

Study Guide



***ADULT BIBLE STUDY
IN SIMPLIFIED ENGLISH***

EXODUS

FREED TO FOLLOW GOD

Jack & Phyllis Merritt

BAPTISTWAY

Dallas, Texas

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN SIMPLIFIED ENGLISH
Study Guide

Exodus: Freed to Follow God

Copyright © 2004 by BAPTISTWAY PRESS®.
All rights reserved.

Permission is granted for a church to make as many copies of this publication as needed for use within its ministry. Copies of this publication are not to be sold, distributed, or used in any other manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations. For information, contact BAPTISTWAY PRESS, Baptist General Convention of Texas, 333 North Washington, Dallas, TX 75246-1798.

BAPTISTWAY PRESS® is registered in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW LIFE Version, Copyright © 1969, 1976, 1978, 1983, 1986, Christian Literature International, P. O. Box 777, Canby, OR 97013. Used by permission. Identified by "N.L.V."

First edition: May 2004.

BAPTISTWAY Management Team

Executive Director, Baptist General Convention of Texas: Charles Wade
Coordinator, Church Health and Growth Section: H. Lynn Eckeberger
Director, Bible Study/Discipleship Center: Dennis Parrott
Publishing consultant: Ross West, Positive Difference Communications

Language Materials Team

Writers for Exodus
Jack and Phyllis Merritt, Columbus Avenue Baptist Church, Waco, Texas
Editor for Exodus
Cindy Dake, First Baptist Church Arlington, Arlington, Texas

Paul Atkinson, Facilitator for Basic English Team, Church Growth/New Work Consultant, Bible Study/
Discipleship Center, Baptist General Convention of Texas
Patty Lane, Director, Office of Intercultural Initiatives, Baptist General Convention of Texas
Nelda P. Williams, Facilitators Coordinator and Manager, Curriculum Development Office

Exodus: Freed to Follow God

Exodus is a special book for the people of Israel. The name of the book is like the word *exit* which means *to go out*. This book tells how God brought His people out of slavery. He made an agreement that they would be His people. This was the most important thing to happen in all the history of Israel. The book also tells the story of Moses, a great man in the history of the Old Testament. Exodus is important in the Old Testament in the same way that Jesus being raised again is important in the New Testament. Because of these two events, everything else makes sense.

Unit 1—Getting Ready to be Free (Exodus 1-4). We learn why the Hebrews were in Egypt, how they suffered, and about Moses' early life and God's call to him.

Lesson 1: God is Always at Work (Exodus 1:6-10; 1:22-2:15; 2:23-25)

Lesson 2: Excuses (Exodus 3:1-14; 4:1-15)

Unit 2—God's Power to Deliver (Exodus 5-17). Moses returns to Egypt to give God's message to the king (Pharaoh) to "let My people go." God took care of His people then and took care of them later in the wilderness.

Lesson 3: No One has More Power than God (Exodus 7:1-6,14-18; 8:1-3,16,20-21; 9:1-4,8-9,22-26; 10:3-6,21-23,27-29)

Lesson 4: A Night Never to be Forgotten (Exodus 11:1-8; 12:21-32)

Lesson 5: Sing to the Lord (Exodus 14:21 to 15:3,20-21)

Lesson 6: Not Slaves, But Not Free (Exodus 15:23 to 16:7; 17:1-7)

Unit 3—God Teaches His People How to Live (Exodus 19-23). God makes an agreement with His people and gives them the Ten Commandments and other laws.

Lesson 7: God's Great Offer and Demand (Exodus 19:1-12)

Lesson 8: Treat God This Way (Exodus 20:1-11)

Lesson 9: Treat People This Way (Exodus 20:12-17)

Lesson 10: How to Live (Exodus 21:12-27,22-27; 22:21 to 23:11)

Unit 4—Called to Worship Only God (Exodus 25-40). These lessons teach how we are to worship. The people of Israel broke their promise to God. God renewed His agreement with them and told them how to build the worship building. They needed to know that God was present with them. They were not alone.

Lesson 11: Breaking the Agreement; A Second Chance (Exodus 32:7-34)

Lesson 12: Starting Over (Exodus 34:1-28)

Lesson 13: God Lives With Us (Exodus 25:1-8; 29:43-46; 33:7-11,14-16; 40:16-38)

Exodus: Freed to Follow God

Word List

Lesson 1

exodus: to leave or exit

famine: a serious lack of food in a region

Hebrews: the descendents of Abraham

Moses: the man God used to lead His people out of slavery; possibly Hebrew for “take out of the water” or an Egyptian word for “child.”

Pharaoh: a title for the king or ruler of ancient Egypt

slave: someone who is owned by another person

Lesson 2

available: to be willing or available to do a task; to offer ourselves for a task

excuses: to give reasons for why we do something we should not, or why we did not do something we should have done; to try to remove blame.

holy: to be set apart, pure, related to God

Lesson 3

plague: bad disease. God sent 10 plagues on Egypt because Pharaoh would not let the Hebrew people go free. These ten plagues were **signs** that showed God’s power

magician: a person who does tricks or performs what looks like magic

desert: dry, hot place where no people lived

sign: a symbol that represents a meaning

Lesson 4

Passover: the time the Angel of Death passed over the homes of those who believed God and did what He said to do by placing the blood of a lamb over their doors

Lesson 5

saved: to deliver from hard times to safety

timbrel: musical instrument to hold in one hand and hit like a drum with the other hand

Lesson 6

banner: a flag carried into war in front of the army

complain, moan, groan: to say bad things about what you are not happy with; to find fault with

descendants: people who share a common family member in past generations; children, grandchildren, etc., from a common parent

Lesson 7

commandment: rule, law, an order

covenant: a contract or promise between two people; an agreement which both groups intend to honor

holy: set apart, special

Israel: new name for Jacob; later, it became the name of the nation of Hebrews, God’s chosen people; now, Israel is the name of the country

offer: to ask if someone wants something

Word List

Mount Sinai, Mount Horeb, God's Holy

Mountain: place in the Sinai peninsula where Moses met God at the burning bush and where the Hebrews met God

