

PART
II



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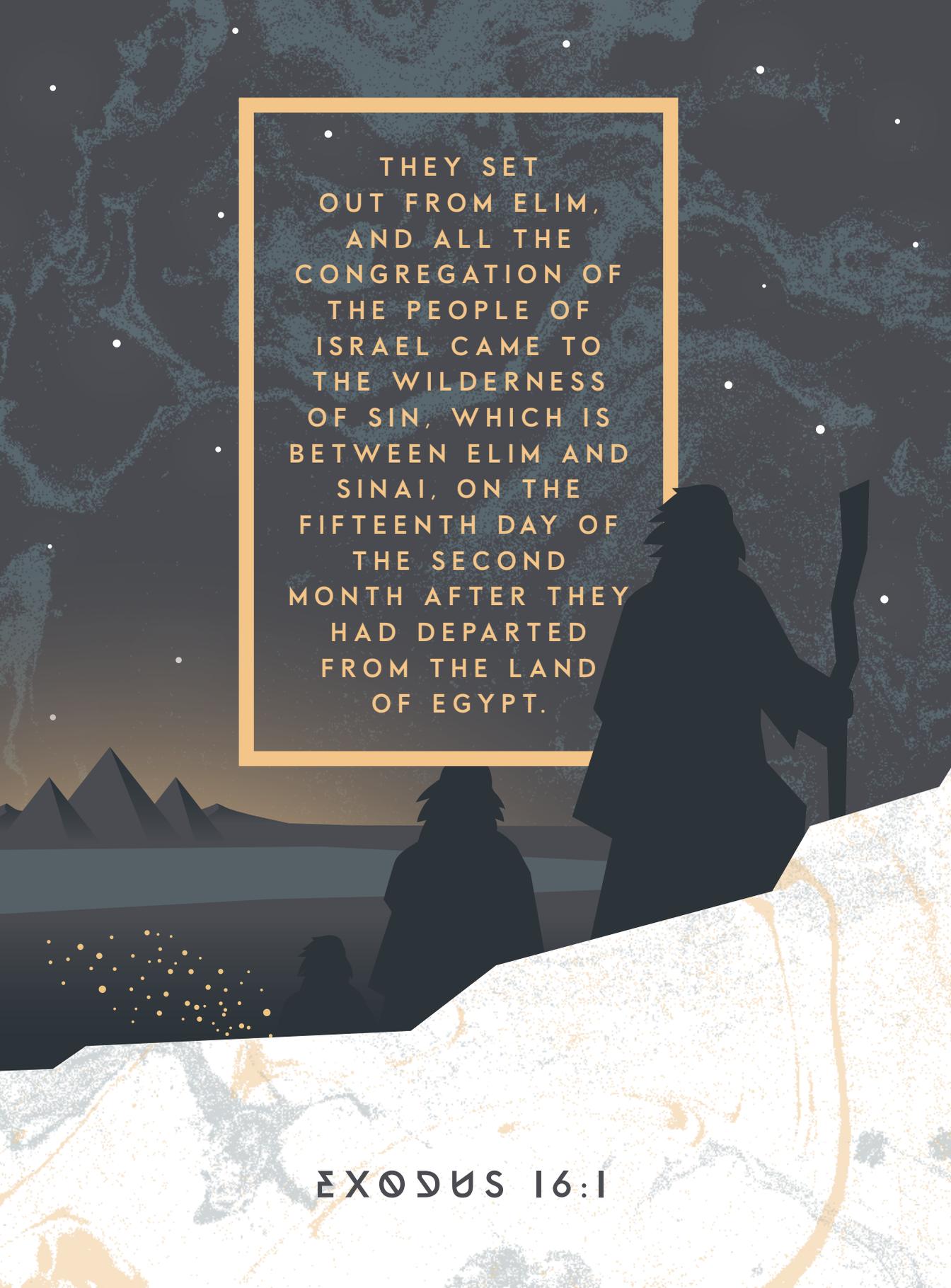
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Select definitions of the attributes of God on page 11 were
informed by *The ABCs of God*, © 2011 Children Desiring God.

FROM DARKNESS
TO LIGHT—THIS
IS THE STORY WE
ALL SHARE, AS THE
PEOPLE OF GOD.

**HE DRAWS US OUT
TO DRAW US IN.**

**FROM THE BIRTH
OF ISRAEL TO THE
CHURCH TODAY,
GOD DELIVERS AND
DWELLS WITH
HIS PEOPLE.**



THEY SET
OUT FROM ELIM,
AND ALL THE
CONGREGATION OF
THE PEOPLE OF
ISRAEL CAME TO
THE WILDERNESS
OF SIN, WHICH IS
BETWEEN ELIM AND
SINAI, ON THE
FIFTEENTH DAY OF
THE SECOND
MONTH AFTER THEY
HAD DEPARTED
FROM THE LAND
OF EGYPT.

EXODUS 16:1

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EXODUS PART I: A REVIEW



Several thousand years ago, God made a promise to Abraham that He would make his offspring into a great nation, and one day, they would dwell in the Promised Land.

More than 400 years passed, and the Israelites worked as slaves in the land of Egypt. But the nation of Israel continued to grow. In response, the Egyptians increased their oppression of God's people, and Pharaoh gave a terrible decree: Every son born to the Hebrews would be thrown into the river. But a Levite couple defied this order. When they could no longer hide their baby boy, the mother placed him in a basket and into the river, trusting God's will for his life.

Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and drew him out of the water. She named him "Moses" and brought him into the palace. As Moses grew older and saw the suffering of his people, anger burned within him. When he witnessed an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, Moses killed the man and fled Egypt to hide in the desert.

Years passed, and Moses made a new life for himself in Midian. One day, as he tended sheep, Moses heard the voice of the Lord calling out to him from a burning bush. God told Moses that He saw the persecution of

His people in Egypt and heard their cries. He promised to deliver the Israelites from slavery, and He commanded Moses to go before Pharaoh on their behalf. Moses was terrified, so God sent Moses' brother, Aaron, to go with him.

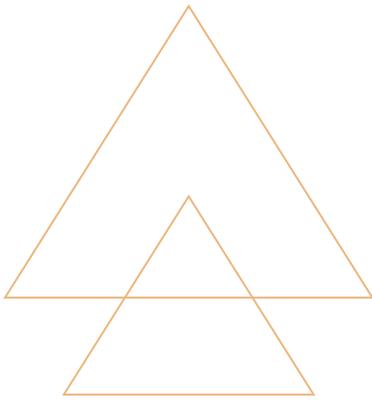
The brothers went before Pharaoh, performing signs and wonders, but Pharaoh would not listen. God brought down plagues upon Egypt, but Pharaoh's heart remained as hard as stone.

