

# Ten Commandments CD Outline & Study Notes

for Sunday Software's Ten Commandments CD

This is one of several Ten Commandments CD Teaching Resources posted at

[www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com)

The content in the CD is found in 3 "Photobubbles"...the 360 degree navigable photos shot on location on Mt. Sinai. "Bottom", "On the Way" (half way up), and "On Top". The photobubbles are turned by holding down your mouse button as you move the mouse hand around on the screen. Let up to stop. Move the mouse pointer towards and away from the center of the photobubble while turning it to slow down or speed up the rate of turn. Look at your "feet" in each photobubble to see a clickable MENU of what's found in each photobubble. Setting your display resolution to as close to 800x600 will make the program appear larger on higher resolution monitors.

## 1. Hotspots in Bottom Photobubble:

### a. The Camel Speaks:

Click the camel to be asked if you want to go back and see Moses in his office again.

### b. Two Monastery Hotspots:

**Hotspot 1-** (on the left side of the Monastery) **This takes you into the Monastery.** Enter the Monastery to read the Ten Commandments and study notes.

Once inside the Monastery.... View FOUR VIDEOS of youth talking about aspects of the Ten Commandments. They are *Broken*, *11th*, *Honor*, and *Why Follow*. Questions are presented after each video for your student's further discussion. They include: What Commandment do people around you break? How do you honor your parents? "Why follow the commandments?"

Note: Even though the Ark is slid down when a video is played, you can still click on its lid after the video to pop-up the tablets for reference in-between videos. Just click the Tablets to lower them again. The **Start Again** sign on the Alms box resets the Monastery furniture to its original position. Here's a little secret for you: You can click the alms sign and alms box to hear two things.

**\*Rolling over a Commandment on the Tablets in the Monastery** activates the sound file that reads the commandment. **A study note also appears** on the face of the ark. These can contain questions.

**Hotspot 2- on the right side of the Monastery:** Learn more about the Monastery, a brief graphic with text about the origins of the Monastery.



### c. Bridge over Chaos Canyon Hotspot:

(located down in the greenery just to the right of the mule's rear-end.)

A series of presentations about the Concept of Law and its relationship to Salvation. This hotspot leads to the next photobubble up the mountain. **You must CLICK the signs** for the Promised Land, Chaos Canyon and the Shipwreck before proceeding over the bridge.

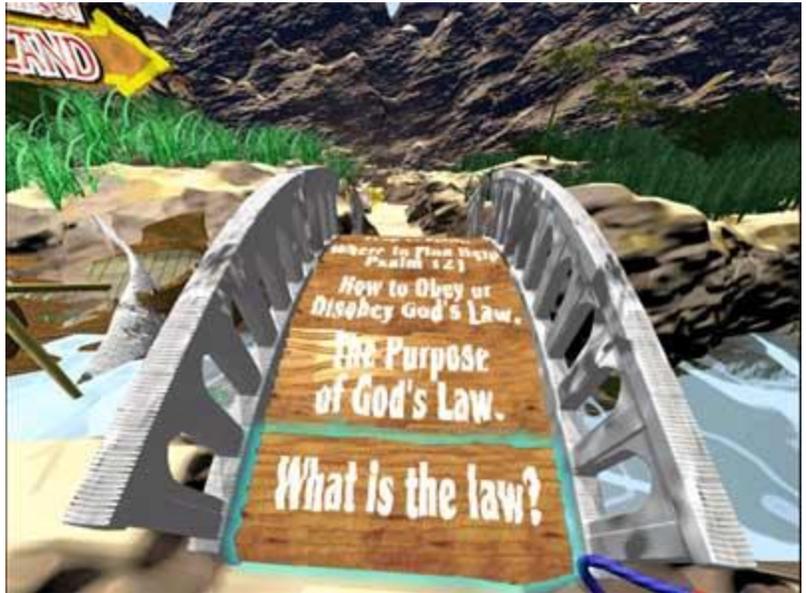
Click the signs to Hear Moses narrate about the Chaos and Promised Land signs.

In the "Promised Land" sign Moses asks "what's your definition of a 'promised land?'"

In the "Chaos Canyon" sign Moses talks about God bringing order out of chaos.

The "S.S. My Way" shipwreck has a set of "Anti-Commandments" suitable for discussion by older students. **CLICK ON THEM** and you'll hear some fun sound effects. "Anti-commandments" are the world's rules for living that the unfaithful might follow. Students are invited to think about other "anti-commandments." See *SS My Way commandments graphic below*.

The Bridge Planks EACH have their own short item to read and ponder. It isn't expected you'll want to stop at each one for very long. Take your pick.