Lesson 8

broken: to break; to stop doing something as promised

Yahweh: the special name for the one true God

idol: false gods, anything we worship that takes the place of God

Sabbath: Day of Rest, 7th Day when God rested after finishing the work of making the world

Lesson 9

honor: to prize and treat as valuable; show respect for, care for

covet: to want what is not yours so much that you wish you had it and the other person did not

Lesson 10

curse: speak a desire to cause the harm of another, calling on unseen powers to injure the person being cursed

foreigner: a person from another country

widow: a woman whose husband has died

orphan: a child children whose parents have died or who belongs to no family

Lesson 11

barrier: something that blocks the way; something that separates the relationship between two people

Lesson 12

compassionate: full of loving-pity

gracious: full of loving-favor

steadfast love: full of loving-kindness; love that lasts

Passover and Unleavened Bread: feast to remember when the people left Egypt and did not have time to let the bread rise

Lesson 13

tabernacle: dwelling place—just as the people were living in tents, so God would live with them in a tent

sanctuary: holy place

Ark of the Covenant: special box kept in the most holy place in the tent; inside the box were the flat stones with the Ten Laws and other things which showed that God was with the people during their time in the Sinai Desert

tent of meeting: ordinary tent outside the camp where Moses met “face to face” with God, with the leaders of the people to pass on God's commands and settle disagreements

Exodus



Adult Bible Study
in Simplified English

Getting Ready to Be Free
(Exodus 1-4)

Lesson 1

God Is Always at Work
(Exodus 1:6-10;
1:22-2:15; 2:23-25)

Lesson 2

Excuses
(Exodus 3:1-14; 4:1-15)

GETTING READY TO BE FREE

Exodus is the second book of the first five books of the Old Testament. It tells of the Hebrews' exodus, or leaving, from Egypt. The people had suffered much as slaves, but God was taking care of them.

Why is the book of Exodus so important? It tells about the two most important events in the history of Israel:

- God brought His people out of slavery in Egypt.
- God gave His laws to His people.

Exodus is the story of how God was active in redeeming His people.

The book of Exodus continues the story of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, found in Genesis. This book is the bridge between Genesis and the rest of the Old Testament's stories of the kings and the early preachers.

Jack and Phyllis Merritt wrote this series of Exodus lessons. They have served as missionaries in New York, New Mexico, Georgia, and Texas. She has been teaching English as a Second Language and Bible studies for Internationals for 32 years. They now serve Baylor University as Missionaries in Residence, working with international students, missionary kids, and Campus Women on Mission. They have two sons, Greg and Travis.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Exodus 1:6-10;
1:22 to 2:15; 2:23-25

Memory Verse

“God saw the people of Israel and He cared for them.” (Exodus 2:25)

Word List

exodus: to leave or exit

famine: a serious lack of food in a region

Hebrews: the descendents of Abraham

Moses: the man God used to lead His people out of slavery; possibly Hebrew for “take out of the water” or an Egyptian word for “child.”

Pharaoh: a title for the king or ruler of ancient Egypt

slave: someone who is owned by another person

God Is Always at Work

Have you ever been doing something when you know for sure God was there helping you do it? How about other times? Was it hard to feel God was even there at all? The **Hebrews** in Egypt might have wondered if God was with them. They were **slaves**. When Moses came, they discovered God had been at work the whole time. He was preparing to deliver His people.

How did the Hebrews get to Egypt in the first place? The answer to this question is found in the story of Joseph. God promised to redeem the world through His people. He first promised this to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3), later to Isaac (Genesis 26:3-4), and then to Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15). These promises would happen in the lives of Jacob’s sons.

Jacob’s favorite son was Joseph. But Joseph was not the favorite brother. His brothers sold him into slavery, and he was taken to Egypt. In an Egyptian prison, people learned Joseph could understand the meaning of dreams. **Pharaoh** asked Joseph to explain his dreams. Joseph explained a **famine** was coming. No food would grow in that time. Joseph told Pharaoh to begin saving food for the people of his country.

When famine came to Jacob’s homeland, there was no food for his family. Jacob’s sons went to Egypt to buy food to bring home. Joseph saw his brothers and forgave them. Then all of Jacob’s family came to live in Egypt with Joseph.

Pharaoh’s fear (Exodus 1:6-8)

Jacob’s family numbered about 70 when they came to live

**Things To
Think About**

1. What is God asking you to do for Him?
2. What are some ways God has prepared you to do His will?
3. Has there been a time that God was working in your life, but you did not see what He was doing until a later time?
4. Where is God in the good times and the hard times of our lives?
5. Has God opened and closed doors for you when you were looking for what He wants you to do? How has God prepared you to do something for Him?

in Egypt. After 430 years, his family numbered more than 600,000. God had fulfilled His promise to Abraham to make his descendants a great nation. Six hundred thousand was the number of men age 20 and above. It did not include women, children, or the tribe of Levi (Numbers 1:44-47). Through the centuries, the Hebrews were Pharaoh's slaves.

A new Pharaoh came to power. He did not remember what Joseph had done to save Egypt from the famine. This new Pharaoh was afraid of the Hebrews because there were so many of them. He was afraid he would lose his power.

Pharaoh's plan (1:11-22)

This new Pharaoh thought he could solve the problem of too many people. He made the Hebrews work even harder as slaves to build great cities to honor him. He thought they would become weak. But this only made the Hebrews strong.

Next, Pharaoh ordered all baby boys should be killed as soon as they were born. This order was not obeyed by the midwives (the women who helped a mother to birth her baby). The Hebrew midwives told Pharaoh that Hebrew women were strong and would birth their babies before the midwife arrived. Finally, Pharaoh ordered all boy babies be thrown in the Nile River.

God helps Moses (2:1-11)

God had a plan to carry out His promises to help the Hebrews. He would use a special leader named **Moses**. Exodus 1 ends with a story of the terrible times of the

Hebrew people.