To prepare for the 10th and final plague, the Hebrews marked their doors with the blood of spotless lambs. That night, the angel of death passed through the kingdom, killing the firstborn child of every Egyptian household that did not bear the mark—including Pharaoh's.

Heartbroken, Pharaoh told the Israelites to go. They were free. The Israelites journeyed out toward the Promised Land, but before long, Pharaoh changed his mind and commanded the Egyptian army to pursue them.

When the Israelites came to the Red Sea, Moses lifted his staff to the sky, and the waters parted. The Hebrews passed through the towering waves, and the Egyptians were swallowed by the sea.

EXODUS PART 2: THE WILDERNESS



After fleeing Egypt and escaping Pharaoh and his army through the Red Sea, the Israelites entered the wilderness of Sin. Though they had witnessed God's power and might in rescuing them from persecution and slavery, the people complained about their new misfortunes. Once they had had bread and meat; now they had nothing to satisfy their hunger.

Hearing the people's complaints, the Lord promised to sustain them, so that they would know He was their God. And the next day, the people saw tiny flakes on the ground, sweet and good to eat. They called it manna. Though food came daily to them, the people again complained, this time of thirst. So the Lord told Moses to strike a rock with his staff, and water gushed out. The Lord had provided yet again, and the people continued on their journey.

Three months after their escape, the Israelites came to Mount Sinai. Moses gave the people a word from God: If they obeyed and kept God's covenant, they would be His treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. And the people promised to do so.

Three days later, the mountain shook with thunder, and lightning flashed in the sky. Moses brought the Israelites to the mountain, and the people covered their ears as a deafening sound, like a trumpet, grew louder and louder. They cried in fear of their lives. Then the Lord came down in fire and smoke and told Moses to keep the people back so they wouldn't die from seeing Him in His true glory. When the people heard God's voice, they grew afraid, and they asked Moses to speak with God on their behalf.

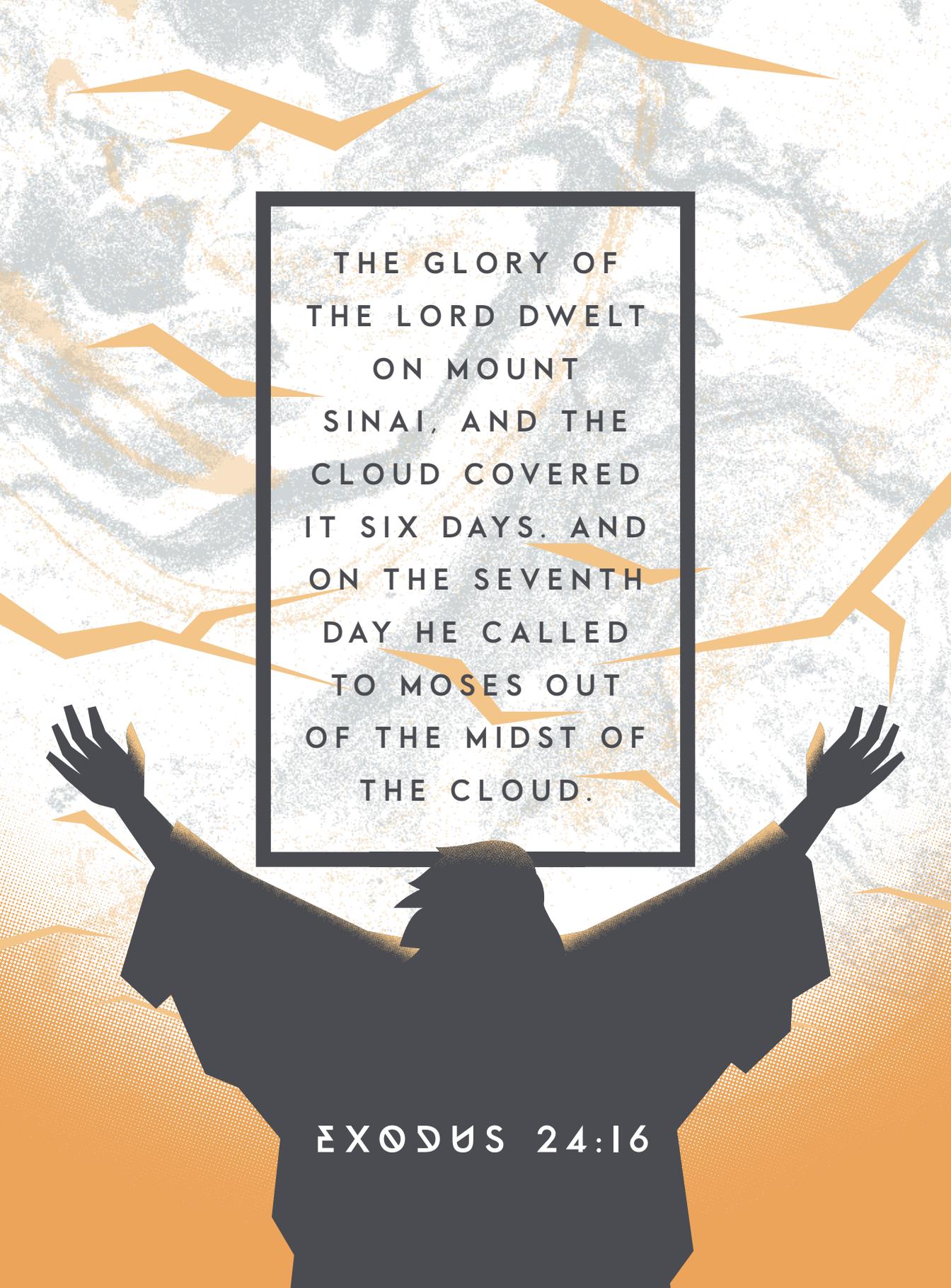
God gave Moses many laws, including the Ten Commandments, the first being that the people would have no other gods but Him. And the Israelites promised to worship the Lord alone and to keep all His laws.

Moses spent 40 days and nights on the mountain with God. But upon his return, he found the people bowing down to an idol—a golden calf that Aaron made for them out of the jewelry they had taken from the Egyptians. They had forgotten their promise to God. In his anger, Moses broke the stone tablets on which God had inscribed the Law, burned the golden calf and atoned for the sin of the faithless. God's wrath burned against the Israelites, and He punished them but did not destroy them altogether. He remembered His promise to make them a great nation.

