



# Hang with the **TEN** FAMILY TALK!

## What?! They aren't the Ten Commandments?



We were introduced to the **Aseret Hadibrot**, commonly translated as the Ten Commandments. However, as we explored, oftentimes, the English translations do not accurately depict the depth of the Torah concept. This is true of the Aseret Hadibrot (lit. 10 Statements); they are not so much ten commandments, but rather they are ten categories of Mitzvot. All Mitzvot and fundamental Torah ideals can be found in these ten statements or categories. Hashem\* gave us ten general categories; this way it is easier to remember the Mitzvot and how we should conduct ourselves in our lives.

Throughout the year, we will be exploring the Aseret Hadibrot and some of the Mitzvot and Torah ideals that are derived from them.

\***Hashem**. In our Hebrew School, we refer to G-d with the Hebrew word 'Hashem'. Hashem means 'the name'. Out of respect, we do not explicitly use G-d's name, except in prayer. Instead, Hashem is substituted.

## WORDS WE LEARNED:

**Mitzvot** (pl)/ **Mitzvah** (sing) = “commandment” and “connection.” A Mitzvah is a commandment that helps us express and build our connection with the commander, Hashem.

**Aseret Hadibrot** / = Aseret means 10. Dibrot means things or kinds. Aseret HaDibrot means 10 kinds of things, 10 categories. There are so many Mitzvot, and they can be put into these 10 categories. **Dibrah** (sing)

## TALK ABOUT IT:

On Mt. Sinai, when the Jews first became the Jewish nation, Hashem said, “I love you, each one of you. And I want to give each you lots of opportunities to build a strong relationship with me. When you do what I ask of you, you are building our relationship. I’ll give you many different ways to build a relationship with Me. I will give you the Mitzvot, lots of Mitzvot. ”

There are Mitzvot specifically for farmers (save some food for the poor); Mitzvot for certain times of the year (blow the Shofar on Rosh Hashanah); Mitzvot for certain times in one’s life (Chupah for a wedding). And there are lots of Mitzvot about how we should treat each other (give to the poor, do not steal, do not kidnap and many others). In all there are 613 Mitzvot – 613 opportunities to connect with Hashem.

*Think of a time that you did something that made you feel closer to Hashem.*

*What did you do? Why did that make you feel closer to Hashem?*