This new chapter begins by telling how God was getting a new leader ready to help them become free. Moses was a Hebrew child from the tribe of Levi. His mother, Jochebed, refused the order to let him be killed. When he was three months old, she knew she could not hide him any longer. She obeyed Pharaoh by putting her baby boy in the river. But she put him in a *basket* in the river so he would not drown. She put the basket in the water, close to the shore. She sent Miriam to look after him.

Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to take a bath. She found the baby crying and felt sorry for him. Miriam stepped forward and offered to find help. She found Jochebed to take care of him until it was time for Moses to live in Pharaoh's home. Moses learned about his own people from his mother. He would also learn the wisdom of the Egyptians. God was getting him ready to be a leader.

Moses tries to help without God (2:12-15)

We skip over 40 years of Moses' life with these words: "Take this child," (v. 9), "the child grew," (v. 10), and "One day,

after Moses had grown up" (v. 11).

Perhaps Moses did not know how terrible it was for the Hebrews. Then he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew man. Moses killed the Egyptian. Pharaoh was so angry that Moses had to run away to the desert. This too was part of God's plan. He had one more "school" for Moses—this time, in the desert where he spent 40 years.

God still cares (2:23-25)

God's people cried out to God for help. Look at the words used to tell what God did: He heard, He remembered, He saw, He cared. Just when things looked the worst, God was getting ready to help.

What we can learn today

God is still working today. He still uses people to help Him do His work today. When God asks someone to do something for Him, He also gets them ready to do it.

Sometimes God closes doors for us, at other times He opens them. In these and other ways, He gets us ready to do His work. We should be ready to choose to do God's will when He calls.

Exodus 1:6-10; 1:22 to 2:15; 2:23-25

1:6 Joseph and all his brothers died and all their families of that time. **7** But the sons of Israel had many children, and the people became many in number. There were so many that the land was filled with them.

8 Then a new king came into power over Egypt. He did not know Joseph. **9** He said to his people, “See, the people of Israel are too many and too powerful for us. **10** Come, let us be wise in how we act towards them, or they will become more in number. If there is a war, they might join with those who hate us. They might fight against us and then leave the land.”

1:22 The Pharaoh told all his people, “Throw every son who is born to the Hebrews into the Nile. But keep every daughter alive.”

2:1 Now a man of the family of Levi married a daughter of Levi. **2** She was going to have a baby, and she gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. **3** But the time came when she could hide him no longer. So she took a basket made from grass, and covered it with tar and put the child in it. And she set it in the grass by the side of the Nile. **4** His sister stayed to watch and find out what would happen to him.

5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came to wash herself in the Nile. Her young women walked beside the Nile. She saw the basket in the tall grass and sent the woman who served her to get it. **6** She opened it and saw the child. The boy was crying. She had pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” **7** Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Should I go and call a nurse from the Hebrew

women to nurse the child for you?” **8** Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. **9** Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me. And I will pay you.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. **10** The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter. And he became her son. She gave him the name Moses, saying, “Because I took him out of the water.”

11 One day after Moses had grown up, he went out to his brothers and saw how hard they worked. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people, **12** so he looked this way and that way. He did not see anyone, so he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. **13** The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He said to the man who did the wrong, “Why are you hitting your neighbor?” **14** But the man said, Who made you a ruler and a judge among us? Do you plan to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid. He thought, “For sure the thing I have done is known.”

15 When Pharaoh heard what had happened, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses ran away from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. He sat down there by a well.

2:23 Now after a long time, the king of Egypt died. The people of Israel were sad in their spirit because of being servants. They cried for help. And because of their hard work their cry went up to God. **24** God heard their crying and remembered His agreement with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **25** God saw the people of Israel and He cared about them.



Lesson
2
Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Exodus 3:1-14; 4:1-15

Memory Verse

“And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” (Exodus 3:14)

Word List

available: to be willing or available to do a task; to offer ourselves for a task

excuses: to give reasons for why we do something we should not, or why we did not do something we should have done; to try to remove blame.

holy: to be set apart, pure, related to God

Excuses

“Who did that?” When our two sons were children, this was a question we asked often. Neither one wanted to say it was his fault. The answer was always, “I guess the dog did it.” Another question was, “Why didn’t you . . . ?” This time the answer was always different. “I didn’t know how.” “I forgot.” Sometimes we heard, “I’m too little.” These were their **excuses**.

Many people try to give God reasons why they cannot do what He wants. Moses thought he could not do what God wanted. At first, he did not obey God. He did not have enough faith. He kept thinking of excuses. Later, he learned God could use him if he would make himself available.

Moses was born a slave, rescued by his mother, his sister, and Pharaoh’s daughter. He learned about his people from his mother and the wisdom of the Egyptians. He ran away after killing a guard who was hurting a Hebrew man.

We know very little about what happened to Moses during this time. We do know that God kept teaching Moses while he was in the desert. He married Zipporah. He learned to take care of sheep. We know a lot about what happened next.

God’s Call (Exodus 3:1-10)

A flaming torch is never allowed to go out at the Olympic Games. Hundreds of volunteers carry the torch to the stadium, but there is always an extra one in case the first torch goes out. Moses saw something much greater than the Olympic torch.

Moses took his flock of sheep to the west to a place called

Things To
Think About

1. What are some ways God makes His will known to us today?
2. If someone asked you to describe God, what would you say?
3. What are some of the excuses you give for not doing what God wants you to do?
4. What are some of the gifts God has given you so you can do His will?
5. Who has God sent in your life to help you do His will?

“the mountain of God.” Here he first met the One true God at a burning bush. God gave him a calling for his life. This place is known as Mount Sinai or Horeb.

While Moses was taking care of his sheep, he went over to look at a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. When he got there, he heard God speak. Because God was there, it was a **holy** place, a very special place. The One speaking to Moses was the same One Who had spoken to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob many years before. Moses took off his shoes to show he knew this was a special place.

