



# the rescue.

## \_\_\_\_\_stories from Exodus

February 16-

Reflect on exodus 18 and take a few moments to pray through these prayer points:

1. Thank God for the wisdom He provides in carrying out the calling on your life.
2. Ask God to use you in making His mighty deeds and great name known to the world around you.
3. Thank God for the support of the body of Christ as we collectively pursue our calling; each of us with unique gifts and talents.

February 17-

Read Exodus 19

Have you ever made promises that you later failed to keep? Maybe you were desperate to complete a project, repay a debt, lose weight, or get out of trouble.

In Exodus 19, God told the Israelites that if they would obey Him completely, He would treasure them above all nations. Because the Israelites had seen what God had done in Egypt, they responded, “We will do everything the Lord has said” (Exodus 19:8).

The Israelites made an agreement with God at Mount Sinai, but like us, they often struggled to keep it. The Bible records repeated accounts of Israel’s disobedience. Fortunately, God always keeps His promises. Despite the Israelites unfaithfulness, God continued to provide, protect, and love them unconditionally.

Today, we are still not perfect people. We may have good intentions, but we can still make poor decisions. The God of Israel is still the same God today.

Knowing our shortcomings, God established a new covenant with us through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. Even though we may wander far from God, He continues to love us above all things and patiently calls us back to Him. Jesus is gracious and merciful, extending compassion and forgiveness that we do not deserve.

Reflect:

Consider an occasion when someone failed to keep their part of an agreement with you. How did it make you feel?



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The image of a heart or cupid communicates love in almost any language. What image(s) might you use to communicate commitment?

What's one step you can take this week to strengthen your commitment to following Jesus?

February 18-

Reflect on exodus 19 and take a few moments to write down your own prayer.

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February 19-

Read Exodus 20

At some point, you've probably heard, "If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun." Those of us that have tested this can say that it isn't entirely true. Some of life's biggest regrets come from having fun in the moment at the expense of our future. And while we all want to enjoy life, rules are in place to guide our actions and protect us from harm.

Years ago God gave a set of 10 commands to His people, the nation of Israel. In Exodus 20:20, we learn that these commands were designed to keep them from harm. Even more, these rules served as a guide for how to live a life close to God.

These commandments are still here for our benefit today and teach us about our relationship with God and others. The first four commands show us how deeply God loves us and desires a relationship with us. The other commands show us how our relationships with others can honor God when we live a life that is pleasing to Him.



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## stories from Exodus

God knew we would eventually see a perfect example of these rules put into practice through the life of his son, Jesus. Because of Jesus, our hope doesn't have to be in keeping the rules, but in the One who perfected and completed them.

Reflect:

When have you experienced safety and peace by following a guideline that someone has placed in your life at work, at home, or in public?

Which of the Ten Commandments is most difficult to put into practice in your life?

How does knowing that our hope is ultimately in Jesus give you comfort?

February 20-

Reflect on Exodus 20 and take a few moments to pray this prayer:

Holy, holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come! I worship You. Thank you that we no longer have to stand afar in fear of your awesome presence. Now we can draw near by faith because Jesus invites us to, "Come, all you who labour and are heavy – laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Through Jesus, I come boldly into the Throne Room, to the Mercy Seat of the Most High God to obtain mercy and find grace to help me in time of need. I love You, Jesus. Thank You for Your mercy and grace. Great is Your faithfulness. Amen.

February 21-

Read Exodus 21

You got dumped. Your grandma died. Your dog got run over. You are a walking country music song, and someone better pay. Revenge: you don't care if it's served cold so long as it's served. You want someone to suffer for the hurt you've suffered. But then you remember the good news: Jesus Christ suffered and died and paid it all so that no one else has to.



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## stories from Exodus

Imagine a world where you're responsible for handing out the punishment you felt was deserved for every wrong ever done to you. Would you be fair in the moment? Would you be blinded by circumstances and lash out in anger?

Knowing the answer, God created a code of laws for the Israelites to live by to ensure justice in day-to-day disputes that might arise. The "eye for an eye" idea of revenge is something we've often heard as a distorted interpretation of God's law (Exodus 21:23-25). This was intended to ensure people didn't brutally retaliate against one another, but instead trust God there would be consequences for anyone acting in a way that hurt or diminished the rights of His people.

In our culture, we're always looking for someone to pay. Just remember next time you harbor that feeling in your heart, someone already did pay. Jesus suffered and died for all of our sins so we may focus on forgiving and loving rather than avenging.

Reflect:

Am I more focused on getting even with someone than forgiving them?

If you are struggling with forgiveness, we would love to talk with you. Connect with someone on your campus here.

February 22-

Reflect on Exodus 21 and take a few moments to pray this prayer:

Wonderful Lord, we once again lift our hearts, our hands and our praise to You for the privilege of studying your Word. It never fails to guide us in the right direction. As we study through the introductions to your commandments, laws and regulations, we learn so much about You and Your holiness. They help us to learn to value what You value and love what You love. All praise to Jesus, our Lord, the One who fulfilled those laws on our behalf at Calvary. Amen.