













EXΦDUS

THE NOBODY • THE NAME • AND THE NATION

ev/church

EXODUS: THE NOBODY, THE NAME

WEEK	PASSAGE	ICON	TITLE
Week 1	Exodus 1-2		God hears our cries
Week 2	Exodus 3-4		God reveals his name
Week 3	Exodus 5-10		God judges his enemies
Week 4	Exodus 11-13		God rescues his people
Week 5	Exodus 14-17		God deserves our praise
Week 6	Exodus 18-19, 24		God covenants with his people
Week 7	Exodus 20		God cares how we live
Week 8	Exodus 21-23		God gives good laws
Week 9	Exodus 25-40		God dwells with his people
Week 10	Exodus 32-34		God hates idolatry

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

AND THE NATION TERM 3 – 2024

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by his Spirit, through his word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.



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GIVING AT EV CHURCH

The New Testament teaches us to give generously, regularly and joyfully. Please join with us in bringing to the Coast solid hope in Jesus.

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READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Here is a list of additional readings for each week of the term that will help you work through the Bible in two years. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. Track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

- Wk 1

Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4;
Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2

☐
- Wk 2

Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7;
Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4

☐
- Wk 3

Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10;
Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6

☐
- Wk 4

Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16;
Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9

☐
- Wk 5

Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19;
Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11

☐
- Wk 6

Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24;
Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13

☐
- Wk 7

Exodus 11-15; Psalms 25-27;
Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15

☐
- Wk 8

Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31;
Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17

☐
- Wk 9

Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34;
Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19

☐
- Wk 10

Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37;
Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21

☐

YEAR 1: TERM 2

- Wk 1

Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41;
Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24

☐
- Wk 2

Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3;
Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26

☐
- Wk 3

Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6;
Matthew 27-28

☐
- Wk 4

Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9;
Acts 1-2

☐
- Wk 5

Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44;
Acts 3-4

☐
- Wk 6

Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48;
Acts 5-6

☐

- Wk 7

Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51;
Acts 7-8

☐
- Wk 8

Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54;
Acts 9-10

☐
- Wk 9

Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57;
Acts 11-12

☐
- Wk 10

Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3;
Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14

☐

YEAR 1: TERM 3

- Wk 1

Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65;
Acts 15-16

☐
- Wk 2

Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68;
Acts 17-18

☐
- Wk 3

Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71;
Acts 19-20

☐
- Wk 4

Judges 10-19; Psalms 72;
Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22

☐
- Wk 5

Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4;
Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24

☐
- Wk 6

1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17;
Acts 25-26

☐
- Wk 7

1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20;
Acts 27-28

☐
- Wk 8

1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3;
Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2

☐
- Wk 9

2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75;
Mark 3-4

☐
- Wk 10

2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77;
Mark 5-6

☐

YEAR 1: TERM 4

- Wk 1

1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80;
1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8

☐
- Wk 2

1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83;
1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10

☐

Wk 3	1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 6	Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 4	2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 7	Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 5	2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 8	Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 6	1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 9	Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 7	1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 10	Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 8	1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Wk 9	2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Wk 10	2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>			

YEAR 2: TERM 1

Wk 1	2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 4	Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 2	2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 5	Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 3	Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 6	Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 4	Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 7	Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 5	Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 8	Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 6	Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 9	Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 7	Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 10	Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 8	Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Wk 9	Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Wk 10	Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>			

YEAR 2: TERM 2

Wk 1	Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 4	Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 2	Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 5	Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 3	Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 6	Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 4	Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 7	Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 5	Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wk 8	Haggai 1-2; John 1-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Wk 9	Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Wk 10	Malachi 1-4; John 18-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 2: TERM 3

Wk 1	Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 2	Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 3	Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 4	Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 5	Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 6	Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 7	Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 8	Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 9	Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 10	Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 2: TERM 4

Wk 1	Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 2	Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 3	Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 4	Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 5	Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 6	Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 7	Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 8	Haggai 1-2; John 1-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 9	Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wk 10	Malachi 1-4; John 18-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

INTRODUCTION: EXODUS

How do you summarise a book like Exodus? Its epic drama supplies most of the themes of the rest of the Old Testament: God's sovereignty, covenant, holiness, worship, law, tabernacle, prophets, priests, sacrifices, presence, glory, and of course, redemption. Look out for those themes.

But at the centre of it all is God making himself known. "Pharaoh said, 'Who is Yahweh, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go.'" (Exodus 5:2) What a tragedy: the true and living God, unknown and belittled. But notice what Yahweh declares to the Israelites in response: "I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am Yahweh your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians." (Exodus 6:7)

This verse captures the heart of Exodus. Notice three things:

1. **Above all, the name:** 'You shall know that I am Yahweh'. To see how big this theme is, check out Exodus 3:13-15, 7:5, 7:17, 8:10, 8:22, 9:14, 9:29, 10:2, 14:4, 14:18, 16:12, 18:11, 20:2, 29:46, 31:13, 33:18-19, and 34:5-7!
2. **Revealed through a mighty rescue:** 'who has brought you out'. Exodus is famous for its gripping tale of God's mighty acts of power to rescue his people from oppressive slavery.
3. **Which creates God's nation:** 'I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God'. This rescue defines Israel. Not only are they the people of God's promises, but they are also the people God redeemed. And God's redemption is not just to set them 'free' as many think of freedom today – so everyone can go their separate ways. Instead, God's goal is to create a people who belong to him, which is true freedom. A "kingdom of priests" and a "holy nation" (Exodus 19:6).

Context: the story of the Bible

Notice how the theme of God's 'nation' connects to the story of God's promises that began in Genesis. The Bible's big thread is all about God's people, in God's place, enjoying God's rule and blessing. This was the **pattern** in the Garden (Genesis 1-2). Then the problem of human sin wrecked everything (Genesis 3-11). But from Genesis 12 onwards came God's **promise** to restore what was lost by making Abraham's descendants into 'a great nation' (God's people), in the promised



'land' (God's place) enjoying God's 'blessing' (Genesis 12:2, 3, 7). Even enjoying the greatest blessing of all, God himself. 'I will establish my covenant... to be your God.' (Genesis 17:7. Notice: God's rule and blessing) And somehow, these promises will benefit not just Abraham's line but "all peoples on earth"! (Genesis 12:3)

This becomes the story of the rest of the Bible, with Exodus as the next episode. Exodus begins with signs of the promises being fulfilled ('they multiplied'). But their harsh slavery seems like a wrong turn. What hope is there of being a nation, blessed, in the promised land now? This question is the narrative tension of Exodus.

Structure

This context gives rise to the book's structure. How does God make a nation for himself?

1. **First, he rescues them (chapters 1-18)** through mighty acts that save his people and judge his enemies. There's a power struggle of ten plagues climaxing in total victory through the Passover and parting of the sea. His people praise (good) and pout (less good) while God continues to protect and provide.
2. **Then he forms them into his nation (chapters 19-40)** through a covenant that establishes him as their God, them as his people, and sets out how they are to live as his people in the law (chapters 19-24). The crowning jewel of their privileges as his people is to have him dwell with them. That's what the tabernacle is all about. So the book finishes with the tabernacle's design and construction (chapters 25-40).

I suspect some Christians secretly think Exodus has the good half and the boring half. But the second half is the whole point of the first half. We're getting close to being back in Eden! It's the people of God (the covenant), under God's rule (the law), about to enjoy his blessings in the promised land – especially the blessing of God's very presence in the tabernacle.

And yet, Exodus is filled with reminders that we're not quite back in the Garden. The people keep sinning, for one thing. And even the tabernacle itself, with its layout and rules, speaks of the lingering barrier between the Holy God and unholy people.

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INTRODUCTION: EXODUS

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So above all, Exodus is about Jesus

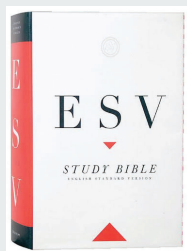
Two of the ways Exodus points to Jesus:

1. It teaches concepts that help us understand Jesus. For example, the New Testament says that Jesus is the true Passover lamb. It's really his death in our place that means the wrath of God passes over all who trust in him, so we're set free from our slavery to sin to worship God as his holy nation.
2. It shows why we needed something better than those partial fulfillments. We see why we need a better Moses, a better Passover, a better covenant, sacrifice, priests, tabernacle, and so on if we are to one day be fully restored to the glory of being God's people, in God's place, enjoying God's rule and blessing the way we were supposed to be, for the glory of his name.