**The Leap of Faith Plank** takes you to a dark screen where text moves to tell you something important: Jesus saves us, without him we can't make the journey on our own. This is an immensely important topic for discussion. See more notes about it below.

**There is no bypass** around the bridge to get up the mountain, however, you can select the "close" button on all pop-up panels while crossing the bridge to move faster. When you get to the other side, you must click on the cross in order to continue to the second photobubble. This is a good place for a little breather.

**Bridge Navigational Notes:** The CD will not let you go across the bridge until you've clicked on both signs and the shipwreck. If you don't want to read or listen to these, continue clicking on other things.

Once over the Bridge you must **CLICK ON** the **Cross** to advance to the next photobubble. If you decide you want to go back you must click on The LADY in the next photobubble who is wondering out loud if she wants to go back too. Also...There is no bypass or shortcut around the Bridge.



**d. Stone Hotspot:** (located on the stone on the ground just to the left of the camel) "Let the one without sin cast the first stone." Who spoke these words and why did the CDs authors put it in program about The Law? Here's why....because Jesus protected the woman caught in adultery. The Law is meant to teach us, not punish us.

**e. Sun Hotspot:** A video in the clouds titled 'Four Ways to Keep the Sabbath Holy.' Includes a question asking students to consider other ways to observe the concept of Sabbath.

## Information & Study Notes to Bottom Photobubble:

\*It is recommended that you make the monastery their first visit.

\*To move on to the second photobubble in the CD you must cross the Bridge Over Chaos Canyon.

### Bridge Over Chaos Canyon

(The Hotspot to enter the Chaos Canyon area is located down in the greenery just to the right of the mule's rear-end.) The visual metaphor of Law as 'bridge' to the 'Promised Land' is intentional and should be a point of discussion. Jesus and his followers, including Paul, made the case that following the Law itself could not save you. Rather, it was a tutor and guide to living. This put them in opposition to the majority opinion within Judaism at that time. Because the Bridge is a visual metaphor, the missing plank marked "Leap of Faith" should raise discussion in your use of the CD.

**The Leap of Faith "Plank"** in the Bridge Over Chaos Canyon quotes Paul in Romans telling us that "all fall short of the glory of God." You'll want to talk with your students specifically about the ideas presented on the screen at that plank.

#### **The Leap of Faith Plank begs the question: *Why follow the Law and does it save us?***

The Law? Who's faith saves us? Our own? Or Jesus' faith? Traditional interpretation has it that we must have faith to be 'saved.' However, the scriptures themselves, even within Paul's own letter to the Romans, are sufficiently broad enough to create a wonderful discussion on the subject. It was Jesus' faithfulness that 'saved' us through the forgiveness of sins given to us on the cross. Yet is it our 'leap of faith' into the arms of God that makes this saving event a living reality for us. In this we can see the two natures of faith: a righteous, sacrificial love, -and faith as humble trust.

Faith in God enables us to accept the wisdom and follow of The Ten Commandments. In attempting to follow God's Law (as we should), we are humbled into an awareness of our need for God's Grace.

Once you cross the Chaos Canyon Bridge you will see a cross. In the "white" label version of the CD (distributed after March 12, 2002) these words appear on the cross: *The Law Guides Us ... God rescues and forgives us.*

**Note:** A portion of the above comments are found when you click on the ? question mark on the shield at your feet in the "On Way Up" photobubble (the one after the cross).

### Extra Questions for Discussion:

What are the benefits and risks of following the Ten Commandments?

How does our attempt to follow God's Law benefit God and God's plan for the world?

What are some practical things you can do to better follow God's commandments?

What other visual metaphors could have been used for The Law, other than a bridge?

What chaos/sin is at work in your life keeping you from following the commandments all the time?

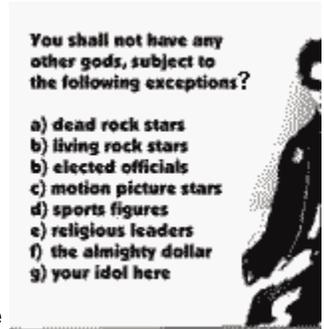
## 2. Hotspots in the "On the Way" Photobubble: (halfway up the mountain, the second photobubble)



**a. Sun Hotspot:** "The Eighth Commandments: Other Ways to Steal," includes a question for discussion.

**b. Idol Activity Hotspot:** (located just to the right of the lady beyond the path) Two "Billboards" that present discussion text/graphics about the concept of "Idols." In one billboard we depart from the strict definition of "idol" and encourage thoughts about "those we worship like they were gods." This concept and area is better suited for older students, though a few younger ones will enjoy the music and pictures.