After the Israelites repented, they went to work making everything that the Lord had instructed. They built the ark of the covenant to hold the tablets of the Law. They made fine garments with precious stones for Aaron and his sons, consecrating them with oil for their service as priests. And they built the tabernacle, the place where God would dwell with His people. It was beautifully crafted—with gold, silver, and bronze, and acacia wood, and blue and purple and scarlet linen for its curtains. They anointed the tabernacle and the altar with oil and spices and brought the ark inside the dwelling place of God.

Then God's glory descended and filled the tabernacle, and the people fell down and worshiped their God—Yahweh—the One who drew them out of their slavery. The One who drew them out of Egypt and drew them into His presence in the wilderness lands. And though the Israelites would continue in strife and doubt, and even disobedience, God steadfastly and compassionately drew them toward the Promised Land.

The story of Israel is the story of us today; we are God's people. He draws us out to draw us in. Through the life and death of Jesus Christ, He redeems us. Like the Israelites, we are a holy nation, a people for His own possession, called out of darkness and into His light. And like the Israelites, we await the Promised Land, in the midst of hardship, in the midst of brokenness. Yet, God is with us. With anticipation, we await the day when He will dwell with His people, in the new heavens and the new earth, fully and completely, forever.



THE GLORY OF
THE LORD DWELT
ON MOUNT
SINAI, AND THE
CLOUD COVERED
IT SIX DAYS. AND
ON THE SEVENTH
DAY HE CALLED
TO MOSES OUT
OF THE MIDST OF
THE CLOUD.

EXODUS 24:16

SERMON SCHEDULE

Looking Back and Going Forward
 Grumbling or Gratitude
 Wisdom and Mission
CELEBRATION WEEKEND
 The Path of Life
STAND-ALONE SERMON
 Of Laws and Love
 Finding Our Way Home
The Way Into His Presence
 Work and Rest
 Falling Into Forgetfulness
The God of Mercy and Glory
Generous Hearts and Hands
 Understanding Glory, Part 1
 Understanding Glory, Part 2
 Drawn In

February 4 – 5
February 11 – 12
February 18 – 19
February 25 – 26
March 4 – 5
March 11 – 12
March 18 – 19
March 25 – 26
April 1 – 2
April 8 – 9
April 15 – 16
April 22 – 23
April 29 – 30
May 6 – 7
May 13 – 14
May 20 – 21



X

THE

COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 20:3-17



// THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

"You shall have no other gods before me."



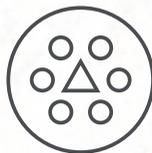
// THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."



// THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."



// THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."



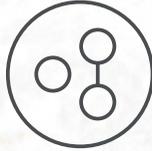
// THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."



// THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not murder."



// THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not commit adultery."



// THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not steal."



// THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

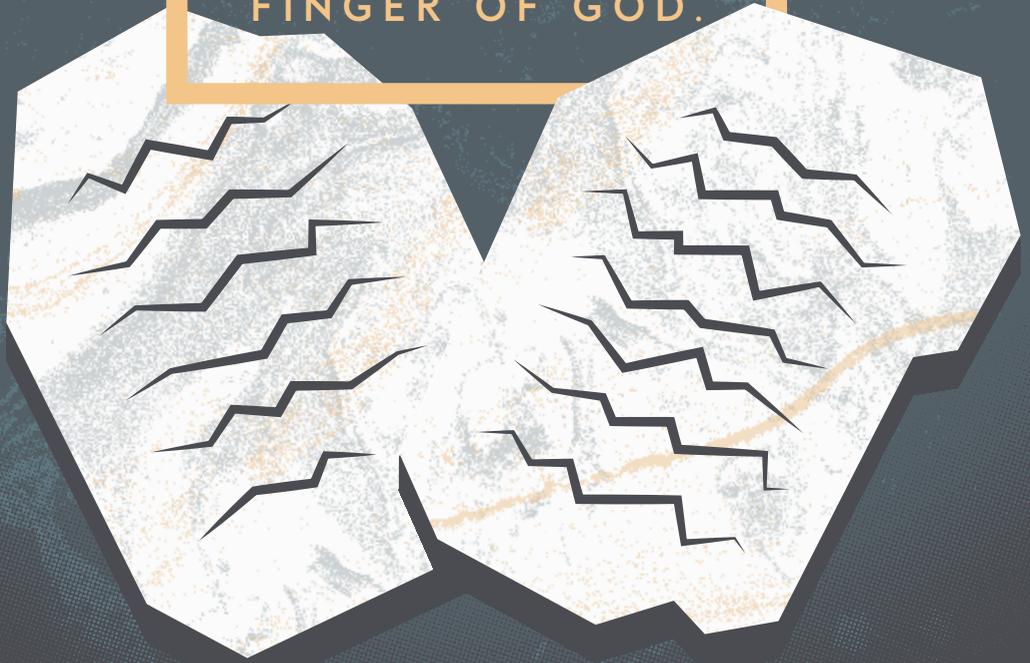
"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."



// THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

AND [GOD] GAVE
TO MOSES, WHEN
HE HAD FINISHED
SPEAKING WITH
HIM ON MOUNT
SINAI, THE TWO
TABLETS OF
THE TESTIMONY,
TABLETS OF
STONE, WRITTEN
WITH THE
FINGER OF GOD.



EXODUS 31:18

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ONE OF OUR HOPES FOR THE EXODUS SERIES IS TO BE FILLED WITH AWE AND WONDER BY THE LIVING GOD. HE DRAWS US OUT OF DARKNESS AND DRAWS US INTO HIS LIGHT. HERE ARE SOME ATTRIBUTES OF GOD TO LOOK FOR AND MEDITATE ON AS YOU READ, PRAY AND DISCUSS EXODUS WITHIN YOUR GROUP AND FAMILY.

Almighty // Nothing is too hard for God.

Attentive // God hears and responds to the prayers of His children.

Compassionate // God sees, cares and acts when His children are in need.

Creator // God made everything.*

Deliverer // God rescues His children.

Faithful // God always does what He says He will do.

Generous // God gives what is best.

Glorious // God shows His greatness and worth.*

Good // God is what is best.

Holy // God is completely perfect and separate from sin.*

Just // God is right to punish sin.

Loving // God does what is best.

Merciful // God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

Provider // God meets the needs of His children.

Refuge // God is a place of safety and protection for His children.*

Sovereign // God has the right, wisdom and power to do all that He pleases.*

Unchanging // God never changes.*

Wise // God knows what is best.

Worthy // Only God deserves all glory.