Author?

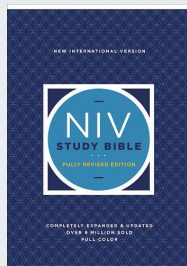
Jesus quotes Exodus as the words of Moses (Mark 7:10) as well other parts of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, as Moses' 'writing' (Mark 10:5, John 5:46). Moses probably learned to write when raised in Pharaoh's household, and Exodus itself refers to Moses writing (e.g. 17:14, 24:4) at God's request (34:27). Although these writings may not be the book of Exodus itself, they could have been its 'first drafts'. The complexity is that some of the Pentateuch seems to show evidence of a later editor involved. For example, how did Moses record his own death in Deuteronomy 34? So, it seems best to see Moses as the main author and editor, but to allow for the minor involvement of a later editor, who was also inspired by God, and who did not change the substance of the book (otherwise, Jesus would not have described it as what Moses wrote). The book was probably written during the 40 years Moses and the Israelites spent wandering in the desert. Seems like a good way to pass the time to me!

Book Recommendations:



ESV Study Bible & NIV Study Bible

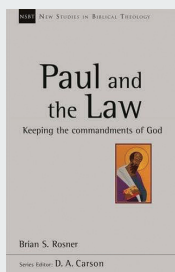
Study Bibles can be really useful, and also dangerous. Why dangerous? The study notes are not God's word. They are often helpful, but unlike God's word they can get things wrong. There can be a temptation to lazily let the notes replace our own prayerful consideration of what God means. Personally, in a growth group setting, I would rather no one bring a study Bible so that we aren't tempted to skip to 'the answer' (which may or may not be right!).



But a good study Bible can be really useful. For about the price of three Pad Thai's, you can have a short commentary on the entire Bible, with maps, timelines, and introductions to each book of the Bible. It can point you in the direction of what a difficult word or passage might mean. These notes should not be considered the 'final word' or an infallible interpretation,

but they can be a great starting point to further thought.

Not all study Bibles are equally helpful. The *ESV Study Bible* has particularly helpful notes, coming from an excellent team of Bible scholars. The *NIV Study Bible* is also highly regarded. Either would be a great resource to have on your bookshelf.



***Paul and the Law: Keeping The Commandments Of God* by Brian Rosner**

This term we will read sections of the 'Mosaic law' in the Old Testament. Many Christians wonder what we should do with these sections. God gave these laws to Israel under the 'Old Covenant', yet we are under the 'New Covenant'. Do they apply to us today? If so, in what way? This book shows really clearly how the New Testament itself answers these questions.

There is a short summary of this book on pages 10-13 of these notes. Although the book is slightly more academic than some others we have recommended recently, it is only 220 pages, and Rosner is a very clear writer.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW AND

What is the relevance of the Old Testament laws to us today?

In the TV show, *The West Wing*, President Bartlett humiliates a Christian by asking her, “My chief of staff insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly says he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or is it ok to call the police?”

The second half of Exodus (as well as Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) is filled with laws that raise two questions for the Christian today: Are these laws good, and are they relevant?

1. Are they good?

These laws can seem confusing, sometimes even harsh. But Psalm 119 is very clear that God’s laws are good. We will see this more clearly as we study them more closely. One reason they are challenging for us is that they were written into a very different time and place. It is easy to misread them, or to miss the social problems in an ancient world which they protected people from. Keep an eye out for the way that love is the motive and desired outcome (see Romans 13:8-10). Even more, look out for the way they were designed to help God’s people understand sin, his holiness, and their need for the gospel.

2. Are they relevant?

We know the answer is yes, because ‘all Scripture is God breathed and useful’ (2 Timothy 3:16). But it’s important to know how they are relevant today. Christians have taken different approaches to this question.

The best approach takes seriously the fact that we live under a new covenant. “The law of Moses was given to people at a different stage in the history of redemption. The covenant with God confirmed in Exodus 24 is not the covenant under which we live. We live under what Jesus calls “the new covenant” (Luke 22:20).” (Tim Chester, *Exodus For You*, page 162) The New Covenant is a new arrangement, a new way of relating to God.

So, do New Covenant people need to keep the Old Covenant laws? Here is a short summary of the New Testament’s answer (from Brian Rosner’s book, *Paul and the Law*): we are not under the Old Covenant law. Instead, in the New Covenant, we are



THE NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIAN

under Christ who leads us, by His Spirit, to do God's will. But the Old Testament law is still God's word for us, and it especially helps us in two ways. First, it points us to Jesus. Second, it teaches us about God and God's will. So the Old Testament laws don't apply to us as 'rules' but they do teach us how to do God's will.

For example, when I was growing up, our family had a rule: 'Ask before you leave the dinner table'. As an adult, I've stopped asking for permission to leave the table. There was nothing wrong with the rule, but (1) the situation has changed (it's like I'm under a 'new covenant'), and (2) I've internalised the principle which it was teaching: 'be considerate of others at meals'. Sometimes that means paying attention to social cues and staying at the table as long as others want. In other circumstances, it might look like slipping away quietly so as not to disturb the others. The rule has given me the wisdom to do what would please my parents even better than rigidly obeying it as a rule would. (This example is adapted from Tim Chester's book mentioned on page 10.)

So, as New Covenant Christians:

1. We are not under the Old Covenant law

Paul says "you are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14-15), and "if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law" (Galatians 5:18). Paul's own statement about himself is extraordinary. He says "to those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law)" (1 Corinthians 9:20). As a Jew, Paul would have been under the Old Covenant law. So, it is very significant that he says he lives "like" he is under the law for the sake of evangelism ("to win those under the law"), but then clarifies that even he, as a Jew, is not under the law any more now that he is in the New Covenant. This means that the Old Covenant laws do not apply as laws to Christians in the New Covenant. But this does not mean the Old Testament law is irrelevant to us.

2. We are now under Christ

After Paul says he is no longer under the Old Testament law, he says "though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law" (1 Corinthians 9:21). He is saying that being free from the Old Testament law does not mean he is free from

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THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW AND

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all obligation. He must still obey the God of the universe. But the Old Testament law has been replaced by a new master: Christ, who calls Christians to a life of love in the Spirit according to his teaching through his apostles (see Galatians 2:19-20, 6:2). This is sometimes called “the law of Christ”, “the law of love”, “the law of faith”, or “the law of the Spirit”.

So what is the relevance of the Old Testament law? Two things:

1. The law is prophecy: it points to Jesus

In Matthew 5:17, Jesus says that he did not come to abolish the law, but to ‘fulfil’ it. We often don’t notice the word fulfil. We can assume he means “to continue them”, which makes it sound like he is telling us that the Old Covenant law is still in place. But he doesn’t say he came to ‘continue’ the law, but to ‘fulfil it’. ‘Fulfil’ is what you do with a prophecy.

So, as we read the Old Covenant law, we should be looking for how it points us to Jesus (Luke 24:25-27, Romans 3:21). For example, many of the laws around the temple, sacrifices, and the whole ‘clean and unclean’ concept in Leviticus, teach us about our need for a saviour to make us holy if we are to be in relationship with the Holy God.

2. The law is revelation: it teaches us about God and life in his world

In his book, Brian Rosner calls this ‘wisdom’ (the law teaches us wisdom), but it’s easy to misunderstand what Rosner means. We think wisdom is something you can choose to ignore. But that’s not quite the Bible’s picture of wisdom. It’s God’s will that we live wisely (Ephesians 5:15), and it’s always wise to do God’s will (Proverbs 3:5-8). So what Rosner means by ‘wisdom’ is this: the Old Covenant law gives deep insight into reality, especially the most important reality of all – who God is, and how he wants us to live in his world.

