

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**The Law of the Lord: Part 2**

EXODUS 20:12-26

## 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 // 20:1-7

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

1. Read Exodus 20:1-20.
2. Discuss when and why the Lord gives the law to his people? Why is it important to keep the Lord's timing and motive of giving the law in view as we read Scripture (and as we live)?
3. Discuss what the first four commandments teach us about the Lord.
4. Discuss what the first four commandments teach us about ourselves and our culture.
5. Discuss how these first four commandments point us to Jesus. How does he keep these commands? How does he serve us when we don't keep these commands? How does he enable us to keep these commands?

## OBSERVE &amp; INTERPRET // EXODUS 20:12-26

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

1. Re-read Exodus 20:12-20.
2. Notice verse 20. What does Moses mean when he says, "Do not fear"? What does Moses mean when he says, "that the fear of him may be before you"? What's the difference in these types of fear?
3. Notice that Moses says when we rightly fear the Lord we will not sin ("that you may not sin"). Why does rightly fearing the Lord keep us from sinning?
4. How does this verse help us interpret all of God's commands? How does this tie back to the commandments being given for our good and joy?
5. The fifth command is found in verse 12. What does it mean to "honor your father and your mother"? Why would this be of importance to God? What promise is attached to this command? What does this promise mean?

6. The sixth command focus on murder. Why is human life important to God? How does Jesus show us the intent of this command goes beyond physical actions?
7. The seventh command addresses adultery. Why is adultery sinful? How does Jesus show us the intent of this command goes beyond physical actions?
8. The eight command prohibits stealing. What is stealing and why is it sinful? What do we say about God when we steal?
9. The ninth command deals with lying. Why is the Lord concerned with our words?
10. The final command addresses covetousness. What does it mean to covet? What are we saying about the Lord when we covet? Paul calls covetousness idolatry (cf. Colossians 3:5). Why is covetousness equal to idolatry?
11. How are the 6 commands of neighbor love connected to the first command (and the other three about loving God)?
12. What does the law have to do with the gospel? How are we to read the 10 commandments in light of Jesus and the new covenant?
13. How does the law show us what is right, wrong, and needed?

## 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:** How can you encourage one another? Where have you seen God's grace in each other's lives?