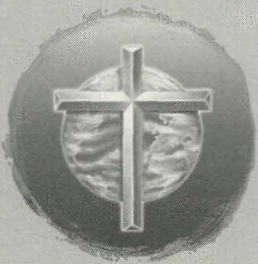


Study Guide





LifeLight Expands

LifeLight

Available NOW!

LifeLight Original Studies

(available until they are updated to new format; see schedule below)

Hebrews	Revelation	Ephesians 1 & 2	2 Corinthians	Daniel
Acts, Pt. 1	Isaiah, Pt. 1	Minor Prophets	Luke, Pt. 1	Selected Psalms
Acts, Pt. 2	Isaiah, Pt. 2	1 Corinthians	Luke, Pt. 2	Life of David

LifeLight New Format

(* all-new studies)

1 John	* Galatians/Phili/Col	Romans, Pt. 2	Exodus, Pt. 1
* The Bible: An Overview	Genesis, Pt. 1	John, Pt. 1	Exodus, Pt. 2
Matthew, Pt. 1	Genesis, Pt. 2	John, Pt. 2	
Matthew, Pt. 2	Romans, Pt. 1	* 1 Peter/2 Peter	

LifeLight Foundations

Prophecy

LifeLight Release Schedule

(* all-new LifeLight ** all-new LifeLight Foundations)

* LifeLight—James/Jude	7/03	LifeLight—Minor Prophets	1/09
**LifeLight Foundations—Bible Feasts	10/03	LifeLight—Daniel	4/09
LifeLight—Acts 1	1/04	* LifeLight—Mark	7/09
LifeLight—Acts 2	4/04	**LifeLight Foundations—Ministry	10/09
* LifeLight—Proverbs	7/04	LifeLight—Life of David	1/10
**LifeLight Foundations—Miracles	10/04	LifeLight—Selected Psalms	4/10
LifeLight—Hebrews	1/05	* LifeLight—Ecclesiastes/Song of Songs	7/10
LifeLight—Revelation	4/05	**LifeLight Foundations—Creation/ New Creation	10/10
* LifeLight—Timothy/Titus/Philemon	7/05		
**LifeLight Foundations—Law & Gospel	10/05	<u>Other Future Studies:</u>	
LifeLight—Isaiah	1/06	1st, 2nd & 3rd John	
LifeLight—Ephesians/Thessalonians	4/06	Job	
* LifeLight—Joshua	7/06	Wilderness Wanderings (Lev., Num. & Deut.)	
**LifeLight Foundations—Cleansing Water	10/06	Ezra, Nehemiah	
LifeLight—1 Corinthians	1/07		
LifeLight—2 Corinthians	4/07	<u>These helpful resources are now available:</u>	
* LifeLight—Judges	7/07	Intro Kit	
**LifeLight Foundations— Between the Testaments	10/07	LifeLight for Little Ones	
LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 1	1/08	Self-stick notes	
LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 2	4/08	Cornerstones—leadership training videos	
* LifeLight—Ruth/Esther	7/08		
**LifeLight Foundations—Triune God	10/08		

The Ten Words of the Covenant

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.

Use Enrichment Magazine pages 2–3.

Exodus 20:1–20

Resources for Worship

Each study guide for the nine LifeLight lessons for this course on Exodus will suggest devotional resources. You may use these resources for a brief devotional time as you begin your study each day. These resources may be used, as well, at each week's group meeting, where you share your individual study of, and experiences and insights suggested by, your preparation of Exodus 20–40.

Hymn

The Law of God is good and wise
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we transgress.

The Law is good; but since the fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no pow'r to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at his throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

Matthias Loy

Prayer

Use this easy outline to aid your thoughts to flow: *Call God by name. Describe Him. Thank Him. Confess where you have failed Him and your fellow human beings. Present the request you want to bring before Him with this specific prayer. Close by remembering Jesus Christ is our intercessor, opening the way to God.*

Lord Jesus, You are always looking for people who with their lives are saying for all to hear, "Here's Jesus!" Help us as we look at ourselves in the mirror of God's commandments. Use our hands and voices and minds—all of us—to reflect You. Give us joy that does not depend on outside circumstances but only on Your filling us up within.

Bless each of us as we do our work in contributing to the common good. In all we do and say, let others hear "Here's Jesus!" that they, too, may know the perfect joy and peace You give. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 1

It is important that you do each day's work daily and not try to catch up just before coming to your weekly group session. You will find it far easier—and more enjoyable—to search God's Word in manageable and disciplined devotion to it. Pick a favorite comfortable spot and set aside the time (20 to 30 minutes should do) to return to it daily. You do deserve this kind of break each day! As you do your best to answer each day's questions in response to the Holy Spirit speaking to you through God's Word; don't worry about giving a wrong answer. There's no more freeing way to study Scripture than to ask constantly, "What is God saying to me with His Word right now?" Your answers drawn from your experiences and insights are most important to your group discussion.

Day 1 • Read Exodus 20:1–6

1. It has been said, "We have 10 million laws trying to enforce Ten Commandments." What does that tell you about people's typical impression and handling of the commandments?