*Definitions taken from *The ABCs of God* by Children Desiring God

REMEMBERING AND SHARING YOUR STORY

What has God drawn you out of? In Exodus, God commands His people to remember all He has done in drawing them out of slavery and sin and into freedom with Him. Like the Israelites, we are a forgetful people, but God gives us the gift of story to help us remember His goodness and to hope in His promises. We want to remember and celebrate what the Lord has done and continues to do in our lives.

Using the hashtag **#TVCExodus**, you can share your story with us through social media.



God drew me out of _____ and into _____.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

// Exodus LifeChange Bible study by The Navigators

// *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory* commentary by Philip Graham Ryken

// "The Book of Exodus" videos by The Bible Project on YouTube

FOR MORE INFO AND RESOURCES,
VISIT OUR EXODUS MICROSITE:

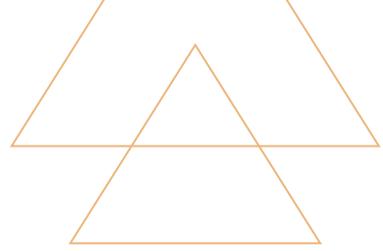
EXODUS.THEVILLAGECHURCH.NET

AND YOU
SHALL PUT
INTO THE
ARK THE
TESTIMONY
THAT I
SHALL
GIVE YOU.



EXODUS 25:16

READING PLAN



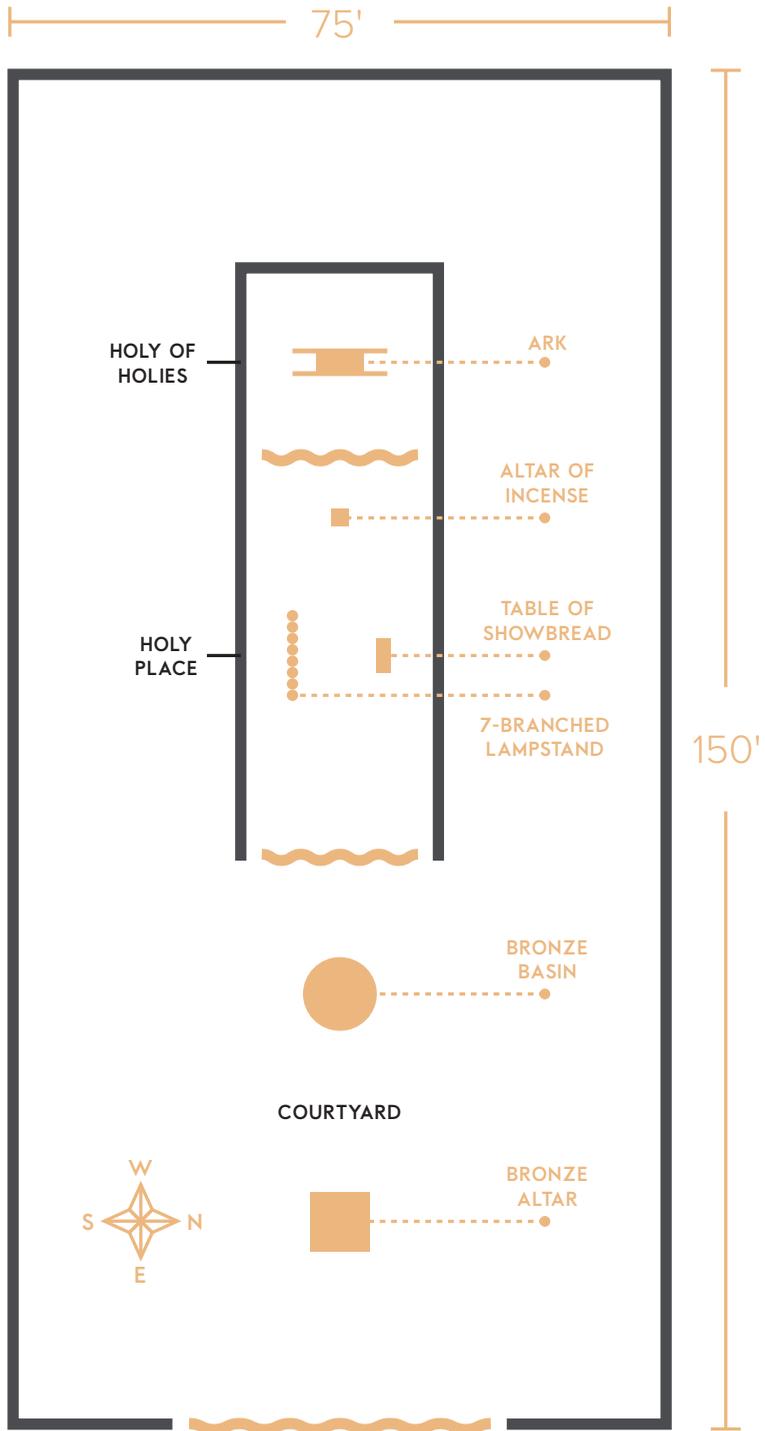
Exodus 1-15	January 30 – February 3
Exodus 16-17	February 6 – 10
Exodus 18-19	February 13 – 17
BREAK / CATCH-UP WEEK	February 20 – 24
Exodus 20:1-21	February 27 – March 3
BREAK / CATCH-UP WEEK	March 6 – 10
Exodus 20:22-24:18	March 13 – 17
Exodus 25:1-27:19	March 20 – 24
Exodus 27:20-30:10	March 27 – 31
Exodus 30:11-31:18	April 3 – 7
Exodus 32	April 10 – 14
Exodus 33-34	April 17 – 21
Exodus 35-36	April 24 – 28
Exodus 37	May 1 – 5
Exodus 38-39	May 8 – 12
Exodus 40	May 15 – 19

IN THE FIRST
MONTH IN THE
SECOND YEAR,
ON THE FIRST
DAY OF THE
MONTH, THE
TABERNACLE
WAS ERECTED.



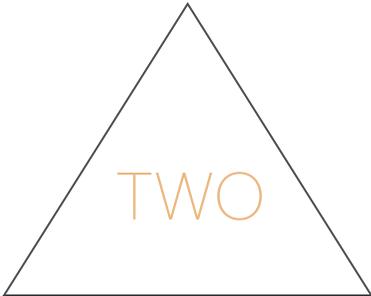
EXODUS 40:17

TABERNACLE COMPLEX



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

PART



WEEK 18 // LOOKING BACK AND GOING FORWARD

AS WE BEGIN OUR STUDY OF
EXODUS, SPEND SOME TIME WITH
YOUR GROUP PRAYING THROUGH THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

// Ask the Lord to increase your desire to read His Word. Ask for understanding as you read each week in preparation to hear the sermon and discuss the passage with your family and Home Group. The Exodus reading plan can be found on p. 14.

