

# PREAMBLE & COMMANDMENT 01

**Introduction:** God begins the Ten Commandments not with rules, but with a rescue: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” The very first commandment calls us to exclusive allegiance — no other gods, no rivals. This isn’t about restriction, but about choosing to live in the freedom of God’s love without divided loyalties.

## ICE BREAKERS

- ☐ What was something you treasured as a kid that felt “untouchable” to you?
- ☐ If someone looked at your calendar or bank statement, what might they say is most important in your life?

## EXPLORE

These passages trace God’s desire for exclusive relationship with His people — beginning in the covenant at Sinai, echoed in the prophets, and carried into Jesus’ call to single-hearted allegiance. They show us that idolatry is not just about statues but about divided loyalties of the heart.

- ☐ Read Exodus 20:1–3, Exodus 6:6–7, Hosea 2:19–20, and Matthew 6:24
  - How do the words in Exodus 6:6–7 deepen your understanding of the first commandment?
  - What does Hosea 2:19–20 reveal about God’s heart toward His people?
  - How does Jesus’ statement in Matthew 6:24 help clarify what “no other gods” means for us?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ☐ Why do you think God reminded Israel of His rescue before giving the commandments?
- ☐ How does seeing the commandments as wedding vows (not just rules) change the way you hear them?
- ☐ What are some common “other lovers” or “other gods” in our culture today?
- ☐ Which of these rivals for God’s place do you personally feel most pulled toward?
- ☐ How does pursuing these “other lovers” leave us enslaved rather than free?
- ☐ What do you learn about God’s heart from comparing the first commandment to the story of Hosea?
- ☐ How can this commandment move from something that feels restrictive to something that feels freeing?

## PRAYER & PRACTICE

Obedience isn’t how you get rescued; it’s how the rescued live. This week, identify one “other lover” in your life (approval, possessions, image, achievement, comfort, etc.). Take one concrete step to put God first over that rival. Share your choice with a trusted friend or group member who can encourage you.

Close in prayer together. Thank God for rescuing you before asking anything of you. Confess the “other lovers” that pull your heart away from Him. Pray for courage to choose God first and live in His freedom this week.

