



# 2020-2021 STUDY

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## *The Ten Commandments*

HOLY, JUST, GOOD (ROMANS 7:12)

**Digging Deep 2020-2021 Men's Bible Study Guide  
By Ben Giselbach and Caleb Colley**

Quarter Three (March through May)

- March: “Honor your father and your mother”
- April: “You shall not murder”
- May: “You shall not commit adultery”

## **Instructions for using this material:**

1. The Digging Deep study material is designed to facilitate in-depth group Bible study, and not to merely dispense information from “teacher” to “student.” As you go through the study, you will want to have separate paper or a computer on which to record your thoughts. (We do not leave space in this document for your answers to discussion-oriented questions.)
2. There are many tools that will help in digging, such as Bible encyclopedias, Greek and Hebrew lexical books, commentaries, etc. Many are available for free on-line. If you need help accessing such materials, ask others in your group or ask Ben or Caleb. There is a document listing some free resources at [calebcolley.com/diggingdeep](http://calebcolley.com/diggingdeep) (see the document titled “On-line resources for Men’s Digging Deep Bible Study”).
3. The Facebook group is an interactive portion of the study. Find it at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1564776240335067/> (or search “Digging Deep Men’s Bible Study” on Facebook). If you don’t have Facebook, you can still contribute to the discussion by emailing your comments to [calebcolley@gmail.com](mailto:calebcolley@gmail.com) or [ben@plainsimplefaith.com](mailto:ben@plainsimplefaith.com).
4. As we go through the study together, please provide questions and comments to the nationwide study group on Facebook. It will be great to have an ongoing discussion about the material.
5. A monthly video podcast will be posted on the Facebook page.
6. Glenn Colley will assist us by preaching a sermon each month on the topic for that month’s Digging Deep study. The sermons will be posted at [calebcolley.com/diggingdeep](http://calebcolley.com/diggingdeep).

## Month Seven: “Honor your father and your mother”

### Introduction

- A. Begin this month’s study by re-reading Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-21.
- B. Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:18-21.

### I. Obedience to parents and honor to parents.

- A. Use Hebrew lexical tools to study the Hebrew word translated “honor” in Exodus 20:12. Note two things that interest you about the background of this word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

- B. Use Greek lexical tools to study the Greek word translated “honor” in Ephesians 6:2. Note two things that interest you about the background of this word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

- C. Using a Bible encyclopedia or other study tool, cite at least eight other Old Testament passages that bear on this issue in some way. Do you find any examples of Old Testament characters who obeyed (or disobeyed) the fifth commandment?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

- D. Focus specifically on Deuteronomy 21:18-21, noting that the law mentioned in this passage was a way of keeping the Israelite nation pure. It was a serious legal case, the

features of which demonstrate that the execution of disobedient children did not involve little “kids,” but mature individuals who could perpetrate sin.

1. Compare Deuteronomy 21:18-21 with 2 Kings 2:23-25, and read the following article by Wayne Jackson: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/134-elisha-and-the-lads-of-bethel>. Then, answer the following question: Is God patient and loving with children, giving them opportunity to learn from adults and time to mature? Introduce both Old Testament and New Testament passages in your answer.
- E. In what passage do we read Jesus’ teaching about the need for people in His lifetime to repent due to their disobedience the fifth commandment? \_\_\_\_\_
1. The Pharisees had developed a spiritual-sounding excuse for dishonoring father and mother. Do some research about the use of the Pharisees’ word “corban” and how they perverted justice. And, address possible excuses people give today for not honoring father and mother.
  2. If your parents are still living, write a paragraph about how you will honor them in their remaining years, even if that plan requires sacrificing for their well-being. If you have not had a discussion with your parents about how they would like to be treated in their aging years, do so before formulating your plan.
    - a) Observe that a University of Michigan study commissioned by AARP in 2019 found that over one-third of Americans from ages 50 to 80 report feeling a lack of companionship some of the time and little socialization.<sup>1</sup> Amazingly, seniors who lived with their children were *more* likely to report a lack of companionship than those who didn’t. The determining factor in whether a senior felt lonely was not whether he lived with his children, but the quality of relationships he did have. The lesson for children is: You can go a long way toward helping your loved ones feel loved, but only if you actively pursue a relationship with them. If not, then having them live in your house with you may actually *keep* them from having the relationships they desire.
- F. All people are to honor their parents; Children are to *obey* their parents. Is there a difference between obedience and honoring? Write a paragraph in answer to this question.
1. As you write, consider what the Bible says about the ideal of the spiritual, financial, and emotional independence of the grown child’s own family. Bring the following passages into consideration: Ephesians 5:22-23; 6:1-4; Genesis 2:24; 1 Timothy 5:8.

