

The Ten Commandments
Exodus 19 & 20
LEVEL 4 –BEARING FALSE WITNESS

Note the difference between these two statements:

- A) He is fast.
- B) He is like a bullet.

And between these two:

- A) It is cold.
- B) It is like a block of ice.

Did you notice that in each case sentence B uses a comparison?

There is a book of the Writings that uses a lot of comparisons. It is called the *True Christian Religion*.

You could say that someone who bears false witness (someone who lies) is “bad.” But you could also say that someone who lies is like _____.

Well, when the *True Christian Religion* talks about this commandment, it says that someone who lies is like:

- ...someone who pretends to be friendly but carries a dagger behind his back
- OR
- ...someone who gives you a glass of water but puts poison in it. (TCR 324)

Someone who does not use the Ten Commandments is like:

- ... a ship with nothing in it but mud (TCR 534).

Someone who keeps the Ten Commandments is like:

- ...a ship that carries silver and gold and precious stones.

Someone who does not know the truth, but who at least tries to keep the Commandments, is like:

- ... a good tree, but with not very much fruit.

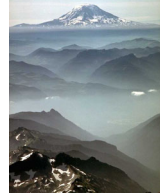
What happens to that person after death? Because he or she does not know very much, their “good fruit” is not very much. But still that sincere effort to live up to the commandments makes them ready for good things in the other world. The Lord can take just a tiny bit of good in a person and grow it into wonderful things. The Lord teaches us that in the spiritual world such a person may at first look like they are clothed in garments of a red color. But when they have had a chance to learn true and good things their garments look purple with a beautiful golden glow. (TCR 537)

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Application

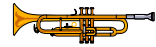
Your project to go with the Ten Commandments reading is to get a glimpse of how objects mentioned in the Word each have a special meaning. They tell us that something about our mind or spirit is like something in this world that we can see with our eyes. Here are some examples:

A mountain: Our love for the Lord is like a mountain. That is why the Ten Commandments were given on a mountain. We should keep the commandments because we love the Lord.



A fire: This can have a good meaning and a bad meaning. Love is like a fire that warms us. But it can also be like hatred that burns us up.

The sound of a trumpet: Truth from heaven is like the sound of a trumpet.



Egypt: Knowledge – the things that we learn – is like Egypt. The Lord does not want us to stay in Egypt (just knowing things). The Lord wants us to come up out of Egypt – that’s when we use our knowledge and do what we know is right. In the commandments the Lord tells us that He brought us out of the land of Egypt.

A cloud: Something that is hard to understand is like a very dark cloud. But when we understand something, especially something true from the Word, it is like a cloud with light shining in it. Clouds are mentioned many times in the Word because they have to do with the way truth appears to us.



Lightning and thunder: The Lord’s truth is like thunder and lightning. It is very powerful; sometimes it shakes us. To the evil it can seem frightening, but to the good it is striking and awesome.

The number 6: This number has to do with trying hard. “Six days you shall labor and do all your work.” It has to do with fighting hard against evil, and not giving up.

The number 7: This number has to do with rest. “And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.” There is rest and peace when we have succeeded with the Lord’s help.

Flashcards

The flashcards on the next page have pictures of the objects mentioned above. The flashcards on the page after that have the meanings for the objects. Cut up the cards and practice matching each object with its meaning.

Feel free to make more than one set, and use them for a Memory Game, or to play a card game like Go Fish.

Our love for the Lord	Love—or its opposite, hatred
Truth from heaven	Knowledge (the things that we learn)
The way truth appears to us (something we understand)	The power of the Lord's truth
Trying hard	Rest or Peace

