



THE STORY *continues...*

Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.

Chapter 5: Moses – Out of Egypt

Listen to *The Story*

*Read **Chapter 5** of *The Story* this week.*

Notice in our Old Testament Lesson that God's people's response to His Covenant is: "We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey."

Ponder this week what is your motivation for obedience.

Is it fear-based? Is it obligation? Is it a loving response?
Are you "all in"—"willing to do everything the Lord has said?"
Are you drawing closer to God because of His loving covenant with you?
Why do you not live in God's covenant?
Where do you go when you find yourself outside of it?
Where does God go when you are outside of His covenant?

Learn *The Story*

Look for ways in which God's story and your story connect this week.

God wants you to live in community with Him and each other. His commands, His covenant is yet another way that God reveals who He is and what He is about to the people of world. As you look at the commandments within His covenant as a whole, what does it show you about God?

Pick a commandment. Write it down.

What does God reveal about Himself through this commandment?
Why did He want this one to be in the "top ten?"
How is this commandment a loving act from our God?
How is this part of His covenant a source of encouragement to you?

Love *The Story*

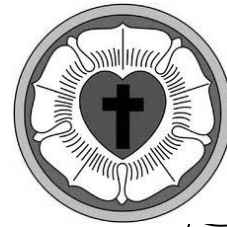
Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

In Luther's explanation of the commandments, we discover that the fulfillment of the commandments is a life of love. Rather than focusing on what you *shouldn't* do this week as God's child, focus on something He would like you *to be*: **loving** (like Him). Commit one act of love this week in your community:

Invite someone over for a meal,
Invite someone to join you for a Starbucks,
Deliver a "festive surprise" for one of your neighbors, teachers, co-workers, or someone who serves you on a regular basis,

Luther's Explanation

After rescuing the Hebrews from Egypt, God now wants to strengthen his relationship with the people. God summons Moses to the top of the mountain where he makes a covenant with the whole nation. We know this covenant as the Law, and more specifically, the Ten Commandments. Martin Luther had much to say about this covenant. For him, the Law had two functions (or, as theologians would say, two "uses"): The purpose of the first function of the Law is to keep order in society (it's often called the "civil" use of the Law). The second function of the Law is like a mirror or a flashlight—"God shines the law into our lives in order to highlight the embarrassing gap between what God wants and the way we fairly constantly do exactly the opposite." (Talking Crazy, p. 109) In other words, the Law confronts us with our deep need for God's forgiveness and love. A great preparation for Holy Communion is to review the Ten Commandments (found in our ELW hymnal on pp. 1160-1161), and seeing where in our lives we most need God's forgiveness.



PROMISE

*The whole Story points us to God's love for us in Christ.
This week, cling to God's promise for you:*

***"I love spending time with you.
Keep company with Me and learn a life of love."***

The EXTRA Mile

God's gift of grace for a broken covenant is a new one established in Jesus. Watch and listen to Michael Card's Come to the Table on You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKB9bGtr5rw>



Use the web or your hymnal to find some of your other favorite communion hymns and songs. What do our communion songs teach us about walking with God on this journey of faith?