



Group Discipleship Lesson

How God's Law was Given and Received

Exodus 19:1-25

Let's Get Started

Who laid down the law in your home when you were growing up? How did you or your siblings try to bend the rules?

In **Exodus 19:10**, we see that the Lord said to Moses, *“Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.”*

What did it mean that the people had to “consecrate” themselves? Why? It appears that Moses thought it was essential to create an environment of preparation, awe, and reverence when the people would encounter the presence of God. Some people believe we have lost some of the sense of consecration, wonder, and reverence in our worship services. Others come from a more formal background and feel the “freedom” and casual atmosphere of our worship services is a breath of fresh air. **What do you think?**

Let's Go Deeper

Why do you think it was so important for God to give Israel the Ten Commandments?

In verse 12, the Lord told Moses to set limits all around the mountain, and if anyone went past the limits, they were to be put to death. And in verse 15, Moses warned the men to not go near a woman. Could you imagine a church announcement for that type of “consecration” in our culture today? What was that all about? Do you think it was a test, or was it some type of obedience training? Why do you think the Lord had such a strict preparation process? Why were penalties for breaking the rules so harsh?

Of all the Ten Commandments, which ones do you think our current society needs to hear and take to heart the most?

What is the significance of the first four commandments? What do they teach us?

What is the significance of the last six commandments? What do they teach us?

Exodus 19 opens by recounting 400 years of slavery for Israel in Egypt and their deliverance. There are many types of “slavery” and bondage that people experience. Can you give testimony to a time when the Lord delivered you from a difficult circumstance that you will never forget?

The Lord’s ultimate goal for Israel was to bring them into a personal, trusting, caring, dependent relationship with Him. Think through each of the Ten Commandments. Today, we tend to think that religion and rules are anything but relational. So, with that in mind, how could obedience to laws and regulations result in Israel experiencing a relationship with God?

Three blessings were promised to Israel in exchange for their obedience. What were they? (Discover them in verses 5-6).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

We know God created Adam and Eve with free will to honor or dishonor Him. Did God violate that and force Israel to commit to obey his commandments? (See verses 7-8)

God’s commandments are meant to free us from the consequences and burden of sin. According to **1 John 3:4**, what is sin?

We know that God hates sin. Do you think God hates all sin equally? Some people believe that certain sins are “worse” than others. What do you think?

As you read through chapter 19 of Exodus, it becomes evident that the Lord was very concerned with the “holiness” aspect of this new nation He was going build and shepherd. **Read 1 Peter 1:14-16.** In your own words, what does it mean to be a “holy” Christian? What does holiness look like for a disciple of Jesus? How does one become progressively “holier?”

Let's Live It Out Together

Maybe we should restate the Ten Commandments as the ten “freedoms.” Think of the first commandment. “You shall have no other God’s before me.” Think back over your life before you met Christ. Think of the “other gods” you gave your life and time to.

What “other gods” has the One true God freed you from and how has it changed your life for the better?

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
-James 13:35