



# EXODUS

## THE BOOK OF EXODUS Part 2 | Exodus 16-40

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# THE BOOK OF EXODUS

## Part 2 | Exodus 16-40

Exodus is a marvellous part of the Old Testament. It is full of richness about God, who he is, and what he is like. Ultimately, Exodus is about a **God working sovereignly to save a special people for his own glory**. He did back then, and he still does today. That is what he is doing in the church!

*“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:4-6)*

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Note: At the end of each study, you will see the following box:

**Faith • Hope • Love**

This is to remind us that as we pray for each other to grow in spiritual maturity, we should pray that we will grow in these ways:

- **Faith:** That we will learn to trust God in every situation and in all things.
- **Hope:** That we will grow to set our hearts on the treasure that we have in Jesus.
- **Love:** That we will grow in self-giving love - that puts others before ourselves.

*Do you ever find yourself worrying or discontent about the practical needs of life?*

***Read Exodus 16:1-36***

1. In this section, what problem are the Israelites facing?
2. What is their response to this problem?
3. What does God do?
4. Throughout this chapter (and the surrounding chapters), what pattern do you see in Israel's response to God?
5. What pattern do you see in God's response to Israel?
6. What does this teach us about God?
7. Do you think Israel's concerns about food & water were reasonable? Why/why not?

⇒ *Do you find that you tend to question God's goodness/care of you each time you encounter a new difficulty? Why do you think that might be?*

*a. How should this passage challenge you in this?*

⇒ *What things do you grumble about not having enough of?*

⇒ *Are you willing trust God and "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness (Matt 6:25-34) rather than worrying about the things you don't have?*

*a. How can we help each other in this area?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Two

## 25

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## Exodus 19:1-

*In what sense should your faith be a “personal” and “private” matter? In what sense should it be public?*

### ***Read Exodus 19:1-8***

1. God is about to outline what he expects of Israel in his covenant with them. What does he want them to remember as the basis of this covenant?
2. Why is this significant?
3. What does God require of Israel in this covenant?
4. What does it mean that Israel will be a “kingdom of priests”? (If priests are mediators between God and people - who will Israel be ‘priests’ for?)
5. What does this tell us about God’s greater plan for Israel and the world?

### ***Read Exodus 19:9-25***

6. From the events and descriptions in these verses, what words would you use to describe God’s nature?
  7. If you had been there at Mt. Sinai that day, how do you think you might have felt?
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8. What is the right response to how God has revealed himself (both up to this point and now at Mt Sinai)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. From your knowledge of the Old Testament and of human nature, what was wrong with this covenant?

*Read 1 Peter 2:9-12*

⇒ *This passage uses similar language to Exodus 19:1-16 to describe Christians. What does it tell us of Christians' role in the world?*

⇒ *How is our function like Old Testament Israel? How is it different?*

⇒ *How well is our church/community group fulfilling the role described by God in this passage? What part do you play in that?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Three

# Exodus 20:1-21

*What are some of the ways we use the word "law"? What kind of images does this word invoke for you?*

**Read Exodus 20:1-21**

1. *On a piece of paper, draw a symbol/picture that summarises each of the 10 Commandments.*
2. *What does v1-2 remind the Israelites about the basis for this Law that God is giving them?*
3. *Read Jesus' summary of the Law in Matt 22:34-40. Then, for each of the commandments, tick whether the primary focus is about relating to God or to other people:*

No.	Verses	Relating to God	Relating to others
1	vs 3		
2	vs 4-6		
3	vs 7		
4	vs 8-11		
5	vs 12		
6	vs 13		
7	vs 14		
8	vs 15		
9	vs 16		
10	vs 17		



4. *What do you think God might be saying to his people through this focus on God and others in his commandments?*
  
5. *Looking again through these commands, how does each one reflect the character of the God who gives them? What do we learn about God from them?*
  
6. *How does this way of thinking about the 10 Commandments stop us from just thinking about a “list of rules” to keep?*

⇒ *In his sermon on the mount (see Matthew 5:21-32), Jesus shows how the commandments must affect our attitude, thoughts, and intentions – not just our actions. Spend some time discussing what this might look like for particular commands (including those that Jesus specifically mentions).*

⇒ *Should Christians keep all the commandments? Why/why not?*

⇒ *Should those who are not Christians be told to keep the commandments? What might be the impact of telling people who are not “God’s people” that they should keep the commands?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Four

# Exodus 23:1-19

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*Read Psalm 19:7-11. Does it describe your feelings about the Old Testament Law? Why/Why not?*

*Read Exodus 23:1-19*

1. Remember, that when God gave Israel his Law, he had already saved/redeemed Israel. What difference should this make for the way we understand the Law that God gives them?
2. Given Jesus' summary of the Law (see Matthew 22:34-40) what should we expect to see in the specific laws?
3. In pairs or groups, read the following passages. What areas of life do they cover? How can you see Jesus' summary of the Law in these cases?