Rollover/click on the letters a-g in the graphic to see comments pop into the window below the Billboard.



**c. Ten Commandments Assembly Game Hotspot.** (Located just to the right of the lady down on the edge where the stones line the path)

Drag the words back into their proper places. This is not a timed event. Younger children may need help. \*\*A copy of the Ten Commandments is provided at the end of this outline. You can also skip up to the Summit Chapel and print a copy of the commandments and bring it back with you to complete the Assembly Game. In version 1.2 of the CD we made less words fall and added the scripture text reference on the stone by the critter for your kids to look up the commandments if they need help.

**The words will "snap" into place when you drag, then release your mouse button.** If they don't snap into place drag them a little bit left/right/up/down.

**Hint:** We have centered the words on the center margin. Thus, a commandments second line of words will be centered under the first. If the kids are going to slow, let them use the Bible or send them back to the Monastery to study the tablets.



**d. Commandments Cliff Climb Quiz Game Hotspot:** (Located on face of cliff.) You must go through this area to get to the top photobubble. This is a short quiz, only 12 questions that keep recycling till BOTH players make it to the top. Click on "BYPASS" sign to skip the quiz and go right to the Summit.

**e. Man Drinking Water Hotspot:** Comment about "Living Water."

**f. Lady looking at Sun Hotspot:** She asks you if you'd like to go back to the bottom of the trail- the bottom photobubble.

**g. Man with red backpack Hotspot:** Mt. Sinai Info.

**h. Hotspot looking up at the end of the trail.** (where the trail goes off up into the horizon) a flash presentation of the Great Commandment text. (Students were also encouraged to read this while crossing the Bridge over Chaos Canyon.)

### Information & Study Notes:

\*It is highly recommended that students take the Cliff Climb Quiz only after viewing all hotspots in the first two photobubbles. Once completed, the Cliff Climb Quiz will transport students to the photobubble on top of Sinai. there are only 12 questions. There is a hotspot back to the second level from the top photobubble.

\*To bypass the Cliff Climb Quiz and go to the Top photobubble click **bypass** on the quiz game screen.  
\*To return to the first photobubble, click on the lady shading her eyes.

### 3. Hotspots in the Summit Photobubble:

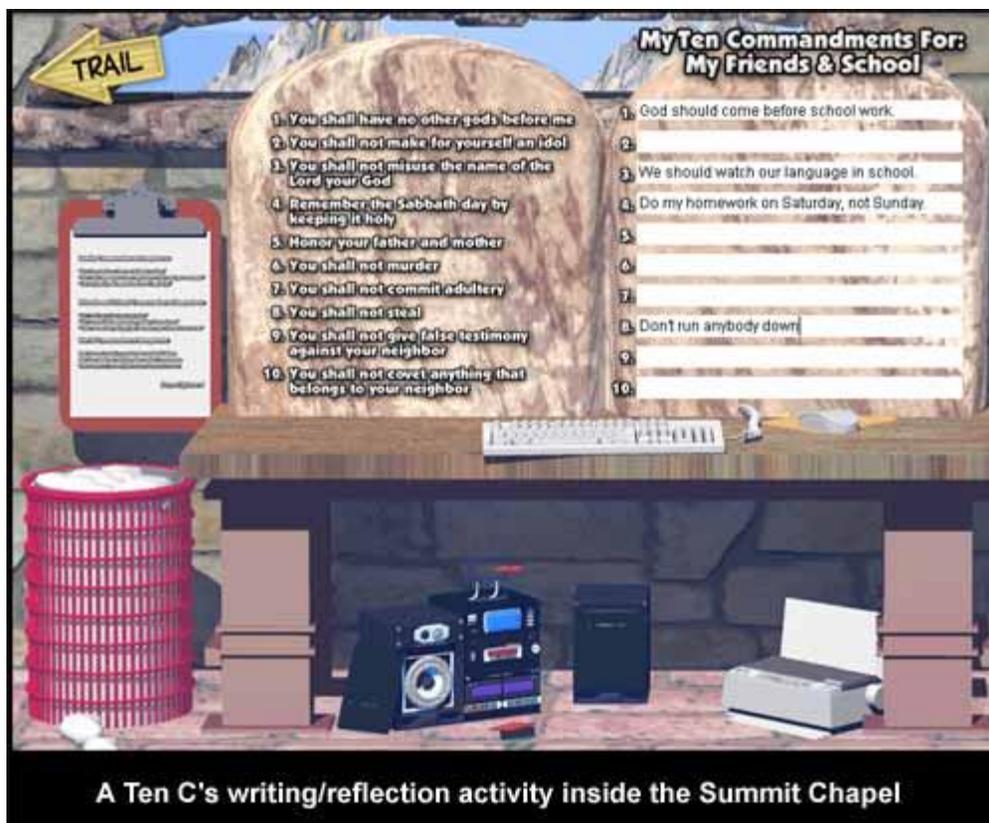
(the third and final photobubble at the top)

**a. Chapel at the Top Activity Hotspot: (located on the Chapel)** Rewrite the Ten Commandments. Click on the clipboard for instructions and ideas.