// Thank the Lord for giving us His Word and letting us know the story of Exodus. Thank Him for continuing His story through our stories. Ask God to open your eyes to the ways He draws us out to draw us in. Reflect on how the first half of Exodus has shown you this truth thus far.

// Think about specific areas of sin and darkness God has drawn you out of. Praise Him for rescuing you. Ask for strength to confess sin and flee from any darkness in which you currently find yourself.

// Throughout our study, we will see many different attributes of God. Which of His attributes did you see most clearly in the first half of Exodus? For help with your answer, look at the “Attributes of God” list on p. 11.

// Pray that your group would have fruitful discussion each week and that, through the study of God’s Word, you will grow together and pursue Christ with all your hearts.

// Ask God to tune your heart to the Holy Spirit as He makes you aware of time, moments and milestones to leverage for fruitful family discipleship throughout this study. Ideas for family discipleship are included each week alongside the group study questions.

// Pray for unity among the campuses as we walk through Exodus together. Ask the Lord to speak through Matt and the other pastors who will preach each weekend and to sustain them through this long series. Thank the Lord for your gospel-centered community, and ask Him to help you hold one another accountable throughout this study.

WEEK 19 // GRUMBLING OR GRATITUDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 16 aloud. Then have another group member read Exodus 17 aloud. With longer passages like these, consider assigning several group members each a paragraph to read. It invites more group members to participate and helps keep attention when there is a lot of text.

What is the hungriest you've ever been? How did it affect the way you interacted with those around you?

REFLECT

What internal and external enemies do the Israelites face in these two chapters? List as many as you can think of. Which do you think is the most dangerous or difficult to overcome? Why do you think so?

In Exodus 16-17, God provides food, water and safety for His children. Why do you think He continues to provide for them, even though they continue to doubt Him? What does this teach us about God's commitment to His people?

In His provision, God also allows the Israelites to play a role in their own deliverance. Give examples from the text that illustrate this partnership.

APPLY

How has lack of a physical or spiritual need tempted you to grumble? What spiritual discipline or attribute of God is an effective antidote for grumbling?

How has God met your physical and/or spiritual needs through a combination of divine grace and personal effort?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside time this week for your family to sit down and read Exodus 16-17. Summarize the main points and answer these questions together.

// What are some things that you are grateful for?

// Do you ever have trouble with complaining? Do you ever take God's blessings or provision for granted? Share times when you have.

// Have you ever seen the Lord provide for your family when it seemed like you had nothing or when circumstances seemed hopeless?

// How could God use your family to help others through giving of your time, talent and possessions?

MOMENTS

Look for opportunities in the course of your week to point out how God has provided for your family. Leverage every chance you get this week to help others. Find a way to serve the poor, orphans or foreigners in your city. Point out how God is *generous*—God gives what is best—and He is a *provider*—God meets the needs of His children.

MILESTONES

In Exodus 16:33, the Israelites put aside a jar of manna as a keepsake so that future generations would see the Lord's provision. Is there anything you have that could serve as a symbol of the Lord's provision and be passed down generation to generation?

"At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD." - Exodus 16:6-7

WEEK 20 // WISDOM AND MISSION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a few group members take turns reading Exodus 18-19 aloud.

Think of a time when you have felt close to burnout. What were the circumstances in your life at that time? Did you ask for/accept help? Why or why not?

REFLECT

Why would Moses include the story of Jethro's help in Exodus 18? What does it show us about God? About Moses?

What does 19:4-6 tell us about the purpose of God's covenant with Israel? How would these words have sounded to a people who had only known slavery in Egypt?

Based on the descriptions of Mount Sinai and the requirements necessary to approach it, what does God want Israel to understand about obedience and holiness?

APPLY

Jethro's advice to Moses is yet another example in the Bible of God bringing order out of chaos. Where do you personally get to reflect God's image by bringing order out of chaos?

Have a group member read Hebrews 12:18-29. How has our approach to God changed as a result of the shed blood of Christ? What role should reverent awe of God, like we see in the Exodus story, play in the life of a New Testament believer?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside time this week to read Exodus 18-19 together as a family. Summarize the main points and then discuss these questions.

// What are the different roles or jobs that each person is responsible for in your family?

// Why is it good that one person is not responsible for everything?

// How can you be better at doing the jobs you don't want to do or sharing the responsibilities you enjoy?

// Are there things in your home, physically or spiritually, that would benefit from more hard work, leadership or delegation? How can you work at them together?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week to work hard at the tasks that have been assigned to you and remind each other that your work serves the Lord. Encourage each other often with Colossians 3:23-24, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

MILESTONES

For the Israelites, Sinai became a special place, the mountain of God. Is there a place that is special for your family that could serve as a place of remembrance? How often do you go there? This could be an opportunity to plan a family pilgrimage or rite of passage as a milestone.

***"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."
- Exodus 19:5-6***

WEEK 21 // THE PATH OF LIFE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Before you begin, see how many of the Ten Commandments you can each name from memory. Then have a group member read Exodus 20:1-21 aloud.

REFLECT

Why is it significant that verse 2 comes before the Ten Commandments? How does verse 2 shape what comes after it?

Read the Ten Commandments closely. What patterns do you note? Do the commandments seem to follow any logical progression? Do some “go together” as a group?

Read Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and compare it with Exodus 20:8-11. What difference do you see in Moses’ words? What light does this shed on the purpose of the Sabbath?

Look at verses 18-21. Compare them to Deuteronomy 5:4-5 and 5:24-29 (ask a group member to read these verses aloud). What new insight does Deuteronomy 5:28-29 give regarding God’s purpose for giving the law?

APPLY

Have a group member or two read Matthew 5:21-31. What role should the Ten Commandments play in the life of the Christian? How does Jesus call for a deeper obedience to God’s commands? What external acts of righteousness are you most prone to practice while having a heart that is inconsistent and sinful?

Which personal relationships spoken about in the Ten Commandments are the hardest for you to maintain in a godly way? How can the group encourage and pray for you regarding those relationships?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week’s passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside time this week for your family to read Exodus 20:1-21. Highlight some of the main points, read through the Ten Commandments again and then answer these questions together.

// What do you think would change in your life tomorrow if there were suddenly no laws in America?

// Do you see laws as a blessing from God? Why or why not?