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<sup>1</sup> Jamie Ducharme, “One in Three Seniors Is Lonely. Here’s How It’s Hurting Their Health,” *TIME*, <https://time.com/5541166/loneliness-old-age/> (2019).

2. As you write, be sure to address the following question: Who is accountable for the spirituality of a household (whether it be the parents' household, or the grown child's household)?

## II. The promise attached to the command.

- A. Moses promised long life in the promised land if the Israelites would keep the fifth commandment. Notice that ongoing possession of Canaan is promised generally and repeatedly to those who would be faithful. (Obviously, there is a connection between obeying godly parents and spiritual and physical success.) Cite at least five passages where this promise is given to Israel as a whole.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

- B. In Ephesians 6:3 Paul, on the other hand, promised long life *on the Earth* for Jewish and Gentile Christians. Children who totally disregard what their parents say are probably doomed (e.g., they will run out in the street and be run over, fall off a high place, etc.) However, it is also essential for those of us who are older to remember that the things our parents tell us—even warnings and limitations—are, if in accordance with God's will, for the enhancement of our own lives; good parents want their children to have the abundant life (John 10:10).

1. Read the account of the prodigal son, who rebelled against his father (Luke 15:11-24), and notice how the devil can use both the desire for independence and the desire for dependence to tempt young people.
  - a) *The desire for independence can lead to sin if misapplied.* The prodigal's desire for independence from his father led to disastrous consequences. While it is natural and healthy for young people to tend toward leaving father and mother eventually, evidently the desire for independence, like other desires, be misapplied and lead to disrespecting parents. How does the devil lead some into this violation of God's law? Add to the following list:
    - (1) Some children, instead of praying "lead me not into temptation" (Matthew 6:13) are, in effect, asking to be led away from the influence of godly parents into temptation.

- (2) Some children are unable to distinguish between critical thinking (1 Thessalonians 5:21) and rebellion.
- (3) Some children think that their parents must be dumb simply because they are older (cf. Proverbs 16:21).
- (4) Some children mistake a safe haven for prison (cf. Psalms 19:7-11).
- (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) *The desire for dependence can lead to sin if misapplied.* Young people do not want to be totally independent—they want to be dependent on others, and independent of their parents to some degree. The prodigal rebelled against his father simultaneously became part of a different social scene. The prodigal did not want to be alone—he wanted to be in a certain company, and it was the wrong crowd (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- (1) Find at least two New Testament passages that imply one ought to reject the ungodly advice of peers.
- (a) \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) It is not sinful to use social networking, but it can be slavish and unproductive, and can pull young people away from the influence of godly parents. Add to the following list and provide Scriptures.
- (a) It can be the kind of excuse that the people used when they were invited to the supper (Luke 14:16-20).
- (b) It can lead to resigning from in-person, assembled, Christian fellowship (cf. Hebrews 10:25; 1 Timothy 4:12).
- (c) \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion: Practical application.**

- A. Using the material you have developed while “digging” this month, write a class outline or sermon outline to be presented at your congregation.

## Month Eight: “You shall not murder”

### Introduction

- A. Begin this month’s study by re-reading Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-21.
- B. In the next lesson we will discuss God’s prohibition on adultery, which has been almost universally condemned by cultures worldwide. The same could be said of murder and theft, which also are condemned in the 10 commandments. Do some research in secular history (consulting an encyclopedia or history book) about how adultery and murder have been assessed by various groups throughout the centuries. This will lead to the conclusion that God’s prohibition against these sins is consistent with man’s God-given moral intuitions.