God told Moses that He had seen the suffering and heard the cries of His people. God would save them and take them to a land of milk and honey. Then God said something which surprised Moses. God told Moses that he was the one chosen to go to Pharaoh and lead the people out of Egypt. What did Moses say? He was like we are. He had many excuses. God helped Moses with every excuse.

Moses’ excuses (3:11-14; 4:1-15)

Moses’ first excuse was “Who am I?” He did not think he could do this job. Moses did not understand God. He does not ask us to get the job done by ourselves. He is with us.

Next Moses thought of another excuse. When the people would ask him who sent him to do this job, he wanted to know “What should I say?” Moses said he could not go unless he knew God’s name. To know God’s name was to know God. The Hebrew people had been living in Egypt a long time. Egyptians worshiped many different gods. Moses

wanted to know what to say. God told Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." This name means that God is, always was, and will always be changeless. God is a Person Who has a name. God made everything but He was not made. He knows everything and is with everyone.

Moses had another excuse, "What if they will not believe me?" God gave Moses three signs. First, his stick turned into a snake, then back to a stick. Second, his hand was diseased, then became well. Third, water was turned into blood. These showed that God was giving Moses His power. The people did not need to believe in Moses. They needed to believe in God.

Moses had one more excuse: "I am not a man of words." God answered Moses with a question, "Who made your mouth?" God sent Moses someone who would help him speak. It was his own brother, Aaron. Sometimes when we make excuses, it shows we have no faith in God to do what He says He will do.

God made Moses ready to be a leader. Moses was ready to see Pharaoh and tell him what God said. He was ready to help God's people be free.

What we can learn

Moses' life helps us learn:

- God still shows Himself to those who want to see Him. God makes Himself known to us. With Moses it was a burning bush. With Jacob it was a dream (Gen. 32). God showed Himself to Isaiah in the temple (Isa. 6). God spoke to Paul in a vision (Acts 9). God comes into our lives to show Himself and His plans for our lives.
- God showed Himself in a very unusual way and at an unusual time as Moses was doing ordinary work, taking care of sheep.
- God still calls everyday people to carry out special jobs. God uses people who are not perfect, people like you and me. Moses did not understand God perfectly. He was afraid. Still God used him to go to Pharaoh.
- If we make ourselves **available**, God will use us to do His work. We do not do all things well. We are sometimes afraid. But we can do what God wants because He helps us.

Exodus 3:1-14; 4:1-15

3:1 Now Moses was taking care of the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the religious leader of Midian. He led the flock to the west side of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 There the Angel of the Lord showed Himself to Moses in a burning fire from inside a bush. Moses looked and saw that the bush was burning with fire, but it was not being burned up.

3 So Moses said, "I must step aside and see this great thing, why the bush is not being burned up."

4 The Lord saw him step aside to look. And God called to him from inside the bush, saying, "Moses, Moses!" Moses answered, "Here I am."

5 God said, "Do not come near. Take your shoes off your feet. For the place where you are standing is holy ground."

6 He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face. For he was afraid to look at God.

7 The Lord said, "I have seen the suffering of My people in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of the men who make them work. I know how they suffer.

8 So I have come down to save them from the power of the Egyptians. I will bring them out of that land to a good big land, to a

land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite.

9 Now the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me. I have seen what power the Egyptians use to make it hard for them.

10 Now come, and I will send you to Pharaoh so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and bring the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

12 God said, "But I will be with you. And this will be something special for you to see to know that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this mountain."

13 Then Moses said to God, "See I am going to the people of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they might say to me, 'What is His name?' What should I say to them?"

14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

4:1 Then Moses answered, "What if they will not believe me or listen to me? They might say, 'The Lord has not shown Himself to you.'"

Lesson 2 Scripture passages continued

2 The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” Moses said, “A stick.”

3 Then the Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.” So Moses threw it on the ground, and it became a snake. And Moses ran from it.

4 But the Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand and take it by its tail.” So Moses put out his hand and caught it. And it became a stick in his hand.

5 The Lord said, “By seeing this they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has shown Himself to you.”

6 The Lord said to him, “Put your hand inside your coat.” So Moses put his hand inside his coat. When he took it out, his hand had a bad skin disease and was white as snow.

7 Then God said, “Put your hand inside your coat again.” So Moses put his hand inside his coat again. When he took it out of his coat, he saw that it had become like his other flesh.

8 God said, “If they will not listen to you r believe you when they are shown the first thing, they may believe when this is shown to them.

9 But they might not believe even these two things or listen to what you say. So then take some water from the Nile and pour it

on the dry ground. And the water you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

10 Moses said to the Lord, “Lord, I am not a man of words. I have never been. Even now since You spoke to Your servant, I still am not. For I am slow in talking and it is difficult for me to speak.”

11 Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes a man not able to speak or hear? Who makes one blind or unable to see? Is it not I, the Lord?”

12 So go now. And I will be with your mouth. I will teach you what to say.”

13 But Moses said, “O Lord, I ask of You, send some other person.”

14 Then the anger of the Lord burned against Moses. He said, “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know he can speak well. Also, he is coming to meet you. And when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

15 You must speak to him and put the words in his mouth. I will be with your mouth and his mouth. I will teach you what you are to do.

Exodus



*Adult Bible Study
in Simplified English*

God's Power to Deliver
(Exodus 5-18)

Lesson 3

No One has More Power
than God

(Exodus 7:1-6,14-18;
8:1-3,16,20-21; 9:1-4,8-9,
22-26; 10:3-6,21-23,
27-29)

Lesson 4

A Night Never
to be Forgotten
(Exodus 11:1-8; 12:21-32)

Lesson 5

Sing to the Lord
(Exodus 14:21 to 15:3,
20-21)

Lesson 6

Not Slaves, But Not Free
(Exodus 15:23 to 16:7;
17:1-7)

GOD'S POWER TO DELIVER

This unit begins with Moses' return to Egypt. He meets Pharaoh and tells him the message of God. Pharaoh would not listen. So God sent bad things (plagues) to Egypt so Pharaoh would listen. These plagues showed that God had more power than Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt. The tenth plague was a terrible time. Since that time, thousands of years ago, all of the Hebrew people have remembered it. It is called Passover. When all the first-born children and animals died, Pharaoh said God's people could leave Egypt. The exodus began.