For example, in 1 Corinthians 9:9-12, Paul quotes Deuteronomy 25:4, ‘you shall not muzzle an ox’, and applies it to supporting people who work for church. Paul says this was written not just for oxen, but ‘for our sake’ so that we’d understand God’s will that people who work have a right to be fed. So, as we read the Old Covenant laws,



THE NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIAN

we should reflect deeply on what they might be teaching us about God, his world, and how he wants us to live in it.

This way of understanding the Old Covenant law helps us to make sense of why some of it is repeated in the New Testament, like the commands not to worship idols or to murder, but some others are not repeated in the same way, like, for example, the Sabbath command. Some Christians have tried to explain this by suggesting there are three types of laws: 'moral', 'civil' (how the nation should function), and 'ceremonial' (laws about the sacrificial system). They would say the moral laws directly teach us God's will, and so continue today, whereas the civil and ceremonial laws have served their purpose and ceased to apply. There is truth in this. Some laws are particularly connected to the functioning of the nation, Israel, and some are particularly ceremonial. But sometimes it is hard to decide which category a law fits into, and the Bible itself doesn't seem to divide them up for us. For example, the Ten Commandments seem particularly 'moral', but then how do we make sense of the lack of a New Testament instruction to keep the fourth commandment, the Sabbath? Additionally, some of the so-called civil or ceremonial laws seem to have a moral lesson! It is probably better to see the whole law as teaching us about God's will, so they are all 'moral laws', and yet they come clothed in the civil and ceremonial dimensions of the Old Covenant and its people.

The New Testament becomes the key; the lens to look back at the Old Covenant laws, and understand the moral principles taught throughout it. So, we do not keep the Sabbath the way the Old Covenant people did, even though it is in the 'top ten', because none of those laws apply to us directly as laws, and the New Testament applies the Sabbath to us differently. And yet, as we meditate on the Sabbath commandment, we should probably learn that God does not want us to always work and never rest and enjoy him with his people.

Much more could be said. See Rosner's book (profiled on page 9), or pages 161-169 of Tim Chester's book, *Exodus For You*, to keep thinking.

WEEK 1: EXODUS 1-2

DAY 1

Read Exodus 1:1-7

1. The sequel to Genesis begins in Egypt with 70 of Israel's descendents. But what happens to that number? List all the different words or phrases that emphasise this change.
2. Compare Israel's situation to the promises made to their ancestor, Abraham (e.g. Genesis 12:1-7 or 17:3-8, and see also Genesis 50:24-26). Note down progress made toward these promises being fulfilled, and where there's still 'work to be done'.
3. Why do you think the writer chose to link the start of his book so directly to these promises? What expectations does it create about what we'll see God do through the rest of the book of Exodus?
4. Imagine how it would have felt to have been one of Abraham's descendents, living in this gap between promise and fulfilment. What can we learn from this?

Prayer: Thank God that he keeps his covenant promises. Ask for help to be patient when the ultimate fulfilment of his promises seems to take longer than we'd like.

GOD HEARS OUR CRIES

DAY 2

Read Exodus 1:8-21

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30;
2 Corinthians 1

1. List the words or phrases that signal the suffering of God's people and the evil of Pharaoh.
2. We never learn the name of this Pharaoh, even though the nation he ruled was the mightiest superpower on the planet at the time. Yet 35 centuries later we still know the names of two relative nobodies, Shiprah and Puah. Why is this? Who were they, what actions did they take, and what qualities did they demonstrate?
3. What do we learn about God, and living for God, from these events?
4. In particular, what conclusions might we draw about the value of human life even from the womb?

Prayer: Thank God that he rewards those who fear him, if not in this life then certainly eternally (Matthew 19:2). Ask for courage to obey his word, especially when under pressure.

WEEK 1: EXODUS 1-2

DAY 3

Some unfairly criticise the Bible as being 'anti women'. But who have been the heroes so far?

Read Exodus 1:22-2:10

1. In this section, what admirable character traits are displayed by:
 - a. Jochebed (the baby's mother, Exodus 6:20)?
 - b. Miriam (the baby's sister, see Exodus 15:20)?
 - c. Pharaoh's daughter?
2. Consider the tiny details that come together in this event. What comforting lessons does this teach about the way God works?
3. Does the start of Moses' life remind you of anyone else? See Matthew 2:14-16, and compare Exodus 2:10 with Matthew 1:21.

Prayer: Praise God for his providence (the way he sovereignly directs everything that happens according to his infinite wisdom and loving kindness, to accomplish his good promises and plans for our world).

GOD HEARS OUR CRIES

DAY 4

Read Exodus 2:11-22

1. Raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter (2:10), Moses may have gone to 'the best schools'. But what comes of his self-confident attempts to rescue his people? Use the table below to trace the flow.

Verses	Moses' actions or activity	How Moses sees or describes himself
11-14		
15-16		
17-19	Especially verse 19	Especially verse 19
20-22		

2. This section starts with Moses aged about 40 years old (Acts 7:23). He then lives as a nobody shepherd in Nowheresville with his family until about the age of 80 (Acts 7:30). What lessons or reflections come to mind as you think over what you've just noted down in the table?
3. In particular... what lessons might this passage teach a younger person about pride (e.g. James 4:6-10), and an older person about discouragement?

Bonus, if time: Looking at how he sees himself, are there any clues about Moses' relationship with God during this season of his life?

Prayer: Ask that your zeal to make a difference for God would never fade, but would always be in his strength (not yours), for his glory (not yours).

WEEK 1: EXODUS 1-2

DAY 5

Read Exodus 2:23-25

1. It is now two chapters, and several decades, since the Israelites' harsh treatment began. Why do you think this is the first mention of them praying for help?
2. List the things that these three verses say that God does when the Israelites at last cry to God for help.
3. What do these verses teach you about God and about prayer?
4. The God who "knows everything" (1 John 3:20) cannot forget. So what might verse 24 mean when it says "remembered"? How important is the covenant with Abraham to what happens next?

Prayer: Thank God for the confidence we can have when we bring our requests to him in prayer. List requests that you could bring to God on behalf of yourself, those close to you, our church and those in it, and other needs you are aware of. Set aside some time, now or later, to bring these requests to God in prayer.



GOD HEARS OUR CRIES

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 2: EXODUS 3-4

DAY 1

Read Exodus 3:1-12

1. How does God kick-start his mighty work of rescuing his people?
2. What can we learn about God from the things he says to Moses, as well as from the way he and Moses relate to each other?
3. What promises does God make to Moses in these verses, and how should Moses respond to these promises?

Prayer: Praise God for who he is, for what he has done to fulfil these promises, and for what he has promised to do for us in Christ.

GOD REVEALS HIS NAME

DAY 2

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7;
Jeremiah 36-40

Names in the ancient world often carried meaning (e.g. “Moses” means ‘drawn out’, 2:10). Today’s verses are some of the most significant in the whole Bible. God reveals the meaning of his name, Yahweh, to Moses. It seems that the name Yahweh was used before this event (e.g. Genesis 4:26, 24:3), but its meaning was not understood in the way Moses was about to understand it (Exodus 6:3), and no one has mentioned it so far in Exodus. For more on the name, Yahweh, see the article on page 25.

Read Exodus 3:11-22

1. What exactly does God tell Moses about who he is, and what does he say to tell the people of Israel?
2. What does he promise will happen? (See verses 18-23.)
3. It's worth taking the time to reflect deeply on verses 14-15. What do you think God means when he says “I am who I am”? It is three words in Hebrew: ehyeh asher ehyeh. Each ehyeh could be translated “I am” or “I will be” or “I was” or “I cause to be”. Asher can mean ‘who’ or ‘because’. Consider different variations, and what they might mean. What truths could God be intending to communicate about himself?

Prayer: Praise God for revealing himself to us. Praise him as the God who exists, who is existence itself, who needs nothing else to exist but gives existence to everything else as its creator and sustainer. Praise his unchangeability, his consistency, his self-sufficiency, his eternity, his complete freedom and sovereignty in his acts of judgement and mercy.

