

Ages 7-10: Ten Commandments in Hebrew

Materials Needed

Copies of *Ten Commandments in Hebrew Table 1 & 2*, sharp colored pencils or pens with fine tips

Prepare in Advance

Print pages and gather supplies. Prepare to play the Commandments in Hebrew: www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-ten-commandments-in-hebrew.

New Church Concept

Teacher Background

"I was once sent a little piece of paper from heaven with Hebrew letters on it, but letters written as they were among the ancient people. Today the letters are to some extent formed with straight lines, but among the most ancient peoples they were then rounded and had little hornlike strokes projecting upward. Angels who were with me then said they knew whole meanings from the letters alone, and that they knew the meanings chiefly from the curves of the lines and points of a letter. They then explained what some letters signified separately, and what in combination, saying that *he* (h), which was added to the names of Abram and Sarai, symbolized infinity and eternity." *Sacred Scripture* 90

The Lord wrote the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone in Hebrew, the language of the children of Israel. The children of Israel were sometimes called the "Hebrews" because, like Abraham, they descended from Eber (see Genesis 10-11). The Writings for the New Church tell us that the first language on earth was like the Hebrew language. This activity guides children through the experience of writing the Ten Commandments in the beautiful curved letters of the Hebrew alphabet on two tablets of "stone".



1. What language do we speak? Have you ever made up a special language to talk to a baby, or a pet? Where do languages come from?
2. Long ago, when the Ten Commandments were written, the children of Israel spoke Hebrew. The Writings for the New Church tell us that the Hebrew language is like the first language people spoke on earth and that it is similar to the language of heaven. Let's listen to the Commandments in Hebrew. (Play www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-ten-commandments-in-hebrew.)
3. Distribute copies of the two tables of *Ten Commandments in Hebrew* and sharp colored pencils or fine-tipped pens to color the lettering.
4. Hebrew is written from right to left. As you color the letters, start on the top right of the page and color towards the left side, moving down.
5. When you have finished, carefully tear the edges of your pages to look like stone (see picture above). To display, place Table 1 to the right of Table 2.

New Church Concept

Teacher Background

"The Word in heaven is written in a spiritual style which is quite different from the natural style. The spiritual style is composed simply of letters, each one of which denotes a particular meaning; and there are dashes, curves and points above, between and within the letters, which heighten the meaning. The letters used by the angels of the spiritual kingdom resemble printed type in our world; the letters used by the angels of the celestial kingdom are in some cases like Arabic letters, in others like ancient Hebrew letters, but with curves above and below, and pointing above, between and inside them. Even a single one of these points conveys a complete meaning." *True Christian Religion* 241

אנכי יהוה אלחיד

לא לשוא

זכור השבת

כבד את-אבִיךָ

ואת-אִמֶךָ

לא תרצח

לא תנאף

לא תגנב

לא עד שקר

לא תחמד

לא תחמד אשת