### I. The command.

- A. God created human life, sanctified it, and protected it. In order to understand how God did so, we need to understand what exactly is forbidden in the sixth commandment. Often, the sixth commandment is translated as “Thou shalt not kill,” but this is too broad an understanding for the modern reader. Murder, according to the Bible is *the willful taking of innocent human life (without God’s special authority)*. To see why this definition is the appropriate biblical understanding, consider the following points:
  1. Find at least one Old Testament passage and one New Testament passage that authorize the killing of animals.
  2. Find at least Old Testament passage and one New Testament passage that authorize the killing of a human being who has committed a crime warranting the death penalty.
    - a) How many capital crimes did the Law of Moses include? Consult the following article: <https://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?article=683>.
  3. Find at least two Old Testament passages where God commanded a person or people to kill another person(s). These passages will show that when God commands killing (even the killing of an innocent person), He has introduced a unique situation in which the killing is not murder. God, as the sovereign over all life, is uniquely situated morally to end life. He determines the length of mankind generally (Psalms 90:10).
  4. Find an Old Testament passage that provides for the protection of those who accidentally kill people (thus the differentiation between what people today would call “murder” and what they would call “manslaughter”).
  5. What did the Mosaic Law say about locking up animals known to be vicious? Consider Exodus 21:29-31.

6. Is suicide condemned by the prohibitions against murder? While the Bible does not list a penalty for suicide, attempted “self-murder” always is viewed negatively.

a) Read the article here in making your answer: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1339-is-suicide-the-answer>.

B. Using a concordance or Bible encyclopedia, review what God’s prophets taught about murder. Was murder a problem in ancient Israel and/or Judah? Was murder involved in the idol worship in which Israelites often participated?

## II. The penalty for murder under Moses’ Law.

A. Summarize what the following passages teach about murder. What was the Old Testament penalty for murder?

1. Genesis 9:6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Exodus 21:15-17. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Leviticus 24:17. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Numbers 35. \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Murder in the New Testament.

A. Summarize what the following passages teach about murder. Does the New Testament teach the wrongness of murder any less than the Old Testament?

1. Matthew 7:12. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Romans 1:29. \_\_\_\_\_

3. 1 Timothy 1:9. \_\_\_\_\_

4. 1 John 3:15. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Revelation 21:8. \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. Murder in contemporary times.

A. Write a one-page biblical evaluation of the practice of elective abortion. In your paper, consider the following questions:

1. How many pre-born babies are aborted each year in the United States? (Look at recent statistics from a group such as the National Right to Life.)

2. How many pre-born babies are aborted each year worldwide?

3. What Old Testament principles bear on the issue of elective abortion? Consider Exodus 20:13; 21:22-25; Job 31:13-15; Proverbs 6:17.
  4. What New Testament principles bear on the issue of elective abortion? Consider Luke 1:39-41 and Luke 2:12, in which the same Greek word refers to a pre-born baby and a born baby. Consider Galatians 1:15-16.
- B. Write a one-page biblical evaluation of the “right to die” movement, which promotes euthanasia and assisted suicide. Note that there is a real difference between “killing” (causing someone’s death) and allowing someone to die due to an illness (i.e., where not every possible, extreme measure is used to preserve life). In your paper, as you reflect on your research point, consider the following questions:
1. A person may wish to die, but this does not mean he may require another to assist him in dying. Does the Bible (in either Testament) authorize a person to help another person to die?
  2. What Old Testament principles bear on the issue of euthanasia and assisted suicide? Consider Exodus 20:13; 2 Samuel 1:1-16.
  3. What New Testament principles bear on the issue of euthanasia and assisted suicide? Consider Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9.
  4. If assisted suicide were normalized as a “medical” practice, what threats would it pose to those who do not desire to die? As you answer, notice that Sissela Bok’s writing on this subject<sup>2</sup> has pointed out two plausible, major risks:
    - a) There is the slippery slope of pressure on physicians to “assist” patients in dying more and more.
      - (1) The pressure not to leave patients to self-administration.
      - (2) The pressure to include more patients who desire assistance.
      - (3) The pressure to include patients who are not fully competent to decide.
    - b) There is the threat of lapse in the morality of physicians’ professional standards.
      - (1) Conscientious physicians often are unenthusiastic about a practice of assisted suicide, recognizing their impairment in making such professional judgment.

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<sup>2</sup> Gerald Dworkin, R. G. Frey, and Sissela Bok, *Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 128-139.

- (2) Conscientious physicians hesitate to believe they can devise a set of rules to properly govern the practice.
- (3) Physicians are concerned about whether they would lose the trust of consumers if assisted suicide became more normalized, especially given pressures to lower the costs of patient care.
- (4) Low-income patients often do not have the kind of longstanding relationship with a physician that could produce an informed decision on the part of the physician.

