

# FAMILY FAITH

## Chapter 5: The Passover and the Ten Commandments

*Through the Passover and Ten Commandments, God led His people to freedom and holiness.*

### Chapter Summary

God's Chosen People became known as the Israelites. The Israelite people traveled to Egypt because of a famine; they lived in slavery in Egypt for four hundred years. God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go, so God sent ten plagues upon Egypt. Finally, because of the plague of the death of the firstborn, Pharaoh let the people go. The Israelites were saved from the death of the firstborn through the sacrifice of the Passover lamb.

Even after God saved the Chosen People from slavery in Egypt, they tended to worship false gods. They did not have true freedom. God gave His Chosen People the Ten Commandments so that they would become a holy and faithful people. In the Ten Commandments, God teaches us how to love God and one another. Through grace and the theological virtues, God lifts us up so that we are able to follow the Ten Commandments.

### More for Parents

God gives the Ten Commandments to His people to keep them safe and to prevent them from falling into slavery to sin. As parents, the way we teach our children about the laws of God has a monumental impact on their decision-making process. This can be overwhelming to many parents. However, God demonstrates for us in the history of His people how to inspire faith. Countless men and women in history have obeyed the will of God in their lives and are witnesses to the joy and peace that come from persevering in truth out of love for God. Parents are called to learn from these witnesses and always model for their children loving obedience to the laws of God.

### Virtue in the Family

The Ten Commandments seem simple, but when we begin to examine our lives, we can see how easy it can be for us to become careless in our obedience. Opening our hearts to God's grace with frequent reception of the sacraments and daily prayer will strengthen us to obey.

#### Obeying the Law with Love and Justice

- Prayer activity:
  - Spend a few minutes in silence as a family. Reflect on these points:
    - Do you see God's laws as opportunities to show your love for Him?
    - Ask God in prayer to strengthen the virtue of justice in your soul so that you will always give God the honor He is due by obeying His commandments.
    - Conclude by praying together, "Lord, I love You with my whole heart, my soul, and all my strength. I give You all glory and honor."
  - Explain to your children that the Ten Commandments are like a fence in a yard. They not only protect us by keeping us safe from danger (like playing in the street), but they also give us the freedom to enjoy the yard that is safe.

### Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- holy
- reverence
- Ten Commandments

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