<i>Verses</i>	<i>Area of life</i>	<i>Underlying Principle/s</i>
<i>23:6-9</i>		
<i>23:10-12</i>		
<i>23:13-19</i>		

4. Read Romans 7:1-12. What does this tell us about the Law—it's goodness, purpose and limitations?

⇒ *One helpful way to think about what these laws might mean for us is to:*

*1) Understand the theological principle that undergirds the specific law (e.g. treating the disadvantaged in society with proper care),*

*2) Consider what difference it makes when we view this principle through the cross of Jesus (e.g. how do the food laws change because of Jesus?),*

*3) Find ways in which this "revised" principle can instruct and guide us in our desire to love God and others in our particular context.\**

*Choose some laws from Exodus 23 and try to apply this approach to them.*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

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\* This approach is outlined in "Shadow of Glory", Andrew Reid.

# Study Five

## 24:18

## Exodus 23:20-

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*“Our cultural moment has reduced the notion of ‘approaching God’ to something casual - less like approaching divine royalty, and more like hi-fiving one of your mates.” Discuss.*

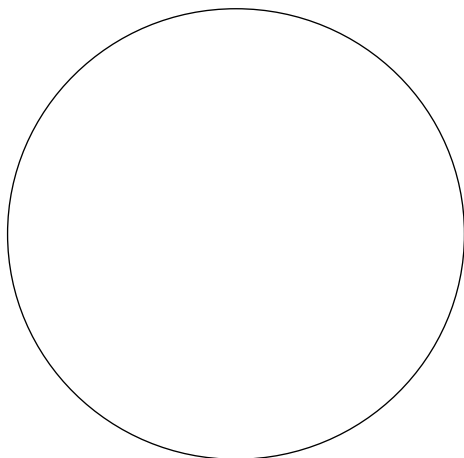
### ***Read Exodus 23:20-33***

1. What is the role of the angel accompanying Israel?
2. What is the reason that Israel are told to drive out the inhabitants of the land? (see vs31-33)
3. If you were an Israelite reading these verses, how would you think about God’s relationship with you?

### ***Read Exodus 24:1-18***

4. Summarise the events of this chapter with regard to each of the following:
  - a. Moses
  - b. Aaron & the elders
  - c. The people

5. Imagine this circle represents Mt Sinai and it's surrounds. Draw the various places mentioned in this chapter and who is allowed to go there.



6. Why are verses 9-10 surprising?

*Read Hebrews 9:19-28*

7. In what way does the blood in Exodus 24 foreshadow the blood of Christ?

8. How is the blood of Christ different to the sacrifices in Exodus 24?

⇒ *From what we have looked at in this study, what should we learn about:*

- *Access to God*
  
- *Confidence before God*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

*'There's no rest for the wicked!'. What do you think about our culture's obsession with being busy? How might being too busy be a trap for the faith of Christians?*

## **Read Exodus 31:12-18**

1. Exodus 31:12-18 comes *after* a whole bunch of instructions, but *before* God's people lift a finger. Why might that be significant?
  
2. Is it Israel's work that makes them sanctified, cleansed, and holy - or is it God's? Why?
  
3. What is the difference between "I am accepted, therefore I obey" and "I obey, therefore I am accepted?"
  - a. Why is this important for them (and us) to know and remember this?
  
  - b. What dangers do we face when we don't rest in God's work on our behalf?
  
4. What does God say about keeping the Sabbath in these verses?
  
5. What was the ultimate purpose of this instruction here in Exodus to observe the Sabbath?

6. Split your group up and assign one of the following passages to each sub-group.

a. Mark 2:23-28

b. Hebrews 4:1-13

c. Luke 13:10-17

d. Mark 3:1-6

Read your group's passage, and then report back with the following:

- i. What is spoken about in your passage (i.e. what happens)?
- ii. What does it add to our understanding of Sabbath?
- iii. How might it inform the way we live?

⇒ *What are you looking forward to about the eternal sabbath rest that's to come?*

⇒ *What might it look like to help one another to embrace the knowledge that there's a sense in which we share in that Sabbath rest \*now\*?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

*“Material idolatry has passed away among civilised nations in its literal import... But although the outward mode has passed away, the essence of the temptation remains the same”. Do you agree? Why/why not?*

**Read Exodus 32:1-35**

1. What prompts the Israelites to ask Aaron to make gods for them?
2. Given what we have seen of God and Moses so far, what is your reaction to this request?
3. Read the first two commandments again (Ex 20:3-4). What commandment do you think they are breaking here?
4. What kind of behaviour follows their worship of the golden calf? How does this compare with the last time Israel made offerings to the LORD (24:5-7)?
5. How does God describe the people in vs7? How does this compare with how he has described them previously (e.g. 3:7; 7:4; 20:2)?
6. What does God threaten to do as a result of the people's sin?
7. How does Moses respond to this in vs11-13?



a. How does Moses' response pick up some of God's comments in vs7-10?

b. How would you describe the "tone" of Moses' response?

c. What does God do as a result of Moses' intercession?