WEEK 2: EXODUS 3-4

DAY 3

Read Exodus 4:1-9

The conversation continues at the not-burning bush (see 3:2).

1. What's wrong with Moses' answer in verse 1? (Compare with 3:18.)
2. How does God show his patience with Moses' unbelief and the possible unbelief of the Israelites?
3. With tears in his eyes, a man once asked Jesus, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). What encouragement does God's patience with Moses give to you? What signs has he given to us, to confirm to us the greater messenger he has sent? (John 20:24-31)

Prayer: Thank God for his incredible patience toward hard-hearted, doubting sinners like Moses and us. Ask that by his Spirit, he might create in you an increasingly soft-heart toward him, willing to believe his promises and obey his commands.

GOD REVEALS HIS NAME

DAY 4

Read Exodus 4:10-17

1. Moses raises five problems with God's plan. Summarise his 'concerns' (or excuses) in the table below. If time is short, focus on 4 and 5.

Problem	Moses' concern/excuse	Yahweh's answer
1 (3:11-12)		
2 (3:13-15)		
3 (4:1, 8-9)		
4 (4:10-12)		
5 (4:13-16)		

2. What is confronting, and what is comforting, about 4:11?
3. We are called to be God's messengers, bringing the gospel that has power to save (Romans 1:16). List some of the mental barriers (or excuses) that prevent you from doing more in sharing that message? What might God say to you in response to each of those things? (If time, consider Matthew 28:18-20, especially verse 20.)

Prayer: Thank God that all around the world, and here at our church, his gospel is bearing fruit. Pray for those you know, or may meet today. Ask for opportunities to point to Jesus, and ask God to give you the words you need in that moment.

WEEK 2: EXODUS 3-4

DAY 5

Read Exodus 4:18-31

1. How do Aaron (verses 27-28) and the elders of Israel (verses 29-31) react to Moses' message?
2. What is Moses told about how Pharaoh will respond? (We will consider this more next week.)
3. God has remembered the covenant he made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 2:24) and therefore he calls their descendants his "firstborn son". What is it about Moses' firstborn son that suggests Moses has not done such a good job remembering that same covenant? (See Genesis 17:9-14.)
4. Step back and consider what we've seen so far. Consider the sort of person Moses is, the situation the Israelites find themselves in, and what is in store for Pharaoh. What goals do you think God might have in choosing to direct history this way?

Prayer: Thank God for the New Covenant that he made through the blood of his only begotten Son. Ask that you will never forget this covenant, but will always draw near to God and serve him faithfully.

GOD REVEALS HIS NAME

‘Yahweh’

The word ‘LORD’ in all capital letters in an English Bible signals the name ‘Yahweh’ in the original Hebrew. This name comes from the Hebrew consonants YHWH, and is related to the Hebrew word “to be”.

In later times, Jewish people considered it too sacred to pronounce. When reading aloud, they would say “Adonai” (Hebrew for ‘my Lord’) whenever the text contained “Yahweh”. This is why our English Bibles use the word “LORD”.

This practice gave rise to the mispronunciation ‘Jehovah’. Originally, Hebrew writing used only consonants. Vowel markings were added much later to aid pronunciation. When adding the vowel markings to YHWH, vowel markings from ‘Adonai’ were used resulting in the hybrid word ‘YaHoVaH’ (Jehovah). However, it is much more likely that the original pronunciation was “Yahweh”.

The Ten Commandments will give us good reason to be very respectful of God’s name, and especially of how we live as people who bear his name. However, it seems from Exodus 3:14-16 that God intended his people to know and use his name, Yahweh (see also passages like Numbers 6:22-27, Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 3: EXODUS 5-10

DAY 1

Read Exodus 5:1-9

If you want to read Exodus 5-10 this week, read all of chapter 5 today.

1. What do we learn about Pharaoh and his attitude to the true God in verse 2, and verses 6-8?
2. Look at 4:21, just a few verses earlier. What is the ultimate reason behind why Pharaoh acts the way he does?
3. Yet this never takes away Pharaoh's responsibility for his actions. Look up 9:34 and 7:4. What shows Pharaoh's own responsibility in these verses?
4. Write down how you feel about these things. What questions does it raise for you? How does it unsettle, or encourage, or humble you?

Bonus, if time: Here are all the references to Pharaoh's "heart" in the book of Exodus. Use the table to categorise them. Note any observations (e.g. what is said first, or most?) 4:21, 7:3, 7:13, 7:14, 7:22-23, 8:15, 8:19, 8:32, 9:7, 9:12, 9:34, 9:35, 10:1, 10:20, 10:27, 11:10, 14:4, 14:5, 14:8, 14:17.

Yahweh hardens Pharaoh's heart	Pharaoh hardens his heart	It doesn't say who hardens his heart

Prayer: Praise God for being big enough to rule over everything in his world, even over human hearts. Pray for those you know who don't yet follow Jesus, knowing that God is able to change their hearts too.

GOD JUDGES HIS ENEMIES

DAY 2

Read Exodus 5:22-6:9

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13;
Jeremiah 46-50

If you want to read Exodus 5-10 this week, read all of chapter 6 today.

1. List the seven things God promises to do for his people. How and why will he do these things?
2. Compare 5:2 with 6:2, 6:6, and 6:7. What do you notice?
3. What seems to be God's number one goal in this rescue? (Consider also some or all of these verses: Exodus 9:14-16, as well as 7:5, 7:17, 8:10, 8:22, 9:29-30, 10:2, 11:9, and Romans 9:17.)
4. Growing as a Christian includes growing to care about the things God cares about. What are your big concerns in life? Based on what you've seen in these verses, what does God care about? And what would it look like for you to care more about God's concerns?

Prayer: "Not to us, Yahweh, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." (Psalm 115:1)

WEEK 3: EXODUS 5-10

DAY 3

"Moses spent forty years thinking he was somebody; forty years learning he was nobody; and forty years discovering what God can do with a nobody." – D.L. Moody.

Read Exodus 6:28-7:13

If you want to read Exodus 5-10 this week, read all of chapter 7 today

1. A pharaoh considered himself a god on earth. Using 6:28-7:2, how would Pharaoh rank the authority of these four individuals: Aaron, Pharaoh, Moses, Yahweh? What is really the case, and why the difference?

2. Front and centre on a pharaoh's headpiece was a symbol of the Egyptian serpent goddess Wadjet, Egypt's protector. This ornament (the 'Uraeus') was a sign of their royalty and divine authority. What's the message of verses 9 and 12?



3. How long past 'retirement age' are Moses and Aaron when God begins to use them for the greatest works of their lives (see verse 7)? How might this change the way you see others, and yourself?

Prayer: Confess any times recently where you have acted like you are God, or ignored his word. Ask that you will always honour and obey his rule as the only true and living God.

GOD JUDGES HIS ENEMIES

DAY 4

We are now into the ten terrible plagues. Three cycles of three plagues, then a final decisive one. There is a pattern, although it isn't always followed exactly. For example, the third plague in each cycle is told in a much briefer way.

Read Exodus 8:1-14

If you want to read Exodus 5-10 this week, read all of chapter 8 today

1. Label what happens in this plague episode.

8:1	request	8:8	_____
8:2-4	_____	8:9	_____
8:5	_____	8:12-14	_____
8:6	_____	8:15	_____

(If time, you could compare with other plagues to try to identify patterns.)

2. Magicians in verse 7... Huh?
 - a. Where might they get their powers (e.g. 7:11, 22, 8:7)?
 - b. After 8:18-19, the only time the magicians are mentioned is 9:11. What does God show through this?
 - c. Imagine a child is scared of witches or evil spirits. What would be a more Biblical way to calm their fears than telling them 'those things aren't real'?
 - d. If time – How else could this be applied? e.g. should Christians use Ouija boards, or visit fortune tellers, mediums, psychics, astrology? (Isaiah 8:19)

Prayer: Thank God for his mighty power, greater even than all the very real forces of evil in the world. Thank Jesus for coming to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8), and that he has already defeated him at the cross (Colossian 2:15).

