

The Law

Session SEVEN

TEACHING NOTES

Mt. Sinai - God's holiness revealed (Exodus 19)

The peoples' response (Exodus 19:8)

The fence around the mountain (Exodus 19:12)

The Law (Exodus 20)

The Ten Commandments

A different response (Exodus 20:18)

613 laws

A burden they could not carry (James 2:10)

KEY VERSE(S)

Exodus 20
Romans 3:20

KEY THEME(S)

God communicates
God is Holy
The Law: God's perfect standard

INTRODUCTION INNOCECE CONSCIENCE HUMAN GOVERNMENT PROMISE LAW

NOTES

God is specific

Every detail

Worldview

See Romans 7 for further study

The Ark and the Tabernacle (Exodus 25 & 26)

God speaks

God equips (Exodus 31:1-6)

The calf (Exodus 32)

The Law - given to show our need for a savior (Romans 3:19-20, 5:20)

Israel's unbelief (Romans 9:31-32)

Faith versus the Law (Galatians 2:16, 21)

God's Law reveals sin (Galatians 3)

PERSONAL STUDY

NOTES

This is your personal study time, a time for you and God. Take this opportunity to intentionally seek God knowing that He is pursuing you right this very minute. God is the one who is going to draw you closer to Him. He desires a willing heart.

Session 1 (approximately 20 minutes)

Prepare your heart and mind

Take a minute to praise God for who He is and what He has done for you. Ask Him to remove the distractions of life so you can focus on His word and where He is leading you.

Read Exodus 19:4 (below)

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

God communicates. He is good and faithful. As we saw last session, God did many amazing things for the Israelites: freeing them from slavery, guiding them with cloud and fire, and sending them food from heaven. But it is also clear that they easily forgot God's goodness and faithfulness. We may be quick to judge them... but when you really think about it, can't you see us doing the same thing? It's easy to forget what God has done in your past when your present doesn't look so good. But just because that may be our natural default doesn't make it ok.

Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. Psalm 103:2

What are some ways that God has communicated with you and has shown you His goodness and faithfulness?

NOTES

Spend some time praising and thanking God for those good things He has done for you. Ask Him to help you to never forget His goodness and faithfulness.

Read one of the following passages:

Exodus 25:10-22 (Plans for Ark of the Covenant) or Exodus 26:1-37 (Plans for the Tabernacle)

In both of these passages we see how specific and detailed God is. He had it all planned out. He didn't just say to the Israelites, "Hey guys, I need you to make me some box thing where my spirit can live with you. I don't really care what it looks like or anything. Just get it done, ok? Oh yeah, and you guys probably need some sort of place where I can meet with you. Anybody got any leftover building supplies lying around? Whatever you want to use is cool with me." No. God was very specific. He knew what He wanted. He knew just how they needed to get it done. God is a God of order and detail. He knows what's going on and He is in control.

Spend some time thanking God for this aspect of His character.

God was just as detailed when He created the world and when He created you:

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. Psalm 139:13-15

Thank God for how detailed He was when He created you.

Prayer time

Spend some time talking with God. Ask Him to help you recognize when He communicates with you. Thank Him for His goodness and presence in your life. Spend some time just being quiet and listening to Him.

Session 2 (approximately 20 minutes)

NOTES

Prepare your heart and mind

Begin your time with God by asking Him to calm your heart and mind. Ask Him to fill you with peace and the ability to focus on the present opportunity to draw closer to Him.

Read Exodus 31:1-5

Bezalel probably didn't think he was any different from any of the other Israelites. He knew he was a skilled craftsman and probably didn't put more thought into it. But God made Him that way and He had a plan.

I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. Exodus 31:3

God has gifted us all in unique and wonderful ways. He longs to use our skills for His purposes and glory.

What are some skills you believe God has given you? How have you put those skills to work for Him?

What are some skills you have that you've never considered being God-given? How might God want to use them?

Read the following passages

Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights. Exodus 24:18

When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. "Come on," they said, "make us some gods who can lead us. We don't know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt." Exodus 32:1

NOTES

40 days. It only took the Israelites 40 days to ditch Moses and God, their deliverer. Again, when we read this story we can't help but judge the Israelites. How could they do something like that?! Asking Aaron to make them a fake god?! They had received the Ten Commandments. They knew numbers one and two:

You must not have any other god but me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. (Exodus 20:3-5a)

And yet they did it anyway.

When have you acted like this – knowing who God is and what He has done for you, yet acting in a way that doesn't reflect that belief? Why did you act like that?

If you read the rest of Exodus 32 you see that this disobedience did not go well for the Israelites. Ask God to help you learn from this lesson – that you would trust who He is and what He says. Ask for His help to act in a way that reflects your beliefs about who He is and who you are in Him.

Key verse

God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. Romans 5:20

Prayer time

Spend some time talking with God. Ask Him to help you recognize the ways He has communicated with you and worked in your life in the past. Ask Him to help you recognize His working in your life. Thank Him for His goodness. Spend some time listening to Him.

PARENT GUIDE

NOTES

For Elementary-Age

The Ten Commandments and the story of Moses is one of the more well-known stories found in the Bible. Many people have memorized the Ten Commandments when they were young and still can recite a few of them today.

We see in the Exodus story that the nation of Israel really struggled to understand what a relationship with God looked like. For generations God had been silent, then out of nowhere God sends Moses to deliver them from their bondage of slavery. They travel into the wilderness and end up at a mountain where God meets with Moses and gives him the Ten Commandments. What was the purpose of those commandments and all the other laws given to the Israelites?

God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. Romans 5:20

The Law reveals the sin in our lives. Because of our sinful nature it is incredibly difficult to follow these laws perfectly. The bigger truth here is that alone, we are not enough. We need help, and that help came in the form of Jesus.

Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. Galatians 3:19a

Jesus was this child and He came not to destroy the law but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17). It is our faith in Jesus' death and resurrection that makes us right before a Holy God.

The Challenge - Over the next ten days take on the challenge of helping your children memorize all of the Ten Commandments. Begin with just one on the first day. Point out how each commandment impacts our relationship with God or other people. Be sure to talk about how God is perfect and we're not. Make sure they understand that we don't always keep these commandments, but because of what Jesus has done we have forgiveness. You can even offer a prize as positive reinforcement (examples: favorite meal, watch a movie together, special activity they enjoy).

NOTES

For Teenagers

“You have seen for yourselves that God spoke from heaven to you...”
Exodus 20:22

Why does God speak? Why did He create humanity? He did these things for the purpose of having a relationship. God did not simply build the world like a child's spinning top - He starts it spinning and let go for it to be on its own. If that was His intent, He wouldn't communicate at all. On the contrary, God does communicate through the Bible and in our lives. God communicates with us for the purpose of relationship. Without communication, relationship is hard to maintain.

Ask your kids a few questions about communication.

- What are some of the easiest ways for you to communicate? What method do you prefer? When do you think you should talk face-to-face to someone? Why do some people prefer to text or use Facebook?
- Share with your kids some ways in which communication has changed over the years. Talk about the options you had for communication.
- We have talked a lot about God communicating with us in the Foundations Class. It is possible that your teenagers have never thought about God desiring to communicate with them. Share this idea with them and the verse above.
- Share with your kids how God has communicated with you.
- Maybe as a parent you do not think God communicates with you or at least you have never thought He did. That is something that the two of you could pray about. Wouldn't it be cool if you and your teenager together started to recognize God communicating with your family?
- At the end of your time, pray that you recognize when God is trying to communicate.