

M O S E S
AND THE JOURNEY OF FAITH
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Meet Me at the Mountain

Exodus 19.1-22

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share plans for future Community Group gatherings and the following happening in the life of the church:

- The **Aruna 5k** is coming up **April 16th!** Visit the City for information on how to get involved. Consider running/walking as a cGroup!
- **Flying Pig Weekend** is **April 30th-May 1st!** Each year we *celebrate Christ* with a worship service and “pig out” dinner on Saturday evening and then *serve Cincinnati* on Sunday morning by staffing a hydration station at mile 10 along the marathon route. Information on how to sign up to serve, and info about the “pig out” dinner is on the City.

LEADER NOTES

Notice that the gracious relationship that God had established with his people was prior to the holy requirements that God gave. God identified himself in royal and personal terms—“I am the Lord your God.” He speaks of what he has done in redemption—“who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” He speaks of whom his people belonged to in the past (slaves to Pharaoh) and speaks of whose they are now (by implication, belonging to God). God’s grace, then, grounds his law.

Yet it is also true that his law leads us back to God and his grace. Shortly after Israel hears these words from God’s own voice, they fall into idolatry and sensuality, violating nearly the entire moral law (32:1–6). Israel’s failure represents the need we all have for gracious forgiveness (pictured in Israel through the sacrificial system) and also for God to write his law on our hearts (Jer. 31:31–34).

This is what God through Christ by his Spirit does in the new covenant—Christ’s sacrificial death secures God’s gracious forgiveness once-for-all, and Christ’s Spirit accomplishes in the hearts of God’s people all that Jeremiah had prophesied (Heb. 7:11–9:28). Christians have God’s law written on our hearts and God’s Spirit dwelling within us, offering a greater possibility of obedience grounded in our gracious relationship with God established through Jesus. And so it is that grace grounds law, and law leads us back to grace.

OPENER

Have people pick a number between 1-12. Have them then answer the question corresponding to the number.

- #1 - What is the worst thing someone can do when playing a board game?
- #2 - What always takes longer than it should?
- #3 - What should you never tie to the roof of your car?
- #4 - Where is the most beautiful place you have ever been?
- #5 - Which popular expression from your youth do you wish would come back into style? (i.e. totally radical, etc)
- #6 - If you could move to one international city, where would you choose?
- #7 - If you were going to someone important's house for a dinner party, what would you bring?
- #8 - If you had to follow a band through a whole tour, which band would it be?
- #9 - Which country would you least want to visit?
- #10 - When was the last time you really laughed hard?
- #11 - Where is the greatest place in the world?
- #12 - If you were invited to the White House for dinner, what would you pray wasn't on the menu?

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group in prayer. Pray spontaneously, or use this prayer:

Lord God, help us to follow Christ in all of life. May we share in his humility and sufferings that we might also share in his resurrection life. Help us to grow in our understanding of him, even tonight as we discuss your Word together. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

STUDY/DISCUSSION

We are looking at the life of Moses. This week we look at the part of the story where Israel receives the Ten Commandments.

STUDY THE TEXT

1. On Sunday Josh mentioned several approaches to the Ten Commandments. The first was "moralistic therapeutic deism" which has no place for the Ten Commandments because God's job is basically to meet my needs, not to re-shape my life. The second was to see the commandments as arbitrary morality, divorced from the story of salvation. To which of these false approaches are you more prone?
2. Read Exodus 20:1-11. How do these commandments shape the way we love and serve God?

3. Read Exodus 20:12-17. How are these commandments designed to help us live well together?

APPLY THE TEXT

4. If you were to take the Ten Commandments seriously, what would change in your life?
5. Look again at verse 2. How does this reminder of God's grace change the way we understand the Ten Commandments?
6. If our community were living this out together, in what ways would we stand out in our city?
7. What should we do when we break the Ten Commandments? How does the law lead us to Jesus Christ?
8. How can we as a group and as a church encourage each other in obedience and service to God?

PRAY THE TEXT

Take some time and pray together. This can be done together as a whole group, or in smaller groups. Use these Biblical passages as a way to pray. Read Romans 7.21-8.4. Pray in response. If you haven't already, break up and share prayer requests.