

Exodus
King Revealed, Invitation Given- Week #14
Small Group Notes
November 5 and 8

Main Point: Not only do the Ten Commandments show us how to best be members of the Kingdom, but they give us a glimpse of the King.

Introduction:

Have you ever gotten a traffic ticket? How did it make you feel? What are the benefits of traffic laws?

Do you think that traffic laws are just? Why would people be angry about a traffic ticket if they believe the traffic laws are good and just?

We may not want a traffic ticket, but the law shows us that we are guilty. God's law does the same thing in that it shows us how we do not measure up to His holiness, yet the law is an invitation to embrace the grace God offers and to pursue holiness in the midst of following Jesus.

Discuss:

1. Read Exodus 20:1-6

- God alone is worthy. All other gods will let us down. Exodus 20:1-3
- God alone can satisfy. Anything else is inadequate or our worship. Exodus 20:4-6

Explain: God created us to enjoy Him; in Him we find goodness, kindness, mercy, power, and glory. We do not add anything to God, but He still desires our affections because He loves us—and as it turns out, loving Him is what is best for us. Furthermore, people are usually jealous because of wounded pride or fear of loss. God is jealous because His love for us is so strong that it causes Him to desire what is best for us. Worshiping a false god will ultimately ruin us.

Ask:

What are things that we can worship in our lives today? (Our possessions, our hobbies, our time, ourselves, our children)

What is the difference in enjoying the blessings of God and worshipping these things?

What do you think it means that God is a jealous God? Why would God be jealous of a stone idol?

2. Read Exodus 20:7-11

- God's name has weight. To treat His name with respect is to live in a way that brings honor to Him.
- God is sufficient. We get to trust in His provision and not our own.
- If we love God we will love what He loves and God loves people. (John 13:34-35)

Explain: Any time someone invokes the name of the Lord in an attempt to manipulate a circumstance, or uses His name in such a way that would dishonor Him, that person is taking the Lord's name in vain. In the New Testament, we see how bearing the Lord's name is how we are called children of God. Therefore, our lives bear the name of God and to not live according to His Word, is taking His name in vain as well.

The fourth command sets apart the seventh day as a Sabbath (Heb. "to cease," "rest"). God himself symbolically "rested" on the seventh day of creation, thus sanctifying the day. God knew the effects of constant physical toil not only on the body but on man's spirit as well. In the New Testament, the writer of Hebrews links the Sabbath to the final rest that all of God's people will one day enjoy (Heb. 4:3-11).

Ask: **What does it mean to misuse the name of God verbally as well with our lifestyles?**

Why do you think that the Lord values us setting time to worship and rest? How have you seen the importance of gathering in a group or as a church a way for you to "rest"?

Why do you think it is important that the first four commandments relate to our vertical relationship with the Lord?

3. Read Exodus 20: 12-17.

- God is honorable because He has given you life. So honor your parents because they were His instruments in giving you life. (verse 12)
- God is the bringer of life. We must honor the right to life. (verse 13)
- God is holy. We are invited to be set apart as well. (verse 14)
- God is trustworthy and provides. We don't have to take matters into our own hands. (verse 15)
- God is just and the giver of truth. We are invited to hold the banner of justice and truth. (verse 16)
- God is the root of all that satisfies; to be rooted in anything else will yield bad fruit (verse 17)

Explain: The next five commands involve man's treatment and relation to his neighbor. It's important for us to remember that the law isn't given to us to make us righteous. The law is given so that we will come to recognize our own sinfulness because we are law-breakers, and the law teaches us about the holiness of God. God is not a cheat, a liar, nor will He ever steal. Jesus later shows us in the Sermon on the Mount, that as sinful humans, we are guilty of breaking all of these commands (see Matthew 5:21-22, 28).

Ask:

How do you see people in our culture guilty of breaking these laws today? How does this show our need of the gospel more?

How can meditating on God's law help us be more grateful for the grace we have received through Jesus Christ?

How might the law be useful to us in sharing the gospel with others?

Finish your time in prayer focusing on how your group can be gospel sharers that love God and love people and live according to God's plan and purpose!