Moses instructions read: "It is important to God that the commandments make sense to all people in all times. I invite you to thoughtfully rephrase the commandments in a way that makes them fresh and powerful for you. Afterwards, you can print them and discuss them with others. You are also welcome to use my Summit computer for other reflections on each commandment." If your version of the Chapel doesn't have these instructions, you have an older version of the CD and the activity is slightly different.

You can print a complete/incomplete or blank set to be filled in later. Just click the printer icon. Various music selections can be played by clicking on the radio. **Rather than stating things in the negative** "You shall not murder," have students rewrite the commandments in a positive way, such as, "You shall protect other people's lives." \*The Chapel's Ten Commandments rewriting activity can be done off the computer. Simply click on the Printer in the Chapel screen to print out a blank version of it. Whatever is typed in on the tablets will appear on the printed tablets. See the Teaching Tips for the Summit Chapel Activity for many more ideas and suggestions.

**Warning:** Clicking the trashcan will erase all typed entries.



**b. People hiding in the Cleft Hotspot --Music Video: "I Am Yahweh."** (Located *between* the two guys

their feet --down on the folks in the sleeping bags) See "I Am Yahweh" notes at the end of this document. This video cannot be stopped once started (it's about 2 minutes and has a 3-D recreation of Sinai). Take a close look at the words placed in the sand. For extended discussion...have students write them down. You might also ask: "*I wonder why there's a cross in the journey after you are swept off Mt. Sinai?*"

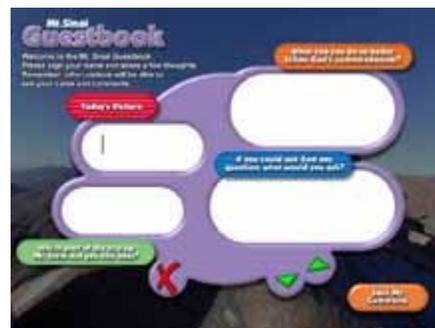
The words to I Am Yahweh, additional study questions, and the Bible verses about Moses' encounter with God on the Summit can be found below in this document. \*It is recommended that you save the Music Video for last. If you have time, read the text of Moses' close encounter with God on Mt. Sinai (provided at the end of this outline). That's why there are people in sleeping bags at the "cleft" seen at the Summit photobubble between the two dudes.

**c. Hotspots on both GUYS sitting at top.** Two fun sound files.

**d. 'More to Do' Hotspot at top of sky:** List of things you could do after you've explored the CD.

**e. Return to previous photobubble hotspot** (located on the strange looking building down and to the left of the guy with the sunglasses).

**f. Guestbook Hotspot:** (Located on the guy *sitting down* from the summit *behind* the Chapel.) Add your reflections and read those of others. Categories they can write about include: favorite part of program, a question they'd like to ask God, and how they can better follow the commandments.



Select the green arrows on the Guestbook to view other's entries. Entries can be deleted by opening the Ten Commandments directory on your harddrive and editing the guestbook text file located there. \*The Guestbook creates a text file labeled *guestbook* on your harddrive in the Windows/TEMP directory or Mac's Preferences folder. It can be edited using a simple word processing program.

## Supplemental Resource:

### Encountering God, -a lesson using the "I Am Yahweh" video...

**To the class:** Exodus records a number of episodes where Moses goes up to the Summit. [Here are two...](#)

#### **ONE: Exodus 19: 1-9, Yahweh comes to Moses at the Summit and promises to bless the Israelites**

1 On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. 3 Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: 4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, 6 but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites." 7 So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. 8 The people all answered as one: "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do." Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. 9 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after."

#### **TWO: Exodus 34:28-35, Moses' encounter with Yahweh when he received the second set of tablets.**

28 He was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. 29 Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his

face shone because he had been talking with God. 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. 32 Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

**Question:** If God appeared to you on the Summit or in a dense cloud, how would YOU feel?

How did these appearances affect Moses and the Israelites?