// Are there any of the Ten Commandments that are particularly difficult for your family?

// Spend some time praying that your family would know God's laws, be obedient to God's laws and be quick to offer and ask for forgiveness.

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week to point out laws that protect us and guide us. Use those opportunities to talk about why following the law is good and how breaking the law comes with consequences. In that, God is *just*—God is right to punish sin.

MILESTONES

The Ten Commandments were written in stone and intended to last in every way. Is there any mission specific to your family that you might consider making into a lasting symbol?

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." - Exodus 20:2

WEEK 22 // OF LAWS AND LOVE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a few group members read Exodus 20:22-24:11 aloud.

What minor legal infraction are you most likely to commit on a regular basis?

REFLECT

Exodus 20:22-23:33 is commonly known as the “Book of the Covenant.” It interprets the Ten Commandments into a set of specific laws for the people of Israel in their immediate historical/cultural context. What patterns do you see in these laws? Whom do they protect? What do they celebrate? How do they honor God?

Where do you see God’s transcendence (majesty and authority) reflected in His commands? Where do you see God’s immanence (intimate involvement in our lives) reflected in His commands?

Look at 24:6-8. Imagine what it would look, smell and feel like for all that blood to be thrown against the altar of God and upon yourself. How does that action put your personal and our collective sin and transgression of the law in perspective?

Have a group member read Matthew 26:26-29. How does Matthew help you understand Exodus 24, especially verses 9-11? How does it give you a hope for the future?

APPLY

The Book of the Covenant gives a set of specific laws for the people of Israel in their immediate historical/cultural context. What general principles should be applicable to the Christian? What timeless truths does it communicate regarding justice, community, stewardship of property and the value of human life?

The day is coming when, like the Israelites and the disciples, we will get to see God face to face and enjoy a feast together. In your own life, when have you experienced glimpses of this future hope? How can you intentionally create space in your life and living to experience such glimpses?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside time this week as a family to read Exodus 24:1-18 together. With those verses in mind, discuss the following questions.

// If someone said to you, "Whatever God's law is, I am going to follow it perfectly!" what would you say to them?

// What do you think it was like to eat and drink in the presence of the Lord on the mountain?

// Aaron got to see all this and then go back and be with the people while Moses went further up the mountain with Joshua. After hearing from the Lord directly and eating and drinking in His presence, why do you think Aaron turned so quickly to other gods?

// What doubts do you have about God? How can you pray through them and address them as a family? How can we lean on God's grace and truth in times of doubt or self-righteousness?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week to remind your family that **God Is in Charge of Everything** and **God Is Good**. Look for places where God has demonstrated His goodness, where doubt has crept in and where self-righteousness has set in on your family.

Then [Moses] took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." - Exodus 24:7

WEEK 23 // FINDING OUR WAY HOME

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a few group members read Exodus 25:1-27:19 aloud.

What's the most impressive thing you've ever built or crafted?

REFLECT

Why do you think God concerns Himself so intimately with the smallest details and measurements of the tabernacle? Why would God record them for us to read, versus a more general summary of the instructions?

Have one person read Genesis 3:8 and Genesis 3:22-24 and then look again at Exodus 25:17-22. What significant loss does the tabernacle restore? In light of your answer, how do you think the Israelites felt about the massive to-do list God had given them?

The Israelites have demonstrated their keen awareness of the practical needs they were facing in the wilderness—the need for food, water and safety. What would you say to them about the necessity of this extravagant, laborious building project?

APPLY

1 Corinthians 3:16 says we are corporately the temple of the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit dwells in our midst. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says our individual bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. What is your response to this reality? How should it change the way you live? How is this reality better than what the Hebrews had in the tabernacle?

Have one person read Ephesians 2:19-22. Have another person read Revelation 21:1-4. Although we have God with us now, we await a full dwelling with God in the New Creation one day. How does this future dwelling parallel the Garden of Eden? How should the hope of dwelling with God in eternity make a difference to us now?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your family to read Exodus 25:10-22. Imagine what the ark of the covenant would look like or draw a picture of it together.

// Why do you think the top of the ark of the covenant is called the “mercy seat”?

// What is “mercy”?

// How does your family show mercy to one another?

// The ark of the covenant was also where God met with Moses. Where does your family gather during the week to meet with God? How can that be more a time of mercy seeking and mercy sharing?

MOMENTS

In times of discipline this week, share the gospel with your family and talk about how God is *just*—He is right to punish sin—and He is *merciful*—God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

“And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.”
- Exodus 25:8

WEEK 24 // THE WAY INTO HIS PRESENCE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 27:20-30:10 aloud.

What is the most expensive outfit you have ever worn? Why was it so expensive?

REFLECT

Look again at Exodus 28-29, which describe the priests' preparation and consecration to service. What aspects of the process stand out to you? Why do you think God designed such an involved ordination process?

Imagine you are one of those about to become a priest, having just seen God deliver the nation of Israel. You witnessed the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. God visited you and your people at Mount Sinai in a terrifying tempest of clouds, fire, smoke and thunder. How would you view the service you are about to perform for this God? What does the instruction from God indicate about the seriousness of the task? What emotions or thoughts would you likely have?

Read Hebrews 4:14-5:10. Have someone else read 7:23-28. Compare and contrast what you read in Exodus 28-29 with what you read in Hebrews.

APPLY

Though God declared all Israel to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exod. 19:6), He still appointed a special group to a formal priesthood. How do you see this idea carrying forward to the New Testament Church?

What are some unhealthy ways we view our church leaders? How does knowing that Christ is our sinless High Priest forever free us to regard church leaders in healthy ways?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time during the week for your family to read Exodus 30:10 and Leviticus 16, the Day of Atonement, together and then discuss the following questions.

// The Day of Atonement was the biggest holiday of the year for Israel. It was the day when one lamb was sacrificed for the atonement of the people's sin. What might that holiday be pointing toward?

// Read Hebrews 10:19-22. Why do Christians today get to approach God with confidence, when in Exodus only the high priest could do it and only once a year? What difference does Christ's blood make?

// What would you say to someone who asks, "How good do I have to be to talk to God and expect Him to listen?"

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week to remind your family that **God Wants to Talk With Us**. Pray at regular times together this week and as you are on the go together.

MILESTONES

How can you leverage big holidays in the year (including birthdays and anniversaries) to point your family toward Christ and His mercy?

"There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God." - Exodus 29:43-46

WEEK 25 // WORK AND REST

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 30:11-31:18 aloud.

What is your favorite fragrance or smell? Why?