WEEK 3: EXODUS 5-10

DAY 5

Read Exodus 9:13-35

If you want to read Exodus 5-10 this week, read all of chapters 9-10 today.

1. What particularly shows Yahweh's power in these verses? And patience? (Consider especially verses 26, 15-16, 18, 19, and 33.)
2. Compare verses 27-28 with verse 34. What do you think is going on for Pharaoh here? What response would have made more sense in light of what he has learned of God?
3. Numbers 33:4 says God sent these plagues on Egypt as "judgement on their gods". What fate awaits people today who continue in their resistance to God without repenting? What impact should this fact have on us?
4. Write down any ways that your view of God has been challenged or expanded this week. What will you do with what you have seen?

Prayer: "You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were" (Revelation 16:5-7). Yet Lord, you love to show mercy. Please stir your people in our church and around our world to speak the gospel that is powerful to save, and open many hearts to believe and be saved.



GOD JUDGES HIS ENEMIES

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 4: EXODUS 11-13

DAY 1

Read Exodus 11

1. List (or underline) any phrases or words that emphasise how complete and effective this final work of God will be.
2. Why do you think Moses was angry?
3. When the final day of judgement comes, what will happen to each person who has continued to refuse to repent? What would be appropriate emotions and actions for a Christian to take in light of this reality?

Prayer: List people in your life who do not currently trust Christ as their saving king, especially those you are likely to meet today or tomorrow. Ask the God who can open hearts (verse 3, see Acts 16:14) to help you love others enough to do uncomfortable things for their eternal good. Ask for opportunities to share the hope you have, and ask God to open their hearts to the message.

GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE

DAY 2

Read Exodus 12:1-13

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5;
Galatians 1-6

1. On the night of “Yahweh’s Passover”, what will he do, and why, and what will result?
2. Imagine being an Israelite, sheltered in your house. For the first time, they need to do something or else they too will die. What must they do, and what does it imply about them? (See Joshua 24:14.)
3. Jesus’ work on the cross has been described as a ‘penal substitutionary atonement’ (PSA). That phrase says that a punishment was paid (“penal”) by someone in our place (“substitution”) to make us right with God (“atonement”). 1 Corinthians 5:7 calls Christ “our passover lamb”. What parts of Exodus 12 help us to understand or confirm the PSA view of the cross?
4. Why wear running shoes to dinner (verse 11)? How does this help you picture what will happen for you on judgement day? What would be appropriate emotions and actions for a Christian to feel/do in light of this reality?

Prayer: “LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.” (Isaiah 25:1)

WEEK 4: EXODUS 11-13

DAY 3

Read Exodus 12:14-28

There's a pattern to the two speeches that make up this chapter (verses 2-20, and 21-27). The first half focuses on what is immediately ahead. The second half looks to the future celebration of it.

1. What's the penalty for not cleansing a house of yeast during this yearly celebration? Why do you think it is so severe? (If time, consider Exodus 19:6; 1 Corinthians 5:6-13, especially verse 8; and Matthew 16:6,12.)
2. As the whole nation eats this meal at the same time each year, what would they learn about themselves? Consider the lessons they might learn from as many of these verses as you have time for: verses 2, 4, 16, 19, 24-27, and 43-45.
3. As we share one meal together in the Lord's supper, what are we to learn about ourselves? (If time, consider 1 Corinthians 10:17, 21; and 11:17-34. Note that 'discerning the body' in 11:29 probably means realising that the Christian community is the body of Christ, as in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.)
4. What event(s) or group(s) are you tempted to let define your identity? What should it be for you as a Christian?

Prayer: "We have heard it with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago... It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them. You are my King and my God." (Psalm 44:1-4)



GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE

DAY 4

Read Exodus 12:29-51

More on the Passover! The book of Exodus devotes more words to this final plague than any before it (just as the gospels focus on Jesus' death and resurrection).

1. Is there any level of wealth, social standing, education, or social grouping that protects from God's judgement (verse 29)?
2. Consider verse 40, and Pharaoh's response to the nine plagues so far. What emotions or thoughts might an Israelite have about God telling them to be ready to leave Egypt quickly? What is kind about God's work to cause verses 31-34, and 36?
3. What would it show about an Israelite if they were in fact dressed and ready?
4. "So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (Matthew 24:44). Are you living this way? If Jesus returned one night this week, what would you wish your day leading up to it had looked like?

Prayer: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever... to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, and brought Israel out from among them with a mighty hand and outstretched arm. His love endures forever!" (Psalm 136:1, 10-12)

WEEK 4: EXODUS 11-13

DAY 5

Read Exodus 13:1-16

1. The word “redeem” is a very significant word in the Bible. Based on verses 13 and 15, what do you think it means?
2. God owns everything because he made everything. So why does verse 1 say what it says? Use verses 14-16 to help you.
3. A Christian is someone redeemed by the precious blood of God’s own ‘firstborn’ son (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Consider children (yours or others in our church), friends, or your spouse. Who owns them, and what practical difference would it make to your relationship with them if you remembered this?
4. Which attitude do you think is closest to your normal heart posture?
 - “My time is mine, and I will choose how much to give away”, or
 - “I already have given all my life, including all my time, to the Lord to use as he chooses. The only question is how he will choose for me to use it.”
 - If someone asked you to help in some way, what difference would the second attitude make?

Prayer: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10)

Bonus, if time: How could we apply verse 8 and 14? (See also 12:24-27.)



GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 5: EXODUS 14-17

DAY 1

Read Exodus 13:17-14:12

1. Why did the Israelites criticise God's military strategy? (See 13:17-18, 14:2-3, 14:10-11.)
2. What was different about the way God saw the situation? (Consider 13:17, 19, 14:4.)
3. Imagine, or think of a friend who is struggling to understand why God has allowed a certain thing to happen in their lives, or in the world. Using details from this passage as evidence, write what you could say to encourage them to continue to trust him.
4. What situations in your life, past or present, would be helped by remembering your own words of encouragement above?

Prayer: Use Paul's prayer for the Roman church: ask the God of hope to "fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

GOD DESERVES OUR PRAISE

DAY 2

Read Exodus 14:13-31

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10

It's not surprising that this astonishing event dominated the way Israel saw themselves and their God (Psalm 78:13; 106:9–10; Isaiah 50:2; 51:10; 63:12). It even provided the imagery for prophecies of future acts of rescue, like their later return from exile (Zechariah 10:10–11).

1. From verses like 13-14, what role did God play in their salvation, and what part did they play? How is this a picture of our salvation?
2. What resulted from this incredible act? For each result below, what help did this bring to God's people?
 - a. Verses 17-18 (see verse 31)
 - b. Verses 28, 30
 - c. Verse 29
3. To what extent is Exodus 14:31 true of you?

Prayer: Use Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church, for yourself and our church: that "the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better" and "that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." (Ephesians 1:17-19)

Bonus, if time: List ways that Jesus' death and resurrection is similar to each of these, yet better. (Consider verses like Colossians 2:13-15, noticing verse 15; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 19:1-8, 11-16.)

WEEK 5: EXODUS 14-17

DAY 3

Read Exodus 15:1-21

1. What is a natural response to being saved by God? (Consider especially verses 20-21.)
2. Re-read the song slowly, with a pen in hand. Write down things this song teaches you about God and about praising him.
3. Compare this response to God with the tone of your prayers, the general attitude of your heart toward God, the words you say about him in prayer and to others, and the songs we sing at church. What changes would you like to make?

You may like to choose a verse or two to write out and leave somewhere you will see it to remind you. Or, you may like to write your own song, poem, or prayer praising God.

Prayer: Pray your own prayer, or use Paul's from the start of his letter to the Ephesians (see Ephesians 1:3-14): "I praise you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because you have blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

GOD DESERVES OUR PRAISE

DAY 4

Read Exodus 15:22-16:9

1. What word is repeated? And what makes this response so inappropriate? (See 15:23, 16:2, 7, 8, 9, 12, 17:3.)
2. What powerful insight is found at the end of 16:8? What makes it different to 2:23?
3. How can we apply this insight as Christians? (See especially Philippians 2:14-16. If time, also consider how the actions in Philippians 4:4-8 and Ephesians 5:20 can be used as weapons in your war on whinging.)
4. I often whinge about how often my kids whinge. What do you find yourself complaining about? What could you say or pray instead?

