

THE FATHER'S HEART: STICKY NOTES FROM GOD
The Tender Commandments
Genesis 1 — Exodus 19

Ice Breaker: If you could change one law, what would it be?

BACKGROUND: God gave us the Ten Commandments for a purpose. These ten statements are all-encompassing, touching virtually every part of our lives, a most powerful expression of God's love for us.

THE BIG PICTURE: See the Father's heart for us

DIGGING DEEPER:

When you think of the Ten Commandments, what's the first thing that comes to mind?

Have you ever heard the Ten Commandments described as a love letter — a tender heartfelt message from the very hand of God?

Let's back up and show the Father's heart from the very beginning. How do you see God's love in the following life-stories:

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Joseph
- Moses

God gave Moses specific instructions about what to say to the people *before* presenting the Ten Commandments. Read it here: Exodus 19:3-6. What words stand out the most to you? How has God done the following for you: "I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself....You shall be a special treasure to Me above all people"?

Can you see how God Himself set the rightful context prior to delivering the commandments? How are the laws created by a Father different from, say, a dictator? What is the importance of knowing the Law-Giver? How does this affect the way you see the Ten Commandments now?

What is the ultimate reason God gave us the Ten Commandments?

CONCLUSION:

Love doesn't always look the way we'd expect it to look. It might even be a valentine written in stone. Later it would be written in blood. Who could question a love such as that?