REFLECT

In 30:11-30, God commands a special scent to be blended for use only in the tabernacle. Why do you think He does so? What other senses does the tabernacle appeal to?

Look at 31:3 again. This is the first time in the Bible anyone is described as being “filled” with the Spirit of God. What other attributes does God give to the artisans? Which, if any, are unexpected?

Look again at 31:12-18. What does this section say is the purpose of observing the Sabbath? Taking a day off work would require faith and trust that God would give them seven days worth of production in six days time. When their surrounding enemies were working on the Sabbath, Israel would be resting. What virtues would observing the Sabbath help the Jews to develop?

APPLY

Should worship in the modern church engage the five senses to the degree that the tabernacle did? What are the risks and benefits of involving our senses in corporate worship?

Read Hebrews 4:9-10. With regard to the spiritual concept of Sabbath, what kinds of works does the person of faith rest from? How is trying to earn rest through works different from working as one who has already entered the rest of God through faith?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week’s passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your family to read Exodus 31:12-18 and discuss these questions.

// What sticks out to you in these verses? Why do you think the Lord takes Sabbath rest so seriously?

// On a scale of 1 – 10, where does your family rate at keeping the Sabbath?

// Is Sabbath rest the same as doing nothing? Why not?

// What are some ways you can practice Sabbath as a family this week?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities in the course of everyday life this week to encourage one another in the Lord. Let your family see you resting in and considering the Lord instead of “getting stuff done.” Memorize and share with one another Hebrews 10:24, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”

“Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.”

- Exodus 31:16-17

WEEK 26 // FALLING INTO FORGETFULNESS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 32 aloud.

What is your most valuable physical possession?

REFLECT

What are some startling elements of this chapter? What struck you most personally concerning the actions, emotions and words of Aaron, the people, God and Moses?

In verses 1-6, what belief drives the people of Israel to make an idol? Who gives the motivating instruction and does the main work of making the idol? Where did the people get the materials to construct the idol?

Look at verses 7-10. What is God's response to the actions of Israel? What specifically about Israel's actions angers God?

How do Moses' prayers in verses 11-13 and 31 remind you of the ministry of Jesus Christ?

APPLY

Who is someone for whom you regularly pray regarding their rejection of God? What can we learn from Moses' posture and attitude when it comes to how we pray for the disobedient around us?

Have a group member read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14. What forms of idolatry make their way into the modern church? In practical terms, how can we flee from them?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your family to read Exodus 32. After reading the chapter, discuss these questions with one another.

// What is “idolatry”? Is there anything in your life that is so important it rivals or outpaces God?

// Read verse 24 again. Have you ever lied to try to cover up something wrong? How did it go?

// Why is it so hard to follow God’s laws? Should we just give up trying?

// What do you think it means to follow God’s laws through “grace-driven effort”? Why do we want God to be first in our life?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities in the course of everyday life to remind each other that God is what is best. God is *worthy*—only God deserves all glory.

“They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” - Exodus 32:8

WEEK 27 // THE GOD OF MERCY AND GLORY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 33-34 aloud.

If you were guilty of a crime, what lawyer from TV or a movie would you want to represent you in court?

REFLECT

Look again at 33:1-11. Imagine you are one of the Israelites in the camp. What would you feel in this situation? Looking back on the past few months, what regrets would you have? What hopes do you have?

In 33:12-23, what exactly does Moses request of God? What does God agree to do? What does He not agree to do? What does the text say is God's motivation for responding the ways in which He does?

How does God's description of Himself in 34:6-7 fit well with His dealings with Israel thus far?

In 34:10-28, God reasserts His role as the just Law-Giver, jealous for His glory, wrathful toward those who oppose Him. How do we reconcile this portrayal with the God who is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness"?

APPLY

Exodus 34:29-35 speaks of the radiant face of Moses after having spent time in God's presence. Have a group member read Hebrews 1:1-3. How do these verses help us understand Jesus as the true and better Moses? How do they help you understand what it means to be an imitator of Christ?

Whom have you known who radiated the glory of God in their speech and actions? What disciplines and attitudes helped shape their demonstrable love for God? Which of those disciplines or attitudes do you most want or need to emulate?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside time this week for your family to read Exodus 33:7-23 and then discuss these questions.

// Read verse 11 again. *God Wants to Talk With Us*. Does your prayer life reflect that?

// Prayer of intercession means praying for others. Share how your family can pray for one another this week and then pray together.

// Who are others in your neighborhood, school or workplace you can be praying for?

// Whom would you like for the Lord to save? Commit to pray for that person this week.

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week to teach your family how to pray: to the Father, because of the Son, with the help of the Holy Spirit. We praise, thank, confess and make requests. Let the refrain of your week be, "*God Wants to Talk With Us*."

MILESTONES

Consider writing down some prayers in the form of letters for your kids. Save them up to give to them one day.

"Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you." - Exodus 34:10

WEEK 28 // GENEROUS HEARTS AND HANDS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a few group members read Exodus 35-36 aloud.

What hidden talent do you have?

REFLECT

Look at 35:4-29. What repeated words or phrases do you note? What idea is the writer emphasizing through these repetitions? Is this emphasis surprising? Why or why not?

Thinking back over the narrative of Exodus so far, where would Israel have gotten all these possessions? Do you think this would make it easier or harder for them to be generous? Why?

In 35:30-36:4, the narrative once again emphasizes the diverse and exceptional skills of the workers constructing the tabernacle. What parallel might we draw to the New Testament Church? What New Testament passage(s) can you think of to support your answer?

In 36:5-7, it is said that the people gave far beyond what was needed. Why do you think they were so generous?

APPLY

What skill or gift do you possess that could be used (or used more faithfully) to serve the Church? Does using it to serve the Church mean using it specifically in the local church? Explain your answer.

Consider your own attitude toward possessions and talents. What lesson can you take from the generosity of the Israelites? What adjustment to your perspective on your possessions needs to take place? What are some practical ways you can be generous this week? This month? This year?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your family to read Exodus 35 together and then discuss these questions.

// How do you see people using their skills to serve the Lord in chapter 35?

// What gifts and talents did the Lord give you? Why do you think God made you the way that He did?

// How can you use what God has given you to serve Him, your city and your church?

// Discuss your family's combined gifts and what you could do together for the kingdom this week.

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities in the course of everyday life this week to serve others. Memorize and share with each other 1 Peter 4:11, "Whoever serves as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments.

- Exodus 35:21

WEEK 29 // UNDERSTANDING GLORY, PART I

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 37 aloud.

If you had been a worker who helped build the tabernacle, what tasks could you have performed?

