

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Law of the Lord: Part 1

EXODUS 20:1-7

OVERVIEW

God's chosen people are in Egypt. Not only that, they are enslaved. Against the backdrop of God's promises in Genesis—that God's people would be in God's place—the current situation seems dire. Has the Lord forgotten his promises? The story of Exodus reveals God's faithfulness in redeeming his people from bondage into his presence. The way out? Not by human might. By faith in God's promise to deliver through a blood sacrifice. The Lord does all of this so that all people might know he is the Lord and his people might rightly fear him, worshipping him in all things. The Greek title for the book (or shall we say, this chapter of the Pentateuch) is *Exodus*, a word meaning "exit, departure or going out."

APPLY // 19

Main Idea: The purpose of God's deliverance is to bring his people to himself and make something special out of an utterly undeserving people

1. Read Exodus 19.
2. Discuss what this passage tells you about the Lord's character. Spend time praise him.
3. Discuss how this text shows grace fuels obedience? What dangers exist in believing grace excuses obedience? What dangers exist in believing grace is earned from obedience?
4. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. Note the connections to Exodus 19. In Christ, we are God's treasured possession, a kingdom of priests, and holy nation. How does this inform/change the way we think about God, ourselves, the church?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // EXODUS 19

Main Idea: God delivers before he demands. And he demands his people worship him alone, for his glory and our good.

1. Read Exodus 20:1-21
2. According to verse 2, how does the Lord refer to himself?
 - a. What's the significance that he calls himself LORD?
 - b. Why does he remind the Israelites he brought them out of the land of Egypt?
3. What does this reminder tell us about God's character? How does this reminder inform the way we think about obedience to the Lord?
4. Generally speaking, what do you notice about what we call "The 10 commandments"? Do you observe any structure or pattern?
5. What's the first command in verse 3? What does it mean to "have no other gods before me"? Why is this a concern for the Lord? Why is this a concern for Israel? Why is this a concern for us?

6. In verse 4, we find the second command. How does the first part of verse 5 help us interpret the meaning of verse 4? What kind of image is the Lord forbidding?
7. Notice this command has a reason attached to it. What reason does God give?
 - a. What does it mean that God is jealous?
 - b. Why can God be jealous, but we can't?
 - c. What does it mean that God punishes the descendants of wicked people? Is this fair?
 - d. What does it mean that he shows faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love him?
8. In verse 7 we read the third command. What does it mean to take the Lord's name in vain? What kinds of things does this include?
9. Notice that this command has a reason attached to it. What's the consequence for taking the Lord's name in vain? What the significance of this consequence?
10. How do these three commands define and describe Israel's relationship to the Lord?
11. What do these three commands tell us about the character of the Lord?
12. What do these commands tell us about what is right? Wrong? Needed?
13. How do these commands point us to Jesus?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Check in on each other. How is everyone doing, not just circumstantially but spiritually?