**Conclusion: Practical application.**

- A. Find a Web site or YouTube video that advocates for the moral rightness of elective abortion and/or assisted suicide. Develop a written response or a video response, based on the biblical principles you have uncovered while “digging” this month.

## Month Nine: “You shall not commit adultery”

### Introduction

- A. Begin this month’s study by re-reading Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-21.
- B. Sometimes people say that the Old Testament law concerned the outward actions, whereas the New Testament law concerns the heart. However, both the Old Testament and New Testament regulate both the heart and outward actions.
1. Which of the 10 Commandments specifically regulates the heart that would lead to adultery?
  2. Briefly review your response to point *A* in the conclusion on page 37 of the 2019-2020 Digging Deep study, where we listed aspects of the Sermon on the Mount that were restatements/clarifications of the Old Testament and those statements that were new material for Jesus’ law. This will illustrate that Moses’ Law was concerned with the heart.
- C. The Bible treats marriage very seriously, but many people do not. Review some published research about contemporary attitudes toward marriage (e.g., Pew Research Center; National Healthy Marriage Resource Center, etc.), noting various trends. Which trends represent rejections of what the Bible teaches about marriage?
- D. Adultery is a sin against the body that an individual can commit (1 Corinthians 6:18), but symbolically the sin of unfaithfulness toward God or “spiritual adultery” may be committed by individuals or groups. Find a passage that teaches each of the following principles:
1. Idolatry is adultery: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Covetousness is adultery: \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Apostasy is adultery: \_\_\_\_\_
  4. A church that leaves Christ is committing adultery:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  5. A generation of people that forsakes God is “an adulterous generation”:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I. God’s original law on marriage.**
- A. Read Genesis 2:24, and answer the following questions about it:
1. According to God’s original law on marriage, who are the participants in marriage?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. According to God's original law on marriage, what is the duration of marriage?

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3. According to God's original law on marriage, what is the nature of the relationship between the husband and his wife?

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4. According to God's original law on marriage, what is the relationship between the spouses and the homes they previously had with their parents?

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## II. The Mosaic law on marriage.

A. God, as the Creator of marriage, is uniquely situated to relegate and protect it. Read the following passages and summarize what each passage teaches on marriage. What was the penalty for adultery in the Old Testament?

1. Numbers 5:11-31.

2. Deuteronomy 24:1-4

3. Proverbs 5:18.

4. Malachi 2:13-16.

B. Although polygamy was excluded from God's original law on marriage (and later would be ruled out by Christ's law), God did not punish plural marriage as if it were adultery during the Old Testament period, so long as the women involved were not already married.

1. Read the article here for background information: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/566-what-about-polygamy>.

2. Find cases of polygamy in the Old Testament.

3. What New Testament passages might speak to God's perspective of Old Testament polygamy?

## III. Christ's law on marriage.

A. Read Matthew 5:27-32, part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

B. Read Matthew 19:1-9.

1. Having read this passage, revisit the issue of polygamy. Would it be allowed under Christ's law? Why or why not?

2. The exception clause in this passage shows that there is one legitimate reason (other than the death of the original spouse) for remarriage. What is that exception?
- C. Read Mark 10:10-12.
  - D. Read Romans 7:1-2.
  - E. Read Ephesians 5:22-33.
  - F. Having considered the primary passages on the Christian law of marriage, write a one-page synthesis of it.

#### **IV. Adultery, a grave threat to marriage.**

- A. In addition to prohibiting adultery, does the Old Testament also prohibit activities that lead to adultery? Find at least three passages that restrict such activities, and write a paragraph summarizing them. Make sure at least one of the passages you consider is an extended reading from Proverbs.
- B. In addition to prohibiting adultery, does the New Testament also prohibit activities that lead to adultery? Find at least three passages that restrict such activities, and write a paragraph summarizing them. Make sure at least one of the passages is from Galatians 5:19-21, with a comment on the meaning of the word translated “lasciviousness” or “sensuality”.
- C. Reflecting on these passages, make a list of at least three things the devil frequently uses to encourage adultery in the present day.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Conclusion: Practical application.**

- A. Revisit the trends you noticed in the introduction, point C. Considering the biblical data you have found in this month’s study, are the trends pushing in the direction of honoring God’s will for marriage, or in the opposite direction? Why?
- B. Read the article here: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/843-marriage-as-designed-by-god>. And, using the biblical research you have done for this month’s study, develop a Bible class or sermon on “adultery prevention” for presentation at your local congregation.