Lesson 3 tells about the first nine plagues.

Lesson 4 is about the final plague.

Lesson 5 tells how God brings His people safely through the sea and how they were happy afterwards.

Lesson 6 explains how the Hebrews began to complain and how God sent them food.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Exodus 7:1-6, 14-18;
8:1-3,16,20-21; 9:1-
4,8-9,22-26; 10:3-
6,21-23,27-29

Memory Verse

“The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” (Exodus 7:5)

Word List

plague: bad disease. God sent 10 plagues on Egypt because Pharaoh would not let the Hebrew people go free. These ten plagues were **signs** that showed God's power

magician: a person who does tricks or performs what looks like magic

desert: dry, hot place where no people lived

sign: a symbol that represents a meaning

No One has More Power than God

Moses was not the one fighting against Pharaoh. The God of Moses was showing how His power was greater than all of Pharaoh's false gods. When God is on our side, we can be strong.

God's plan and Pharaoh's answer (Exodus 7:1-6)

God chose Moses and showed His power in Egypt. God wanted His people to be free. He also wanted the Egyptians to “know that I am the Lord” (Exodus 7:5). Pharaoh's heart was hard. He did not want to do as God wanted. He said that the Hebrew people could not go free. God was getting ready to show His power over all the false gods of Egypt.

God is all-powerful: Nine signs

The Hebrews still remember these signs which showed God's power. The plagues were all things that happened in Egypt. Each plague had three unusual parts: (1) Each time Moses told what would happen before it happened. The plagues also stopped when Moses said so; (2) Each plague was more powerful or worse than anything that had happened before; (3) After the third plague, the Hebrews did not suffer, only the Egyptians.

1. Turning the Nile River into blood (7:14-18)

Every day Pharaoh went to the Nile River to worship the god of the Nile. Egyptians worshiped the Nile as the father of their country. God told Moses to tell Pharaoh to let God's people go so they could worship God in the **desert**. Pharaoh refused. When Aaron hit the water of the Nile with his staff, the river and

Things To
Think About

1. Why do people disobey God and bring sadness to themselves?
2. Name some times when you knew God had called you.
3. What choices did you make that helped you answer that call?
4. What are ways you have made your heart hard and disobeyed God?
5. Have you seen times when God has shown His power over evil?
6. Why do we wait so long to trust God and let Him do what He wants in our lives?
7. What are some false gods that have called you away from giving God first place in your life?

every part of it turned to blood. This first sign was to show God's power. The fish in the Nile died. It had a bad smell and no one could drink the water. The Egyptian **magicians** did something like that to water dug near the Nile. Pharaoh's heart was hard. He would not listen to Moses.

2. Frogs cover the land (8:1-3)

Egyptians thought of frogs as their lady-god who helped women when they were having children. God told Moses to tell Aaron to put his special stick over the rivers and pools. Frogs came out and went everywhere—in houses, on food, and on the people. Egyptians magicians did the same thing, but they had no power to make the frogs go away. Pharaoh said he would free the people if Moses would make the frogs go away. But Pharaoh did not keep his promise.

3. Gnats: Small bugs that bite (8:16-19)

As God said, Moses was to tell Aaron to put the special stick and hit the dust of the earth, and it would bring bugs through all the land of Egypt. The dust of the earth was where food was grown, but this time it would bring bugs to bite them. The magicians could not do this and said, "This is the finger of God" (Exodus 8:19). But Pharaoh would not listen.

4. Flying bugs cover the land (8:20-21)

These flies came in big numbers. They stuck themselves on people's bodies and made them sick. They also put their eggs on plants and destroyed the plants. In this sign, the Hebrews were not bothered by the flies to show that God was protecting them. Pharaoh said he would let the people go

so they could offer sacrifices to God. Once again, he did not keep his promise.

5. The Egyptians' animals die (9:1-4)

God sent another sign. Horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, flocks would die the next day if Pharaoh did not let the people go. All the animals of Egypt died. None of the Hebrews' animals died. Still, Pharaoh did not listen.

6. Sores on Egyptians & animals (9:8-9)

The Lord told Moses to tell Aaron to throw ashes from the stove into the air. The ashes came down like a fine dust and brought bad sores on people and animals. The magicians could not even stand up because of the sores. God had this kind of power. Still Pharaoh would not listen.

7. Large hail and fire (9:22-26)

This sign was the worst hailstorm ever to fall on Egypt. There was also thunder and lightening. Those who did not go inside would die. This time any Egyptians who obeyed would be safe. But Pharaoh did not let the people go.

8. Locusts (10:3-6)

God gave Pharaoh one day to let the people go or locusts would make the land

dark and would eat anything left from the hailstorm. Even Pharaoh's servants begged him to let the people go.

9. Darkness on the land (10:21-23)

God told Moses to put his hand out towards the sky. This would bring a darkness so dark that the people could feel it. The Egyptians could not see each other, and no one left their homes for three days. Yet there was light in the places where the Hebrews lived.

Pharaoh wanted to let only the people go and keep their animals. He tried to make God obey him. These nine signs should have been enough to make Pharaoh learn. The next lesson tells about the last, worst plague—the one which caused Pharaoh to set God's people free.

What we can learn

Christians today can learn that God has all power. We have freedom to obey or not obey. We have the knowledge to know that it is best to obey God. God will work out His will in our lives.

**Exodus 7:1-6,14-18; 8:1-3,16,20-21;
9:1-4,8-9, 22-26; 10:3-6,21-23, 27-29**

7:1 The Lord said to Moses, “See I have made you as God to Pharaoh. Your brother Aaron will be the one who speaks for you.