2. **Challenge question.** In contrast, the Scriptures describe the purpose of the commandments in ways that underscore how they serve as a curb, mirror, and rule. Look up the passages below and picture in words how the commandments work in your life.

a. As a curb (Romans 2:14–15)

b. As a mirror (Romans 7:7)

c. As a rule (Psalm 119:105)

b. Psalm 148:13

3. Note that the Lord identifies Himself as "your God" (v. 1) and then commands, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (v. 3). In verse 5 God is described as a "jealous God." What does that tell you about God's relationship to His people then and now?

c. Isaiah 57:15

d. Matthew 1:21

4. Read Exodus 20:4. The German philosopher Nietzsche declared, "If there is a God, I should want to be He." Someone else said, "God created man in His own image, and man returned the compliment."

a. What do these remarks suggest to you about our natural human tendencies?

e. Matthew 1:23

6. a. A common misuse of God's name is in cursing and swearing. A commonly heard curse begins, "God damn . . ." What is such a curse actually asking God to do?

b. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* What are some of the idols that tend to replace God in your life?

b. A common way of swearing begins, "By God . . ." What are those who swear in this way actually asking God to do?

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Day 2 • Read Exodus 20:7–11

5. Nicknames commonly describe us physically and temperamentally, while our given and surnames say little or nothing about those attributes. God's name (Exodus 20:7) describes Him and His character. What do the following passages tell us about God's name and character?

a. Psalm 135:13

c. What makes such cursing and swearing wrong? (Read Matthew 5:33–37.)

The Book of the Covenant

Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2.
Use *Enrichment Magazine* pages 6–7.

Exodus 20:21–23:33

Resources for Worship

As you endeavor to develop your prayer thoughts, consider as thought starters the weekly activities suggested in the review leaflets. What have you read or seen—perhaps today—that prompts you to thank God for blessings He has given? You may also want to thank God for the way in which those blessings were received. Or have you read or seen something that prompts you to ask for forgiveness for your own sins or for the sins of others?

Hymn

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

Thy strong word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess. *Refrain.*

From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light. *Refrain.*

Martin Franzmann, © 1969 CPH

Prayer

O God, You are timeless, but we live within the boundaries of time. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to the wisdom of knowing and doing Your will. Help us to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming to us in every moment. Help us to see our days against the backdrop of history and in the perspective of eternity, so that, knowing how few our days are, we will use them to meet Jesus. And then, when our heart beats for that one last time, may we joyfully look up to see our Lord coming to us again, this time welcoming us home. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 2

The specific regulations of the Book of the Covenant, which follow the Ten Commandments, reinforce Scripture's assertion—and our experience—of the impossibility of becoming righteous before God through the Law (Romans 3:20). Ultimately, Jesus Christ would come to bridge the distance between God and us and between us and others. Through Christ the entire Law—its intent as well as its specific stipulations—was fulfilled.

Day 1 • Read Exodus 20:21–21:11

1. The stipulations of the Book of the Covenant lead off with a restatement of the First Commandment in 20:23. In what sense might it be said that the First Commandment is the basis of all other commandments? (Consider Psalm 100:3; Acts 4:19.)

2. Note the phrase in verse 24: "I will come to you and bless you." How is it true for us today that God comes to us and blesses us through worship?

3. Burnt offerings were prominent in Israel's worship, as directed here in verse 24. Read Hebrews 7:26–27. What connection do these Old Testament sacrifices have with Jesus?

4. What relationship do you see between burnt offerings and other such sacrifices and our devotional and worship habits today?

Colossians 3:22–24

5. In verses 25–26 we begin to find instructions concerning the altar (and, later, also other things dealing with worship). The reasons behind such instructions are not always clear or apparent to us today. Perhaps, in regard to verse 25, the Lord was preventing the Israelites from concentrating too much on what they contributed to worship rather than on what they received from worship. Note the concern for modesty in verse 26 (and in 28:42–43). What are some ways by which we might keep our own worship more directly focused on the Lord and His Word and not on the worshipers or on worship leaders?

Titus 2:9–10

6. a. Read 21:1–11. What allowances and limitations concerning slavery do you find in these passages?

b. **Challenge question.** Read the following passages. Show how these passages support or fail to support this statement: *While the Bible does not actually forbid slavery, what the Bible says to slaves and slave owners will inevitably cause a society leavened by the Gospel to abolish slavery.*

Ephesians 6:5–9

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Day 2 • Read Exodus 21:12–32

7. Here specific stipulations of the Book of the Covenant address personal injuries afflicted by people against people. Central to the discussion is verse 23. The concern of this verse is justice—causing the punishment to fit the crime. Later, however, the passage was used to justify retaliation. Compare this verse with Matthew 5:38–47. How did Jesus correct the popular misconception regarding retaliation?

8. We should remember that the Hebrew word commonly translated “kill” usually refers to murder as a premeditated and deliberate act, in contrast to accidental killing. Compare Exodus 21:14 with Genesis 9:6 and Romans 13:4–5. How do these passages justify capital punishment?