Prayer: Use Paul's prayer for the church in Colossae: "Ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light." (Colossians 1:9-12)

WEEK 5: EXODUS 14-17

DAY 5

Read Exodus 16:9-36 (If you have time, also read chapter 17)

1. What does God do to provide for his people's needs?
2. What do you think motivated the Israelites' disobedience in verse 20?
3. Compare verse 20 to verses 22-26. What explains the difference? What should this have taught them about God, as well as about the Sabbath?
4. Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "give us the bread we need for today" (see Matthew 6:9-13). What is helpful about praying this today, in a world of supermarkets, canned food, and superannuation?

Prayer: Pray as Jesus taught his disciples: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honoured as holy. May your kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.



GOD DESERVES OUR PRAISE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 6: EXODUS 18-19, 24

DAY 1

Read Exodus 18

1. Who is Jethro, where is he from, and why are verses 10-12 so significant?
2. What is Jethro concerned about (verses 13-18)?
3. How could the wisdom of Jethro in verses 19-23 be applied:
 - a. In a church?
 - b. In a country's legal system?
 - c. In your life?

Prayer: Pray for leaders in our church, and all churches, as well as those who lead you and those you lead spiritually. Perhaps verses 20-21 might help you to think of things to pray for them.

GOD COVENANTS WITH HIS PEOPLE

DAY 2

Read Exodus 19:1-6

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20

1. In many ways, the book climaxes with this chapter (see Exodus 3:12, 6:7). Exodus is the story of freedom from slavery, but even more than that, it is a story about....?
2. List the three phrases God uses to describe his people, and what you think they each mean.
3. This was true of a particular nation then. Who is it true of now? (See 1 Peter 2:9-10, with 1 Peter 1:1-2)
4. In an individualistic culture, we can easily forget that this is mainly about the collective people of God. How do these things shape the way you view other Christians, and the significance of gathering with them? Secondly, how does it shape the way you view yourself and how you live in the world?

Prayer: Pray for our church, and all churches, and yourself, to live out the glorious identity God has given to us. You might use 1 Peter 2:9-10 to shape your prayers.

WEEK 6: EXODUS 18-19, 24

DAY 3

Read Exodus 19:3-8

1. As God summarises the story so far, list the contributions he has made and the contributions his people have made. What thoughts does this prompt for you?
2. What is the appropriate response to such a great work of salvation? (See verses 5-9.)
3. How does Israel go with the "if" of verse 5?
4. How is this similar and different to the gospel of Jesus our saviour? (For example, consider the "therefore" in Romans 12:1-3, after the first 11 chapters on God's work of mercy.)

Prayer: Pray for your own heart, and your own life of faith and obedience to your saviour king in response to his tremendous mercy towards you.

GOD COVENANTS WITH HIS PEOPLE

DAY 4

Read Exodus 19:9-25

1. What message is God sending here?
2. Based on this passage alone, what can you learn about holiness? God? Humans? What happens when unholy things or people come into contact with a holy God?
3. Assumptions about what God is like are built into the way most of our society functions. It is hard, as a Christian, not to accidentally absorb those assumptions. Write down some assumptions about God, held by Aussies, that this passage helps you to resist.
4. How does this affect the way you see or feel about:
 - a. What Jesus has done to make you holy before God?
 - b. Obeying God?
 - c. Seeing a world living in disregard for God?

Prayer: Pray for mercy on our world. Pray for revival. Ask that people will no longer minimise and dishonour the glorious, holy God of the universe, but instead turn to his Son in repentance and faith.

WEEK 6: EXODUS 18-19, 24

DAY 5

Read Exodus 24

Between Exodus 19 and Exodus 24, God gives his people laws to live by in the covenant. We will look at these laws over the next few weeks. But it is helpful to see how the law-giving ends: with a covenant-making ceremony. (A covenant is a binding agreement or promise.)

1. From this chapter alone, how would you say the covenant comes into effect for these people? Perhaps write the steps that occur.
2. Someone says "Your approach to God is too focussed on words". How would you answer? I think each of these verses adds a different piece: verses 3-4, verses 7-8, and verse 12.
3. Compare Exodus 24:5-8 with Luke 22:20. What do you learn about Jesus' death, and how it has affected our relationship to the 'old' covenant? (If time, see also Hebrews 8:13, 9:15.)
4. How does a covenant add stability and security to a relationship? And in what ways could today's insights increase your confidence and joy as a Christian?

Prayer: Thank God for revealing himself to us through his clear and reliable word. Praise him for sealing us into a binding covenantal relationship with him by the blood of his own precious son. Ask that this reality will explode in confident joy in your heart.



GOD COVENANTS WITH HIS PEOPLE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 7: EXODUS 20

We've seen God create a nation that belongs to him by rescuing them and now entering into a covenant with them. As part of this covenant, God gives them good laws to obey. The first ten are given special prominence. In the Hebrew text, they are called the "ten words" rather than the Ten Commandments (e.g. in Exodus 34:28, Deuteronomy 4:13, 10:4).

For the question of how the Ten Commandments apply to us as Christians today, see pages 10-13.

DAY 1

Read Exodus 20:1-6

1. What is forbidden by the first commandment? Give an example of how it could be broken in their day, and in your life today.
2. What is forbidden by the second commandment? Give an example of how it could be broken in their day, and in your life today.
3. If our wider community could vote on the top two commands to live by, how would their top two compare? How does this comparison help you to understand sin, both yours and others, even those who seem like 'nice people'?
4. What else in these verses underlines the central place that God deserves in all people's lives, especially in his rescued people's lives?

Prayer: Confess your sins in this area. Thank God for the ways Jesus fulfilled these commands for you, and purchased your forgiveness. Ask for help to live this way, and that all of our world would see all of their lives in connection to God.

GOD CARES HOW WE LIVE

DAY 2

Read Exodus 20:7-11

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30

1. What is forbidden by the third commandment? Give some examples of what it might look like to break it. (It is more than using God's name as a swear word. e.g. Leviticus 18:21, 19:12; Jeremiah 23:25.)
2. What is forbidden by the fourth commandment? Give an example of how it could have been broken in their day.
3. The Sabbath commandment is the only one of the Ten that the New Testament does not repeat as something New Covenant believers need to follow strictly. (Thoughtful Christians take different views of this, but see, for example, Romans 14:5, Colossians 2:16-23, and also Hebrews 4:1-11, which say the true Sabbath is ahead of us – eternal life). But that does not mean we just ignore it. We are to learn 'moral wisdom' about the will of God from God's Old Covenant law (see page 10). What principles about God, ourselves, and our relationships with him and others might you learn from verses 8-11? Give examples of concrete ways we could apply these principles today.

Prayer: Confess your sins in these areas. Thank God for the ways Jesus fulfilled these commands for you, and purchased your forgiveness. Ask for help to live this way, and that his kingdom might come and his will might be done across the earth.

WEEK 7: EXODUS 20

DAY 3

Read Exodus 20:12-13

1. What is forbidden by the fifth commandment, and might the rest of that verse come about if the commandment is obeyed?
2. When Jesus was speaking to adult Jewish religious leaders, he assumed that the command applied to them as adults (Mark 7:1-13) as well as to children (Ephesians 6:1-3). What are some ways that people break it today?
3. Taking human life can be justified in rare cases like self-defence (Exodus 22:2-3), punishment for crimes (e.g. Exodus 21:12, Romans 13:4), and justified warfare (e.g. Numbers 31:1-7). So what is forbidden by the sixth commandment?
4. What did Jesus teach about this (e.g. Matthew 5:21-26)?