2 You will speak all that I tell you. Your brother Aaron will tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave his land.

3 But I will make Pharaoh’s heart hard. So I will do many powerful works for the people to see in the land of Egypt.

4 Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay My hand on Egypt. By great acts that will punish the Egyptians, I will bring out My family groups, My people, the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt.

5 The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I put My hand upon Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.”

6 So Moses and Aaron did what the Lord told them to do.

7:14 The Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is not changed. He will not let the people go.

15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning when he is going out to the water. Wait for him beside the Nile River. Take in your hand the special stick that became a snake.

16 And say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, “Let My people go, so they may worship Me in the place where no people live. But see, you have not yet listened.”

17 So the Lord says, “By this you will know

that I am the Lord. I will hit the water of the Nile with the special stick that is in My hand. And the water will be changed to blood.

18 The fish that are in the Nile will die. And the Nile will have a bad smell. The Egyptians will not be able to drink water from the Nile.” ’ ’

8:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘The Lord says this: “Let My people go, so they may worship Me.

2 But if you will not let them go, I will bring trouble to your whole country with frogs.

3 The Nile will be full of frogs. They will come up and go in your house and in your room and on your bed. They will come in the houses of your servants and on your people. They will come in your stoves and in your bread dough.

8:16 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Put out your special stick and hit the dust of the earth. It will become lice through all the land of Egypt.’”

8:20 ...‘The Lord says this: “Let My people go, so they may worship Me.

21 For if you will not let My people go, I will send many flies upon you and upon your servants and upon your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies, and also the ground will be covered with them.

9:1 Then the Lord said “Let My people go, so they may worship Me.

2 For if you will not let them go, and still hold them,

3 the hand of the Lord will come with a very

Lesson 3 Scripture passages continued

bad disease on your animals in the field: on the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the cattle and the flocks.

4 But the Lord will divide the animals of Israel from the animals of Egypt. So nothing will die of all that belongs to the people of Israel.”

9:8 Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Fill your hands with ashes from a stove. Let Moses throw them toward the sky in front of Pharaoh.

9 And it will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt and will become bad sores on man and animal through all the land of Egypt.

9:22 The Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand toward the sky and hail will fall on all the land of Egypt. Hail will fall on man and animal and every plant of the field through all the land of Egypt.”

23 Moses put out his special stick toward the sky. Then the Lord sent thunder and hail. And lightning struck the ground. The Lord poured hail on the land of Egypt.

24 So there was hail and lightning striking through the hail without stopping. It was very bad, worse than had ever been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

25 The hail hit all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and animal. The hail hit every plant of the field and broke down every tree of the field.

26 Only in the land of Goshen where the people of Israel were, there was no hail.

10:3 Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh,

They said to him, “The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says this: ‘How long will you hold your pride before Me? Let My people go, so they may worship Me.

4 If you will not let My people go, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country.

5 They will cover the land, so no one will be able to see the ground. They will eat what is left for you after the hail. They will eat every tree of yours that grows in the field.

6 They will fill your houses, and the houses of your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians. Your fathers and your grandfathers have never seen such a thing from the day they were born until this day.’ ” Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh.

10:21 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand toward the sky. And there will be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness people will feel.”

22 So Moses put out his hand toward the sky. And there was darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days.

23 The Egyptians did not see each other. No one got up from his place for three days. But all the people of Israel had light in their homes.

10:27 But the Lord made Pharaoh’s heart hard. He was not willing to let them go.

28 Pharaoh said to Moses, “Go away from me! Make sure that you do not see my face again! For the day you see my face again, you will die!”

29 Moses said, “You are right. I will never see your face again.”



Lesson
4
*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

Bible Text

Exodus 11:1-8;
12:21-32

Memory Verse

“Then the people of Israel went and did what the Lord had told Moses and Aaron.”
(Exodus 12:28)

Word List

Passover: the time the Angel of Death passed over the homes of those who believed God and did what He said to do by placing the blood of a lamb over their doors

A Night Never to be Forgotten

The baby sister had been sick for a long time. The two big sisters loved her very much. After she died, her sisters wrote her a letter and placed it on a balloon that floated up to the sky. Many weeks later, a package came in the mail. People from another state had found the balloon. They sent a special book to the two sisters. It was the same book the mother read to all three girls. They believed it was a sign from God that He cared for them.

After living so long in Egypt with so many hard times, the Hebrew people hoped for a sign from God. God did not give them a book in the mail. Instead, God sent Moses to free them from being slaves. He sent them on their way to the Promised Land on a night that would never be forgotten.

Moses' bold meeting with Pharaoh (Exodus 11:1-8)

In the last lesson, we studied the nine signs which God sent to show His power over the gods of Egypt. The signs were to make Pharaoh agree to let the Hebrew people go free. Pharaoh would sometimes agree, but then he would change his mind. The Hebrews were not free even after nine plagues. So God sent one more sign. This one was different.

Before Moses met with Pharaoh, he met with God. God told Moses He would send one more sign to Egypt. To prepare for the last sign, Moses told the people to ask their Egyptian neighbors for silver and gold. God had promised Moses at the burning bush that the Egyptians would give them these things.

Moses, the leader of the Hebrews, and Pharaoh, the leader of Egyptians, met one last time. What did Moses say this time?

Things To
Think About

1. Think about the people who had a part in helping you knowing about God.
2. Remember a time when you knew God was close to you. What did you learn about God during that time? What did you learn about yourself?
3. Think about some of the special blessings God has given you. Have you thanked God for them recently?
4. Think about how God wants you to live. Are you doing this each day?
5. Think about the people God has given you in your life who encourage you and help you. Have you thanked them recently?

God told him to tell Pharaoh that this time an angel of death would go across Egypt, leaving behind the death of each first born—both people and animals.

The Hebrews obey God (12:21-28)

God told Moses how He would protect the Hebrews from the death angel. They were to eat a special meal of lamb, bread that did not rise, and bitter herbs (12:8). The lamb's blood was put over the door so the angel would not stop at that house. The death angel would pass over it.