Where are the places and times we feel like we encounter God more closely?

What did it make you feel like?

How can the expressions on our faces, our words, our actions, even our body language reflect to others that we have encountered God and felt his loving presence?

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**You might also compare these two encounters with Moses' previous encounter with Yahweh at the burning bush** in which Yahweh tells Moses to "take off your sandals, you're standing on holy ground."

**Question:** What do these accounts tell us about God's character and desire?

--About Moses' character and attitude toward God?

**Question:** As you listen and watch the I Am Yahweh music video, what graphics and words in the lyrics seem to speak the loudest to you about what God might be trying to tell YOU about your life and purpose on Mt. Sinai?

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### **I Am Yahweh Video and Song and Study Questions**

This song uses the Hebrew word for God's name -"Yahweh". It is often translated as [i]I Am, I Was, I Will Be.[/i] Some translations shorten it to "I AM", others to "The Eternal One", and it is the name which God revealed to Moses at the burning bush. It is sometimes spelled "Jehovah." The lyrics of the song play on the similarity between "Yahweh" and "Way" --which is sort of the point!

#### **Lyrics to I Am Yahweh**

I am Yahweh

I am, I was, I always will be

I am Yahweh

Come follow me and you will see

Life as it was meant to be

Hear my words and them obey

Start your life, start living it my way....

(Interlude of children's voices summarizing the commandments)

And when you're travelin' through dangerous lands

Remember this, I hold you in my hands....

I am Yahweh

#### **Questions for discussion:**

1. According to Yahweh, what is life meant to be?

2. What were some of the words seen in the landscape as you flew over? (Compassion, honor, obey, love, and more) and why were they there? What are they trying to tell you? (they are Yahweh's "way")

3. What were some of the youth voices saying during the video?

(Bring honor to your family, Don't let possessions possess you, Love your Creator) They neatly summarize the Commandments. You might want your students to write them down.

4. Why was the cross put in this video? (Without the cross, Law merely condemns. Jesus' death fulfills the

requirement of the law...he paid the price and sets us free to OBEY God without fear.)

5. What are some of the "dangerous lands" young people must travel through to follow God.

6. In what ways does God "hold us in his hands", as the music said?

- In the song's interlude youth voices rephrase key ideas in commandments. They include: [Bring honor to your family](#), [Don't let possessions possess you](#), [Love your Creator](#). They neatly summarize the Commandments. You might want your students to write them down.

**For those wanting to play the tune:** Refrain: B-A-E (chords) Verses: **D-A-E** (chords). *I am Yahweh* was based on a song originally titled *Hey Yahweh (Won't You Come Out and Play)* -first performed and recorded in 1995 by Neil MacQueen and members of his youth group. Copyright 2000. Permission granted for limited local church use.

**Here's an interesting note for audio-philes:** All of the music in the Ten Commandments shares the same family of chords as the theme song I Am Yahweh. We did this not only for "effect" but to keep labs with multiple computers running multiple copies of Ten C's CD "harmonious." You can hear the chords to the theme song "chiming" in a slightly different rhythm in the babbling brook sound when you first enter Chaos Canyon. In all, there are about four different versions of *I Am Yahweh* tucked away in the CD. You don't have to go to the top of Sinai to hear the music the next time. You can find the yahweh video among the CD's files with your computer's file browser and play it separately.

## Where is Mt. Sinai?

In truth, nobody really knows for sure. The photobubbles in this program were taken from the traditional site of Mt. Sinai in the southern Sinai peninsula. However, some reputable scholars present an intriguing case for placing Mt. Sinai in the Arabian peninsula closer to the traditional lands of Midian (Moses' father-in-law's land). Helena, the mother of the first Christian Roman Emperor, had St. Catherine's monastery located and built in the fourth century A.D. based on tradition.

Pilgrims climbing Mt. Sinai to this day do not seek physical evidence, but a connection with their God and their spiritual forbearers. Said one traveler, **"It matters not where the mountain is, but where *you* are with God."**

## Text for the Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before me
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy
5. Honor your father and mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or anything that belongs to your neighbor

Closely based on the NRSV's Exodus 20 translation.

This graphic can be printed from

[www.sundaysoftware.com/ten/images/tencommands.jpg](http://www.sundaysoftware.com/ten/images/tencommands.jpg)

Lutherans and some Eastern Orthodox denominations have a slightly different numbering convention. Our CD uses the one familiar to most Protestants and Roman Catholics. Go to [www.sundaysoftware.com/ten/number.htm](http://www.sundaysoftware.com/ten/number.htm) for more info.