Prayer: Confess your sins in these areas. Thank God for the ways Jesus fulfilled these commands for you, and purchased your forgiveness. Ask for help to live this way, and that, as the gospel spreads and bears fruit, our church and world might increasingly do God's will from the heart.

GOD CARES HOW WE LIVE

DAY 4

Read Exodus 20:14-17

	What it means	Examples of breaking it	Ways life would be better if all obeyed perfectly
7th			
8th			
9th			
10th			

2. What are these commands ultimately about? (See Matthew 22:36-40, Romans 13:8-10.)
3. Think of a time you have broken each of the commandments in the table above. (You may not have to think very hard, but Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:27-48 may help you if you are struggling). For each time, imagine what it would have looked and felt like to obey perfectly from the heart instead.

Prayer: Confess your sins in these areas. Thank God for the ways Jesus fulfilled these commands for you, and purchased your forgiveness. Ask for help to live this way, and that through the gospel many would receive the gift of eternal life in a world of perfect love.

WEEK 7: EXODUS 20

DAY 5

Read Exodus 20:18-26

1. What impact has it had on God's people, to be at the foot of this mountain and to hear these commands? What do you think of their response – what might they get right, and what might they get wrong?

2. It is a graphic picture of the limits of 'law' as a way to approach God. According to Romans 7:1-13:
 - a. What happens when a sinner hears the law? (See especially verses 5, 7-8, 11.)

 - b. How have Christians been set free from the law? (Especially verses 1-3, 4, 6.)

 - c. What does this mean for the way we now live? (Especially verse 6 and, if time, see also 6:14-23, 8:1)

3. What is your relationship to the Ten Commandments now as a Christian? How does this fit with Psalm 119:43-48, or verses 70-72, or 97-99?

Prayer: Give great thanks to God! Ask for his help, by his Spirit, to bear fruit as you do his will, taught in his word, today!



GOD CARES HOW WE LIVE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 8: EXODUS 21-23

These Old Testament commands are 'chewy'. Psalm 119:97-99 describes meditating on God's law all day long, and finding great wisdom. They aren't simplistic, but rather rich and intended to provoke reflection, leading to deeper and deeper insights.

See page 10 for some thoughts on "Are they good?"

DAY 1

Read Exodus 21:1-11

1. At first, these verses may feel strange and confronting, especially after the evil slave trade of recent centuries. But how does God feel about abusive forms of slavery? Consider the story of Exodus so far (e.g. 2:23-25 and 20:2) as well as Exodus 21:16, 21:20, 21:26-27, 23:9.
2. How do verses 2-3 and 5-6 protect the vulnerable and promote fairness? In a world without Centrelink and Medicare, why might someone choose to stick with a master after the 'trial period'?
3. Out of context, verse 7 sounds sexist. But what threats might face a vulnerable woman in the ancient world, and how might verses 7, 8, 9, and 10-11 provide protection against those threats?
4. What do we learn about God's concern for all people and how should that shape our society and your behaviour?

There's more to be said. This QR code leads to a sermon by Kevin De Young on this passage which may be helpful.



Prayer: Thank God for caring about all people, regardless of social standing. Pray for the vulnerable in our society: for protection, for wise and good laws that promote what is good and fair, and for them to find true protection and freedom in Christ.

GOD GIVES GOOD LAWS

DAY 2

Read Exodus 21:12-32

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5;
Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3

1. Try to list some of the principles God might have 'had in mind' as he gave these laws? (E.g. about human life, animal life, motives, responsibility, justice, business, and so on.)
2. Which principles challenge the way you see life, or do you want to think more about, or should be applied in your life in a new way? Make some plans or decisions.
3. Some questions you could wrestle with, as time allows:
 - a. Why is verse 17 so severe?
 - b. What is the moral value of unborn children? (See verse 23, in light of verse 22.)
 - c. How literally should we take "eye for eye" (compare verse 24 with 26)? And was this a principle for individuals, or judges?
 - d. Why are verses 28-29 so specific? Does God want them applied only to oxen? What might love look like for the owner of a dangerous dog, or manager of a work site, or electrician? Or, as you sell an old car?

Prayer: Talk to God about areas of your life that seem out of step with what God values, especially as revealed in these verses. Ask for wisdom to know whether there are actions you should take to make things right, and for God's help to do those things.

WEEK 8: EXODUS 21-23

DAY 3

Read Exodus 21:33 - 22:1-15

"Imagine no possessions" sang John Lennon, "and the world will live as one". He might have misunderstood the problem.

1. Try to list some of the principles God might have 'had in mind' as he gave these laws? (E.g. about property, ownership, loss, fairness.)
2. Why would these laws have helped people? (Consider who wins and loses without an effective legal system to protect people's property.)
3. At a self-checkout, a Christian shopper deliberately scans something as a cheaper item. In light of these verses, what might repentance look like (as well as not doing that in future)?
4. What are some other circumstances to which we could apply these verses today? For example, what might it look like to apply this to uni plagiarism, sharing a Netflix account, insurance claims, copyright, work timesheets, or other things? (See Luke 16:10, Proverbs 18:9.)

Prayer: Thank your loving heavenly Father for giving us every good and perfect gift. Ask for help to trust God's good provision and guidance (Psalm 23), so that you will not be tempted to steal.

GOD GIVES GOOD LAWS

DAY 4

Read Exodus 22:16 - 23:9

1. Which laws and penalties particularly relate to the worship of God, and holy behaviour? What might we learn about God, his will, and life in his world?
2. Which verses particularly relate to love toward others? What might we learn about God, his will, and life in his world?
3. Some questions to wrestle with if you have time:
 - a. How might verse 16-17 protect the vulnerable?
 - b. Why are the penalties so severe in verses 18-20? What is at stake?
 - c. What is challenging about 23:4-5, and what might it reveal about the heart God wants his people to have?
4. Choose one insight from above, and write some thoughts on how it might be applied by a Christian living in today's world. (If in doubt which to pick, try 22:25 or 23:4.)

Prayer: "Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word." (Psalm 119:33-37)

WEEK 8: EXODUS 21-23

DAY 5

Read Exodus 23:10-33

1. Who is most helped by verses 10-12, and how? Why do you think this is here, and how might reflecting on this shape how you live?

2. What lessons would be learned by the family who rigorously followed verses 14-19? Are there times when your devotion to God interrupts the other activities of your year, or is it the other way around? What effect do you think this has on you and others around you?

3. What future promises and warnings are laid out in verses 20-33?
 - a. Why can't we apply these Old Covenant promises of material prosperity directly to our lives now under the New Covenant? (See Hebrews 7:22, 8:6.) Instead, how should we apply them?

Prayer: "You are my portion, Lord; I have promised to obey your words. I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands." (Psalm 119:57-60)



GOD GIVES GOOD LAWS

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 9: EXODUS 25-40

DAY 1

Read Exodus 25:1-10

1. Except for the golden calf scandal (which we'll study next week), the tabernacle dominates the remaining 16 chapters of Exodus. Nearly half the book! What makes it such a tremendous blessing? (See verse 8, 22, 30, and 29:45, 30:6, 40:38.)
2. Looking at 25:8, how might this tabernacle relate to Genesis 2, and the story of the Bible? (If time, also compare 25:34 with Genesis 3:22, and the first and last material mentioned in 25:3-7 with Genesis 2:12, which is the last time the Bible mentions it.)
3. How does this theme develop through the rest of the Bible – in Jesus (John 1:14, 2:21); in the individual Christian (1 Corinthians 6:19); in the gathering of Christians (Matthew 18:20, 1 Corinthians 3:16); and especially in our eternal future (Revelation 22:3-5)?
4. If these things truly sank deeply into your heart and mind, what might be different about you?