Moses told the Hebrew people to eat this meal every year. They have done this since that night, so they will never forget what happened. The bread that did not rise reminds them of how they had to hurry when they left Egypt and could not wait for the bread to rise. The bitter herbs remind them of how they had suffered in Egypt. The children ask questions and the parents explain the meaning of **Passover**.

What did the Hebrews when Moses told them to get ready?

- They worshiped God (Exodus 12:27). They gave honor to God because they knew that God was going to set them free.
- They obeyed God (Exodus 12:28). Today, as then, some hear God's word. Others even believe it. That is not enough. We must be willing to obey. Read Jeremiah 11:3; Daniel 9:4; John 14:15; I John 2:3 to see what later writers said. The Hebrews showed that they were thankful by obeying God.

Sorrow of the Egyptians (12:29-32)

The Hebrews were prepared for what was going to

happen. The Egyptians were not. Every family was included. The oldest son of each family that did not have blood over the door died as the angel of death went from house to house. The Hebrews had suffered through years and years of slavery (3:7,9). Now the Egyptians would suffer in the night that would never be forgotten (11:6).

Finally, Pharaoh wanted the Hebrews to leave. He told them to go. This time he did not waste any time. It was at midnight that the death angel had gone through the land. Pharaoh got up in the night and decided something had to be done. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron at night to come. It did not matter that earlier he had told Moses he would never see his face again (10:28). Pharaoh told Moses, "Take the flocks, take the people. All of them. Go!" Pharaoh wanted everyone to leave before something worse came to his people.

The most important part of this story is not Pharaoh. It is what God did for His people. That night it was not a defeat of Pharaoh, but a defeat of the gods of Egypt (12:12).

Pharaoh had no power to keep the Hebrews. He had no power to protect his

own people, or even his own son. God had the power. Pharaoh then asked for Moses to pray for good will to come to him (12:32). This was a change for Pharaoh. But it took him too long.

What we can learn

Remembering is important. Each year as God's people ate the Passover meal, children ask certain questions which remind the family about the time when God helped them to leave Egypt. Jesus used this same meal to teach us to remember what he did for us when he died on the cross to save us from our sins (1Cor. 11:24).

We learn that it is important to celebrate. When we remember what God has done for us, we give thanks for all our blessings.

We are reminded of how important it is to obey. Pharaoh did not obey for 9 plagues. He learned a hard lesson. The Hebrews did what God told them (Exo. 12:28,50). When we remember all that God has done for us and when we celebrate His goodness, we will obey God's commands.

Exodus 11:1-8; 12:21-32

11:1 The Lord said to Moses, "I will bring trouble upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt one more time. After that he will let you go. He will not only let you go, but he will make you leave. **2** Tell the people that each man should ask his neighbor for things made of silver and gold." **3** Then the Lord gave the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. And the man Moses was respected in the land of Egypt, in the eyes of Pharaoh's servants and the people.

4 Moses said, "The Lord says this: 'About midnight I will go through Egypt. **5** And all the first-born in the land of Egypt will die, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sits on the throne to the first-born of the servant girl grinding the grain, and even the first-born of the cattle. **6** There will be loud crying in all the land of Egypt, more than has ever been heard before or will ever be heard again. **7** Not even a dog will make a sound against those of Israel, man or animal, so you may know that the Lord divides Egypt from Israel.' **8** All these who are your servants will come to me and bow in front of me. They will say, 'Go away, you and all the people who follow you.' After that I will go." And he went away from Pharaoh very angry.

12:21 Then Moses called for all the leaders of Israel. He said to them, "Go and choose lambs for your families, and kill the Passover lamb. **22** Take a small branch and put it in the blood in the pot. Spread some of the blood on the wood pieces on the top and sides of the door. Then none of you go

outside the door of his house until morning. **23** For the Lord will pass through to kill the Egyptians. But when He sees the blood around your door, the Lord will pass over the door. He will not let the one who destroys come into your houses to kill you. **24** You must remember this as a law for you and your children forever. **25** You must remember this special time when you go to the land that the Lord has promised to give you. **26** When your children ask you, 'What does this special time mean to you?' **27** you will say, 'It is a Passover gift to the Lord. Because He passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt. He killed the Egyptians but saved our homes.'" And the people bowed to the ground and worshiped. **28** Then the people of Israel went and did what the Lord had told Moses and Aaron.

29 At midnight the Lord killed all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on the throne to the first-born of the one who was held in prison, and all the first-born of the cattle. **30** Pharaoh got up in the night, he and his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a loud cry in Egypt. For there was no home where there was not someone dead.

31 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron at night. He said, "Get up and go away from my people, both you and the people of Israel. Go and worship the Lord, as you have said. **32** Take your flocks and your cattle, as you have said, and go. And pray that good will come to me also."



Lesson
5
Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Exodus 14:21 to 15:3,
20-21

Memory Verse

“I will sing to the
Lord, for He is praised
for His greatness.”
(Exodus 15:1)

Word List

saved: to deliver from
hard times to safety

timbrel: musical
instrument to hold in
one hand and hit like a
drum with the other
hand

Sing to the Lord

A mother put her child in bed. She asked, “Have you said your prayers yet?” The child said, “No, I do not need anything tonight.” We need to learn to do more than *ask* God for things when we pray. We need to learn to say thank you. We can rejoice in God’s powerful acts when He helps us in life’s difficulties. God blesses us and we can be thankful for all He does.

The Hebrews were slaves no longer. God had kept His promise. His mighty power had made them free. Pharaoh had told them to leave the land. God had promised to bring His people back to the land given to their father, Abraham. God was showing them the way to go with a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night.

The path God chose for them was not the easiest way. They traveled for some time before they got to the waters of a sea called the Red Sea. They had no boats to get across. Then they heard the sound of the army of the Egyptians behind them. Again, Pharaoh had changed his mind! Six hundred war wagons and thousands of soldiers coming after them.

