

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Law of the Lord: Part 3

EXODUS 20:22-23:19

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 // MATTHEW 13:44-46

Main Idea: The Lord has saved his people and commands him to obey him that it may go well with them.

1. Read Matthew 13:44-46.
2. I'll send a few applications questions later (waiting on guest preacher).

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // EXODUS 20:22-23:19

Main Idea: Our good Lord gives good commands that we might glorify him as we live the good life. (And, oh yeah, goat's milk).

1. Re-read Exodus 20:22-26.
2. In verse 22, what is the first thing God wanted Moses to remind the Israelites about? What do think is significant about this?
3. What do these commands reveal about God's character and our worship?
4. How do these commands point us to Jesus?
5. The following passage, 21:1-23:19 contains LOTS of commands. In essence, these commands are an exposition of the final six of the 10 commandments, those dealing with neighbor love.
6. What does the fact that the Lord gives commands to rule/guide our relationships tell us about him?
7. As we study these commands, what differences do we need to take into account in order to properly understand why Moses wrote these laws? What similarities?
8. Read Deuteronomy 5:28-33. Why does the Lord give the law to his people? Why is it important to keep the Lord's motivation in mind as we read these verses?
9. Let's look at a selection of these laws:
 - a. Read 21:1-6. What do these verses teach us about God's character and his concern for vulnerable image bearers? How does this law promote neighbor love?

- i. NOTE: The slavery talked about here is different than what usually comes to mind when we think about slavery. It's not race-based, abusive kidnapping of image bearers. It's voluntary, temporary with rules of protection.
 - b. Read 21:7-11. What do these verses teach us about God's character and his concern for vulnerable image bearers, especially women? Discuss the way the Lord provides protection for women in these verses? How does this law promote neighbor love?
 - i. NOTE: At first it may seem harsh that a father might sell his daughter into slavery. We don't know all the details here but it seems the father wasn't trying to get rid of her, but improve her future. But we actually see the Lord providing protection for the woman in these verses.
 - c. Read 22:16. What do these verses teach us about God's character and his concern for vulnerable image bearers? How does this law promote neighbor love?
 - d. Read 21:33-22:4. What do these verses teach us about God's character?
 - e. Read 21:21-24, 2:39. What does this command teach us about God's character? Notice the reasoning for God's command. How does this point us to Jesus and the gospel? How does this law promote neighbor love?
 - f. Read 23:10-19. What do these command teach us about God's character? How does this point us to Jesus and the gospel? Why does God care how Israel worships him?
10. How would these commands enable the Israelites to live the good life and be a holy nation?
11. How do these laws expose our sin and need for Jesus?
12. What's up with 23:19b?!?!

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: Are you seeking to treasure Christ Jesus above all?