REFLECT

Modern readers may be tempted to look on this chapter (and the next two) as a needless repetition of what has already been said. Why do you think this detailed account of the actual work was given for the original audience of Exodus (the Israelites about to embark on the conquest of Canaan after 40 years in the wilderness)? Why do you think it is given for us?

Of all the furnishings in the tabernacle, only one functions as a place to sit. Which one? Why do you think this is significant? Share some ideas and then look up Hebrews 8:1 to help with your answer.

Look at the drawing of the tabernacle on page 16. Note where each of the items described in chapter 37 resides. How does the location they share relate to the materials used in their construction? What do you note about the cost of the materials and the similarities in design?

APPLY

Bezalel's exacting work serves as an example to us. Have a group member read Colossians 3:23-24. What corners are you most prone to cut when it comes to your daily responsibilities at work or home? Where are you most tempted to give half-hearted obedience to God?

Followers of Christ are not to be spiritually sedentary. Have a group member read Colossians 1:24-29, noting Paul's words in verse 29. In what relationship or circumstance are you most tempted to sit on a throne of self-defeat or complacency instead of doing the work at hand? What step can you take this week to obey God in that area? How can your group help you in this?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your family to read Exodus 37 together and then discuss these questions.

// The instructions for the construction of the ark of the covenant, table, lampstand and altar are very detailed. Why do you think the Lord cares so much about the details?

// The ark is described as having four poles on the sides so that it could be lifted up without a person having to touch the ark. Why do you think no one could touch the ark?

// Look back at Exodus 25:22. What did the Lord tell Moses about the mercy seat?

// What are some ways your family can approach God with confidence? How does Christ's sacrifice make it so you are able to do so?

MOMENTS

Take advantage of opportunities to discuss God's *holiness*—He is completely perfect and separate from sin, but we are still able to approach Him because of the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Encourage your family to thank the Lord for His *mercy*—He does not give His children the punishment they deserve. In discipline this week, talk about what we deserve and what mercy looks like in your family.

And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark.

- Exodus 37:4-5

WEEK 30 // UNDERSTANDING GLORY, PART 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a few group members read Exodus 38-39 aloud.

REFLECT

Look at the drawing of the tabernacle on page 16. Note where the basin and the altar are located. Why do you think these two fixtures are placed where they are? Consider both their practical and their symbolic placement. (Hint: What liquid was associated with each?)

For what purpose do you think the writer included the cataloging of materials in 38:21-31? What impression is it meant to give? Why make that impression?

Compare the materials used to construct the curtains (Exod. 38:16-18) with those used for the priestly garments (Exod. 39:27-29). What similarities do you note? How is this symbolically appropriate?

What is the purpose of 39:32-43? What does the writer want us to understand about Israel? About the tabernacle? About God?

APPLY

Dressed in their elaborate garments, the priests would have stood out among the general population. Have a group member read Isaiah 59:14-20. Have another read Isaiah 61:10-11. How do these verses shape your understanding of what it means to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ? How is your “spiritual clothing” evident to the general population when they look at your life?

From the outside, the tabernacle would have looked fairly unassuming, even a bit plain. But for those who entered its gates and passed from the outer court to the Holy of Holies, it would have increasingly revealed its wealth. How is this an accurate portrayal of how we view Christ? Of your own experience of salvation? Give a specific example of how holiness has taken on increasing value to you as you have matured in Christ.

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your family to read Exodus 38-39 together and then discuss these questions.

// How many times does the text repeat the phrase, "as the Lord had commanded Moses," in chapter 39?

// What does it mean to be obedient to the instructions of the Lord?

// What are some ways you and your family have struggled to be obedient to the Lord?

// What would you say to someone who asked, "Why would you base your life off a book written thousands of years ago?"

MOMENTS

In moments of discipline this week, find opportunities to talk about what it means to be obedient and disobedient. Talk about what it means to have *self-control*—freedom from obedience to our sinful thoughts and emotions. Talk about what it means to *glorify* God through our obedience to Him—to show, honor and enjoy God as most valuable.

*They made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription, like the engraving of a signet, "Holy to the LORD."
- Exodus 39:30*

WEEK 31 // DRAWN IN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 40 aloud.

How would you summarize this chapter in one sentence?

REFLECT

Before the tabernacle and its servants can be put into service, what must be done according to 40:1-15? Based on the history of the materials and people in question, why is this a necessary step?

What obvious repetition occurs in 40:16-33? What significant statement concludes this section of the text? How do both phrases point to One greater than Moses?

God commands a place to be created for Him to dwell. He fills it with everything necessary for worship. He populates it with priests to serve Him. He then descends to inhabit His sanctuary. What parallels do you see to Genesis 1? What parallels do you see to Revelation 21?

APPLY

The priest who commissioned the golden calf has been consecrated for service to God. The people who chased after idols have witnessed the glory of God descend on His tabernacle. How have you seen God redeem the days and the substance of your idolatry and consecrate you for service to Him?

Think back over the course of our time in all 40 chapters of Exodus. What story or passage stands out to you the most? What truths do you most want to remember and apply to your life?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your family to read Exodus 40 together and then discuss the following questions.

// Why might God's presence in the tabernacle be signified by a cloud?

// Imagine together what this cloud might look like. Take a look back at Exodus 19:16-20. How might the cloud look different over a mountain versus over the tabernacle?

// Look at verses 34-38. The tabernacle was set up in the middle of the camp so that the presence and guidance of the Lord could always be seen. How are Christians guided by God today? Where does He dwell now? Read 1 Corinthians 3:16 for help with your answer.

// What are some ways your family can better seek and be attentive to the guidance of the Lord?

MOMENTS

When making choices or decisions this week, be ready to talk about what it means to yield to the guidance of the Lord because He is *sovereign*—God has the right, wisdom and power to do all He pleases—and He is *faithful*—God always does what He says He will do.

MILESTONES

In Exodus 40:2, the Lord tells Moses, “On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.” The tabernacle being set up on the first day of the year is significant in setting a foundation of worship and celebrating the Lord’s dwelling with man. Create a family tradition of celebrating each new year and dedicating the year to the worship of the Lord. This might be a good time to make spiritually-focused family resolutions or goals.

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. - Exodus 40:34



FOR THE CLOUD
OF THE LORD
WAS ON THE
TABERNACLE BY
DAY, AND FIRE
WAS IN IT BY
NIGHT, IN THE
SIGHT OF ALL THE
HOUSE OF ISRAEL
THROUGHOUT ALL
THEIR JOURNEYS.

EXODUS 40:38