Prayer: Thank God that "I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalm 73:23-26)

GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE

DAY 2

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4

Read Exodus 25:11-22 (if time permits, read the whole chapter)

1. What do you think each of the items says about Israel's relationship to God? Try to summarise each item in one word.
 - a. **The ark:** Why that shape (1 Chronicles 28:2, 1 Samuel 4:4)? What do its contents say about how God rules (Exodus 24:12, 31:18)?
 - b. What is **on top** (Verse 21)? The Hebrew word comes from the word for atonement, and means "cover". If the ark contains God's law, what might need covering over?
 - c. What normally happens around a **table** with food on it? (See verse 29-20, and 24:9-11.)
 - d. What is **the lampstand** designed to remind you of? (See verse 33, and Genesis 3:22.)
2. How do these four elements of relationship with God point us to Jesus? And what do they currently look like in your Christian life?

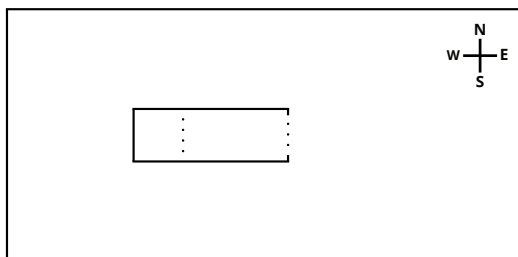
Prayer: Thank God for his goodness to you, especially the gospel blessings he has brought to you in Jesus.

WEEK 9: EXODUS 25-40

DAY 3

Read Exodus 26:26-37 (if time, read all of chapters 26 and 27)

1. How detailed are these instructions, and what might they teach us about worshipping God? (Also, see 25:9, 40, 26:30.)
2. On this floorplan of the tabernacle and courtyard, label the areas mentioned (26:33) and draw the locations of the ark (26:34), table and lamp (26:35), three curtains (26:31, 26:36-27, 27:16), large burnt offerings altar (described in 27:1-8 but location in 40:6-7), smaller incense altar for incense (30:6), and washing basin (30:17).



3. What do you notice if you compare 26:31-33 with Genesis 3:23-24? Imagine walking the journey from the east in toward the Most Holy Place. What would the bloody altar, washing basin, and curtains teach you about approaching God?
4. How does this help you to rejoice in Jesus' death? (See Matthew 27:51, Hebrews 10:19-22.)

Prayer: Confess the things you have (or have not) thought, said, or done that should exclude you from God's presence. Praise God for such a great salvation in Christ, who makes unholy people holy in God's sight, so we can approach him now and forever.

GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE

DAY 4

Read Exodus 28:1-14 (if time, read all of chapters 28 and 29)

It helps to know that the words 'holy', 'sacred', and 'consecrate' all translate the same Hebrew word family.

1. What seems to be the core role of the priests, according to these verses? (See especially verses 1, 9-12, 29, 30, 38. Plenty more comes later, in Leviticus.)
2. What, in chapters 28-29, highlights the need for priests? (Look for verses like 28:35, 37, or 29:10-14.) If you have time, also consider what other lessons we might learn from what is said about the various items of clothing, or the process of their consecration.
3. What, in 29:29-30, and 29:42, shows the need for an even greater priest to come?
4. We sing, in *Before the Throne of God Above*, "My name is written on His heart; I know that while with God He stands. No tongue can bid me thence depart." How does reflecting on this part of Exodus increase your appreciation for Jesus, our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14)?

Prayer: Thank God that you "have a great High Priest who ever lives and pleads for me". You may want to look up the song, *Before the Throne of God Above* and sing it, or listen to it today.

WEEK 9: EXODUS 25-40

DAY 5

Read Exodus 29:42-46, and 40:33-38 (if time, read all of chapters 30-31)

1. How does the tabernacle relate to God's overall goals in the book of Exodus? Do any of the phrases in 29:42-46 remind you of earlier parts of Exodus?
2. Compare 19:17-20 with 40:34-38? What does this teach you about the tabernacle, and its role (see 40:38)?
3. Chapters 35-40 repeat much of chapters 25-31 as Moses details (celebrates?) the faithful, skillful, generous (see 35:29, 36:4) obedience of Israel as they build the tabernacle. What drove them? And what might it look like to emulate them today?

Prayer: Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people, Israel, just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our ancestors. (1 Kings 8:56-57)

Bonus, if time: There is so much more to be seen. Some questions you could ponder: Why the smoke machine (30:7-8, see 19:18) and should we have one today (see Hebrews 12:18-24)? Why so much nice smelling stuff (30:7, 25-26, 34) and what might this say about God (Psalm 84)? How might the tabernacle's echoes of Eden (see Days 1 and 3 this week) shape how you read the last bit of the instruction section (31:12-18, see Genesis 2:1-3)?

If you want to dig deeper, Tim Chester's book, *Exodus For You* packs fantastic insights on these chapters into short, easy-to-read sections.



GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 10: EXODUS 32-34

Our nature is “a perpetual factory of idols”, said John Calvin. Is that right?

DAY 1

Read Exodus 32:1-21 (or, if you have time, read the whole chapter)

1. What pieces of Exodus up to this point have prepared us to appreciate the horror of this event? (For example, compare this passage with 12:35-36, 14:9, 20:2, as well as 20:3-4, 7, 25:8.)
2. What does God think of their actions? And what do you think of God's reaction?
3. In what ways is this a picture of all idolatry, even where statues are not involved? What idols lie behind your sins and temptations? (See Colossians 3:5.)
4. What leads to verse 14? What would your prayer life look like if you believed what Moses believes about God?

Prayer: Ask God to give you an undivided heart that loves, worship, and obeys him above all else. Think of those you could pray for like Moses does, and bring your requests for them to God.

GOD HATES IDOLATRY

DAY 2

Read Exodus 33:1-17

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

1. What consequence of their idolatry is mentioned in verse 3?
2. What emotions do the people feel at the thought of living in a paradise-like place, without God? And what does Moses think about it?
3. What is the state of your heart toward God?
John Piper: "If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ was not there?"
4. How does this passage itself help you to cultivate a longing for God like Joshua has?

Prayer: Ask God to show you his ways more and more, so that your desire for him would surpass all other desires in life. Thank him for his promise to never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). Ask him to be with us, as he has promised, especially in the task of bringing people to Jesus so they can enjoy his presence forever in the true promised land (Matthew 28:20).

WEEK 10: EXODUS 32-34

DAY 3

Read Exodus 33:17-34:9

1. Have you ever prayed for what Moses does in 33:18? What do you think someone who prays that today might be hoping would happen, and how does that compare with what God actually does? (See 33:19, 34:5-7.)
2. As a way to meditate on what God reveals about his glory (his 'name'), list the things he says about himself and then try to put each into your own words. (See also 34:14.)
3. What responses to these things seem appropriate?

Prayer: Praise God for the glories you've seen in this passage, and ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened to know these glories of your God more deeply.



GOD HATES IDOLATRY

DAY 4

Read Exodus 34:1-14 (if you have time, also read up to 34:28)

1. What is happening in this passage, and how does it show God's incredible grace? (See verses 1-3, 10, 79-32, and consider what 32:19 symbolised.)
2. The tabernacle instructions were given earlier (chapters 25-31). But what is so powerful about the fact that it is built, and indwelt, after the golden calf incident? (See chapters 35-40. See 40:38.)
3. How many chances do we get as Christians? (See Lamentations 3:23-24, 1 John 1:9-2:2.)
4. "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." What did you appreciate about God's grace when you first believed, and how has God shown you grace since then?

Prayer: Confess your sins to God, in repentance and faith, asking for his forgiveness. Thank him that all who call on Christ in repentance and faith find complete forgiveness. Ask him to deepen your thankfulness for his grace as well as your desire to obey him.

WEEK 10: EXODUS 32-34

DAY 5

Read Exodus 39:27-35

1. How does Moses point forward to Jesus in this passage and in the rest of Exodus? You might be able to list several ways.
2. What seems to be going on with the veil in this passage?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18. What points is Paul making about the New Covenant, the Spirit, and Jesus?
4. What applications to your life do you think Paul would want you to make? (See 2 Corinthians 4:1, 5.)

Prayer: Praise God for his work of redemption through a nobody, to gather people to belong to him as his nation, for the sake of his name. Pray that this would always be something that you trust in, rejoice in, cling to, and give your life to sharing with others.



GOD HATES IDOLATRY

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

