



Growth Group discussion questions for Exodus 19:1 - 20:11
Week of May 20-23, 2018

1. NCC Q37: How does the Holy Spirit help us?
A: The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.
Memorize, meditate on and be ready to recite **1 Cor. 2:12**.
2. What principles or thoughts had the most impact on you from the message on this passage on May 20th? How were you specifically challenged? What points of application did you take away from the message?
3. Read Exodus 19:1 – 20:11 carefully at least twice.
4. How does Ex.19:1-2 fulfill a promise that God made to Moses (Ex. 3:11-12)? Why would this fulfillment have been important to (and for) Moses? (Ps. 111:7-8, Num. 23:19) How can it be a comfort and blessing to *us*?
5. Why do you think God would deem it important to preface his promise to Israel in verses 5-6 with his statement in verse 4?
6. Try to imagine yourself at the scene in 19:16-20. God could have chosen to meet with Moses quietly and discreetly. Why do you think God chose to show up with fire, smoke, lightning, earthquakes, etc.? What important purposes would it serve, along with the warnings in 19:9-15? Why do you think Israel needed this?
7. Before God begins listing the 10 Commandments, he makes the statement in 20:2. How does this statement show the love and care of God for Israel? How should this statement shape how Israel receives and views the commands of God?
8. As you think about the commands of God in Scripture, how do you view them? Are they God's means of placing unwanted and unkind restrictions on your freedom? Are they an expression of God's care for your well-being and flourishing? Are they a means of bringing you fulfillment and joy as you learn to honor and glorify God? Explain. How can you learn to love God's commands? (see Ps. 119:2, 14-16, 18, 24, 36, 47-48, etc.)

9. In 20:3, God says, “You shall have no other gods before me.” How many gods are there (Deut. 6:4)? How can we worship a god of our own making? In what ways do people reinvent God – even the God they think is in the Bible?
10. God’s command to worship him alone is not only a restriction, but it’s an expression of his love for us. How?
11. God’s second command is in 20:4-6. All false worship is idolatry (1 Chron. 16:26). Since there is only one true God, in what ways can you worship a false god? How can something, even a good thing, become a source of idolatrous worship – an idol of the heart (Ezek. 14:1-8)? Think of an example in your own life. How can idolatry be harmful to you? (Ps. 16:4, 106:36)
12. God said, “I the Lord your God am a jealous God” (20:5). From anyone else, this would be an unseemly or sinful attitude. Why is this not only *not sinful*, but entirely appropriate for God?
13. God’s third command is in verse 7. How can you take the Lord’s name in vain, misuse the Lord’s name, or use his name deceitfully or irreverently? (e.g. Lev. 19:12, Deut. 1:27, Matt. 5:33-35)
14. The fourth commandment is in 20:8-11. Some believe that Sabbath-keeping is a command for God’s people for all time since it is rooted in the creation account (20:11). Some believe it is no longer required since the command is not explicitly repeated in the New Testament and since Paul didn’t teach it as mandatory (e.g. Col. 2:16-17, Rom. 14:5). Why is a regular day of rest a good practice? What Sabbath rest are we most anticipating? (Heb. 4:1-11)

PRAY IN THE GROUP

Pray that God would use our Sunday worship service for his honor and glory, that all of us would come to worship with hearts that are ready, soft and receptive to the preaching, that we would worship God with sincere hearts of gratitude.