2. **Where do you need to show more honesty or integrity in your work or finances this week?**

3. **How can you shift from being a taker to being a giver by blessing others this week?**

Care Questions

(Points to one another and God. Try to focus on personal praises/requests of people in the group.)

1. **What is going on in <u>your</u> life?**

2. **What are <u>you</u> struggling with that we can pray for?**

3. **What are some ways God is blessing <u>you</u>?**

NOVEMBER 15 - LYING

NOVEMBER 15 - LYING

Exodus 20:16; Colossians 3:9-10

Connect Questions

(Points forward to the topic. Helps people become more comfortable with talking and sharing.)

1. **What are some excuses you have given to get out of something you did not want to attend?**

2. **What is a lie you believed when you were younger but now know the truth?**

3. **What are some everyday situations where people are tempted to stretch the truth and easily justify it?**

Core Questions

(Points back to the sermon. Heart of the discussion and digs deeper into Scripture.)

1. **Look back at Exodus 20:16. Why was giving false testimony such a critical issue in the ancient judicial system of Israel?**

2. **Why do you think God makes honesty such a big deal for His chosen people? Why is it important for Christians today?**

3. **What are some categories or examples of lying and deception people do today?**

4. **What are some motivations, good or bad, people might have for lying in those various ways?**

5. **Read or have someone summarize Acts 5:1-11. Why do you think the punishment was so harsh? Why would God want people to fear this?**

6. **Read Ephesians 4:25. Why does Paul connect putting away falsehood directly with our identity as members of one body?**

7. **Read James 3:5-6. How does James describe the immense power of our speech, and why must we guard against casual dishonesty?**

Change Questions

(Points to application and personal reflection. Encourage people to answer out loud or internally.)

1. **In what specific areas of your work, family, or personal life are you most tempted to stretch the truth or present a false image of yourself?**

2. **How can you replace habits of exaggeration, flattery, or gossip with authentic and life-giving speech this week?**

3. **With whom do you need to be completely honest, or to whom do you need to apologize for past dishonesty or deceit?**

Care Questions

(Points to one another and God. Try to focus on personal praises/requests of people in the group.)

1. **What is going on in <u>your</u> life?**

2. **What are <u>you</u> struggling with that we can pray for?**

3. **What are some ways God is blessing <u>you</u>?**

NOVEMBER 22 - COVETING

NOVEMBER 22 - COVETING

Exodus 20:17; Luke 12:15; Romans 7:7-8

Connect Questions

(Points forward to the topic. Helps people become more comfortable with talking and sharing.)

1. **When you were a child, what was something you desperately wanted but never received?**

2. **When have you made a poor financial decision because of something you thought you needed?**

3. **How many advertisements do you think you see each day, and where do you notice them the most?**

Core Questions

(Points back to the sermon. Heart of the discussion and digs deeper into Scripture.)

1. **Read Exodus 20:17. How does the tenth commandment connect directly back to the first commandment regarding who holds first place in our hearts?**

2. **How is the tenth commandment different from all the other commandments, and what does this reveal about God's design for us?**

3. **In what ways does living in a modern consumer culture amplify the temptation to covet what belongs to others?**

4. **Read James 4:1-4. How does James describe the destructive progression that begins with ungodly desires and leads to conflict?**

5. **Is it always sinful to want something you do not have, and where is the line between healthy ambition and sinful coveting?**

6. **Read Philippians 4:10-13. How does the Apostle Paul describe the secret to overcoming discontentment and finding true satisfaction?**

7. **What are some practical steps we can take to guard our hearts from coveting?**

Change Questions

(Points to application and personal reflection. Encourage people to answer out loud or internally.)

1. **When has comparison led you into disappointment, bitterness, or poor choices?**

2. **What specific blessings has God given you that you often overlook or take for granted?**

3. **What practical habit can you start this week, such as a media fast or a gratitude journal, to guard your heart against envy?**

Care Questions

(Points to one another and God. Try to focus on personal praises/requests of people in the group.)

1. **What is going on in <u>your</u> life?**

2. **What are <u>you</u> struggling with that we can pray for?**

3. **What are some ways God is blessing <u>you</u>?**

NOVEMBER 29 - GREATEST COMMANDMENT

NOVEMBER 29 - GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 13:8-10

Connect Questions

(Points forward to the topic. Helps people become more comfortable with talking and sharing.)

1. **What is your favorite movie, and how would you summarize the entire plot in one sentence to someone who has never seen it?**

2. **If you had to summarize every house rule and expectation for your family into two core values, what would it be?**

3. **When you look back over the past ten weeks of studying the commandments, which week stood out the most and why?**

Core Questions

(Points back to the sermon. Heart of the discussion and digs deeper into Scripture.)

1. **List all Ten Commandments in your own words below. Try to list them from memory before you look at Exodus 20.**

2. **Read Matthew 19:16-19. What does Jesus' response show us about the importance of the Ten Commandments and the heart behind them?**

3. **Read Matthew 19:20-22. Why do you think Jesus gave an extra commandment to this man? What does that reveal about what God wants from us?**

4. **After being asked about salvation, what do you notice about the specific actions Jesus told the man to do?**

5. **Read Matthew 22:34-40. What do you think it means to fully love God? Others?**

6. **MCC exists to lead people to love Jesus, the Bible, the church, and others. How does our mission statement match the greatest commandment of Jesus and the lessons from the Ten Commandments?**

Change Questions

(Points to application and personal reflection. Encourage people to answer out loud or internally.)

1. **Which of the Ten Commandments or lessons from this series has impacted your daily walk with God the most?**

2. **Do you struggle more to love God with all your heart, or to love difficult people as yourself?**

3. **Which part of the MCC mission statement [Lead people to love Jesus, the Bible, the church, and others] do you need to focus on right now?**

Care Questions

(Points to one another and God. Try to focus on personal praises/requests of people in the group.)

1. **What is going on in <u>your</u> life?**

2. **What are <u>you</u> struggling with that we can pray for?**

3. **What are some ways God is blessing <u>you</u>?**

ADDITIONAL NOTES

THE
TEN
COMMANDMENTS