

During the past few months, my family set out on a meaningful journey together. We looked into the possibilities for my bat mitzvah, which was important to both me and my family. It mattered to me that I was able to connect with my Jewish heritage and explore facets that interested me. I'm excited to share the stories and insights I've learned through this exploration of my Jewish roots while preparing for this day. In my Torah portion, God reminds the people of Israel, through Moses's speech, of the ten commandments, which they must remember when they enter the land of Canaan, which is now Israel. I wanted to share my thoughts and feelings about them with you guys.

One of the first commandments is You shall not bear false witness - I agree with this commandment because you really should be honest when you give witness.

This is important because your witness statement is used for others to understand what happened in the situation that you're describing and lying can cause the consequences of the situation to be completely different. People need to be able to rely on witnesses in any situation to say only the truth. This goes for any normal sibling fight to something as big as a war between countries.

The next commandment is Keep the Sabbath day holy - This commandment is not like the others, it's more about tradition. I think it's important to keep Shabbat day holy but it should be forgiven for those who may not have Shabbat dinner every week or those who don't pray on shabbat because everyone that's Jewish isn't always as religious as others. Some people may just be Jewish and not celebrate the holidays or shabbat dinner and some may. I think you should feel encouraged to celebrate shabbat but not forced. It should be optional.

One of my favorite commandments is Honor your father and mother - I agree with this commandment because your mother and father are the people who have raised you your whole life and have always been there for you when you need them. My mom and dad are always supportive of me and help me even when I don't know I need them. They have done more than enough for me and I can

imagine that so have many other people's parents. Everything they do makes them deserving of all the respect in the world and I believe that everyone should honor and respect their parents or those who took care of them.

Another agreeable commandment is You shall not murder - I generally feel like I don't need to explain why this shouldn't be done. I just believe everyone should be convinced it's not a good idea to kill.

The next commandment is: You shall not commit adultery - I agree with this commandment because you should always be loyal to your partner. Cheating is wrong, as it hurts others and can completely ruin relationships. An important part of being in a relationship is being honest with your partner meaning not going behind their back and cheating on them. It's ok to fall in love with someone else whom you are not in a relationship with. But It's important to tell your partner and end things before starting a new relationship.

You shall not steal - I mostly agree with this commandment but sometimes, situations in life can be more complicated than just a do or don't. Stealing is wrong because you're taking something that doesn't belong to you without permission or without paying for it. This can hurt or harm the person for whom you are stealing from. But like lying, there are certain circumstances where you need to steal like in life or death situations. Many people don't make enough money to provide for themselves and their families. This can lead to the family members starving or becoming dehydrated. In situations like these, you should still ask and see if you can take food or water and possibly pay someone back for it, but if you must, you should be able to steal it to keep yourself alive.

You shall not covet - This commandment means to basically be grateful for what you have. I agree with this commandment because recognizing that you are able

to have food to eat and a bed to sleep on while others don't makes you realize how important it is to be grateful for what you already have. Even though it's okay to want a big house or a new expensive phone, that doesn't mean you forgot about the things you already have and the opportunities that you are able to experience that not everyone else may be able to.

You Shall Not Lie - This commandment is important, but there are certain circumstances when I feel like you should be allowed to break this commandment. Telling the truth is important because it makes you reliable and helps people know the truth, which ultimately helps them with whatever they may have needed to know. Even with many reasons as to why it's important to tell the truth, there are situations when people may have to lie or it would be better to lie. People should be able to lie if it keeps them safe or when they're in a dangerous position. But not just that, sometimes it's okay to tell white lies, which are harmless lies. For example, if a friend asks you if you like their outfit and you don't, it's okay to tell them that you do so to not hurt their feelings.

The two commandments: "You shall have no other gods before me" generally what God's commanding is for his people to stay Jewish, not convert to any other religion and not start believing in multiple Gods and the second commandment "You shall not make idols" meaning that God is commanding you to not start worshiping someone else are two commandments that I disagree with. These commandments feel similar to me as if you were to put the two together it would basically be god commanding you to not worship or believe in anyone other than him whether that's a different god or a regular human being. The reason why I disagree with these commandments is because everyone should be able to feel free to change who they believe in and who they worship.

They shouldn't feel forced to believe in our god. I would change these two commandments to 1. "Focus on being kind and helping others."

This is because, instead of telling people what they should believe in, it's more important to just be a good person and make a positive impact on the world. I feel like kindness and helping others are values that everyone can agree on, regardless of their beliefs.

2. "Keep learning and growing to improve yourself." This one is about encouraging personal growth and development. It's not just about getting better at things but also supporting others in their journey of learning and growing. This way, people are motivated to be their best selves and help each other.

In conclusion, I agree with most of the ten commandments and think that they help keep things peaceful but I changed two of them to something I thought was more powerful.

לסיום הדברים, אני רוצה להודות למשפחה שלי שעזרה לי להפוך את החוויה הזו לאפשרית ובמיוחד לאמא, אבא, אחותי ואחי, שעזרו לי בכל מה שהייתי צריכה לעשות כדי להתכונן לבת המצווה. אני רוצה להודות גם לרבה נעמי שעזרה לי להתכונן. לסיום, אני רוצה להודות לכולם שהגיעו לחגוג איתי את בת המצווה שלי וגרמו ליום הזה לקרות.

תודה לכולם