8. What do you see in this passage that indicates the seriousness with which God treats sin?

⇒ *Do you think there is a connection between our own idolatry (i.e. seeking comfort and security etc. in "tangible" things other than God) and our moral behaviour?*

*Can you see examples of this in your own life?*

⇒ *What is your reaction to the seriousness with which God regards idolatry? What difference would it make for us if we considered our idolatry to be as serious as God does in this chapter?*

⇒ *Moses' prayer in this chapter was extremely bold (notice that it is full of commands! – "turn", "relent", "remember"). Is our view of God and of prayer such that we can also pray with this boldness? Why/why not?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

*If you asked your non-Christian friends to sum-up what they think of God in one word, what do you think they'd say? Why?*

***Read Exodus 33:1-6***

1. In the last chapter, Moses appealed for God to turn from the anger and the punishment that he was going to bring on Israel and to remember the covenant he had made with their forefathers. How do these verses display both God's gracious response to this request and the continuing consequences of sin?
2. What reason is given for why God will not go with them?
3. How does Israel respond to the news that God will not go with them?

***Read Exodus 33:7 - 34:14***

4. How does God's relationship with Moses contrast with the rest of Israel's experience of the presence of God?
5. In v18, Moses asks God to show him His glory: In response to this request, what does God promise to show him (see also 34:5-7)
  - a) What does this tell us about God's glory?

b) What do we learn about God's character from his description of himself in 34:6-7?

6. On what basis is Moses making his appeal for God to go with all of them (in 34:8-9)?

7. What is God's response to Moses' plea from vs8-9?

***Read Exodus 40:34-38***

8. Given the events of Exodus 32-34, what is striking about what happens here?

a. How does this show that God is who he revealed himself to be in Exodus 34:6-7?

⇒ *What have you learnt (or been reminded of) about God's character from this study?*

⇒ *How does the cross of Jesus show God to be the same God that we see in this chapter?*

⇒ *When Moses pleads with God, he pleads for God to act according to his character. What will it look like for our prayers to follow this example?*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

*What are some of the various ways people try to experience God's presence with them? What do you think is helpful (or unhelpful) about this?*

**Read Exodus 40:1-38**

1. What is Exodus 40 concerned with?
2. What do you think was the purpose of the tabernacle?
3. How does the tabernacle fit into the Bible's bigger story of God dwelling with his people?
4. How is it possible for a holy God to dwell among a sinful people?

**Read Hebrews 9:1-15**

5. What were the limitations of Israel's tabernacle?
6. How does the tabernacle help us understand what Jesus has accomplished?

*As we come to the end of our series in Exodus, take some time to reflect together about the things you've learned and been convicted by. Pray about these together.*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# What's your next step in **pedals!**



**Pray** for their salvation. "Please soften .....’s heart so they accept you as their saviour".



Pray that God gives you an **Evangelistic Opportunity**.  
"Please give me an opportunity to talk about You with ....."



**Do** they know you're a Christian? If not, **Drop** a Christian word in a sentence. "How was your weekend?... I went to church...."

Do they know any other Christians? If not, WHO would be a good person to introduce them to? Who might they get along with? And HOW would you introduce them? For a social, coffee, beer, BBQ...? WHEN could you arrange this?



**Ask**. Have you asked them what they believe? If they've had any church experiences?

If it seems too soon for a spiritual convo, have you asked them what their interests are? Have you asked them WHY they like those interests? Have you asked them deeper questions? Have you shown a deeper and genuine interest in them?



**Listen**. Have you listened to their points of view? Their interests? Their struggles? Their loves? Their hates? Their beliefs? Their issues with Christianity?



**Share**. Have you shared with them why you're a Christian? What it means to be a Christian? The difference that Jesus has made in your life?



**Invite**. Have you invited them to hear more? What do you think would be best for them? Alpha? Read the Word 121? Read a book or listen to a podcast in their own time? Come to church?

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# pedals!

Name	Friend	Next Step

# You're invited!

## discover

Discover is a four week series exploring the Christian faith. Each session builds on the last, as we discover different aspects of God - our Creator, King, Father, Judge, Saviour and Helper and the deeply meaningful impact that has on our day to day life.

Each session starts with a delicious meal and an opportunity to connect, relax and build friendships.

The talks are designed to engage and inspire conversation, with three ten minute short talks giving opportunity to process and discuss.

One of the most important parts of Discover is the chance to share thoughts and ideas. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously!). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute to your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

To find out when we are running the next Discover, visit [stfaiths.church/discover](http://stfaiths.church/discover) or email Marcus Druitt | Pastor [marcusestfaiths.org.au](mailto:marcusestfaiths.org.au)