The Hebrews were very afraid. They had escaped from Egypt, but now the army was close. They had not learned to trust God. They told Moses, “It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die here” (Exo. 14:12).

Moses was not afraid anymore. God had promised victory. Moses had learned to trust God and His mighty power. “Do not be afraid! Be strong, and see how the Lord will save you today... The Lord will fight for you. All you have to do is keep

**Things To
Think About**

1. Who put a song in your heart?
2. Do we need to be joyful in our worship?
3. How can we learn to look for all the ways God blesses us?
4. What keeps you from being thankful?

still” (14:13,14). What God did next was a sign that God would help them. All the Hebrews would remember it in the days and years to come.

God is mighty to save (14:21-31)

God told Moses to tell the people to go forward. God told him, “Lift up your special stick and put out your hand over the sea, and divide it” (14:16). God opened a way through the sea so the Hebrews could get away from the Egyptians. The Hebrews followed Moses with a wall of water on their right side and their left side. God caused a wind to blow all night to keep the water away from their path. They did not even get their feet wet as they traveled across that night. They made it safely across.

Then the cloud, that had been showing the way, moved between the Hebrews and the Egyptian army. The Egyptian war wagons tried to follow the Hebrews but their wheels became stuck. God told Moses to put his hand out again. Then the walls of water fell on the Egyptians. No one survived. God saved the Hebrews in a mighty way.

When the Hebrews saw that God had saved them from the Egyptian army, they learned to trust God and believe Moses. They saw that it was not Moses who saved them. It was not Pharaoh who had given them their freedom. They had not saved themselves. God alone had **saved** them.

God had judged those who were guilty—the Egyptians. They had been given many chances to do the right thing. The Hebrews saw the great power God had used against the

Egyptians. “They believed in the Lord, and in His servant Moses” (14:31).

Moses’ song of victory (15:1-3)

Moses, who earlier was unable to speak well (4:10-16), now sings a song of praise to God. He sings of the wonders of what God did for them. The song is an offering to God. Moses praises God

- *For His greatness* (15:1). All the verses of the song are about God.

- *The One Who gave strength* (15:2). When the Hebrews were at their weakest, God became their strength. They left Egypt with all the riches a winning army would take.

The victory was won without a battle.

- *The One Who inspires Moses to sing* (15:2). The song Moses and the people of God sang was a song of praise.

- *The One Who saves* (15:2). The same word for salvation is *yeshua*, which is like the name Jesus. Jesus is our Savior, our only salvation.

- *The One Who fights for His people* (15:3). God’s acts in protecting the Hebrews and destroying the Egyptian armies have been told for almost 4,000 years.

Miriam’s song of victory (15:19-21)

After Moses sang, Miriam led the women in a song of victory. Miriam is called a woman who spoke for the Lord. The song is much like the opening verse of Moses’ song. Some think the women sang this verse after each part of Moses’ song. Miriam took a **timbrel** and led the women in singing and dancing. All praised God for the mighty way He saved them.

What we can learn

Too many times we do not act as if we have something for which to be thankful. The Thanksgiving holiday comes once a year. Giving thanks to God should come every day. We are told by Paul, “In everything give thanks” (1 Thes. 5:18).

Someone might say, “Oh, I am happy.” But you look at them and think, “He forgot to tell his face that he is happy.” We can be like Moses and Miriam and sing a new song, a song of celebration and joy, a song of thanksgiving for all God does.

We learn that salvation comes from God’s power and not from human works. God protected His people and kept them safe by His power.

Exodus 14:21 to 15:3, 20-21

21 Then Moses put out his hand over the sea. And the Lord moved the sea all night by a strong east wind. So the waters were divided.

22 And the people of Israel went through the sea on dry land. The waters were like a wall to them on their right and on their left.

23 Then the Egyptians followed them. All Pharaoh's horses and war-wagons and horsemen went in the sea after them.

24 In the morning hours, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian army through the fire and cloud. And He made the Egyptian army afraid.

25 He made the wheels of their war-wagons come off, so it was hard for the wagons to be moved. So the Egyptians said, "Let us run away from Israel. For the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians."

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand over the sea. And the waters will flow over the Egyptians, and over their war-wagons and their horsemen."

27 And when the morning came, the Egyptians ran into the wall of water as the sea returned to the way it was before. The Lord destroyed the Egyptians in the sea.

28 The waters returned and covered the war-wagons and the horsemen and Pharaoh's whole army that had gone in the sea after them. Not even one of them was left.

29 But the people of Israel walked on dry land through the sea. The waters were like a wall to them on their right and on their left.

30 So the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians. And Israel saw the Egyptians dead beside the sea.

31 Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians. And the people had fear of the Lord. They believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

15:1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for He is praised for His greatness. He has thrown the horse and horseman into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and song. He is the One Who saves me. He is my God and I will praise Him. He is my father's God and I will honor Him.

3 The Lord is a fighter. The Lord is His name.

15:20 Then Aaron's sister Miriam, the woman who spoke for the Lord, took a timbrel in her hand. And all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing.

21 Miriam said to them, "Sing to the Lord, for He is praised for His greatness. He has thrown the horse and horseman into the sea."



Lesson
6
Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Exodus 15:23 to 16:7;
17:1-7

Memory Verse

“Listen well to the voice of the Lord your God. Do what is right in His eyes. Listen to what He tells you, and obey all His laws.”
(Exodus 15:26)

Word List

banner: a flag carried into war in front of the army
complain, moan, groan: to say bad things about what you are not happy with; to find fault with
descendants: people who share a common family member in past generations; children, grandchildren, etc., from a common parent

Not Slaves, But Not Free

The Hebrews were now free. No more Egyptian masters would tell them what to do. The Hebrews left behind a defeated Egyptian army. God's people could sing a song of victory. They were on their way to the Promised Land.

So what did they do? Instead of reaching out towards the things which were ahead, they began to wish for what they had left behind. They did not trust God. The Hebrews **complained** all the way on the journey from Egypt to Sinai. God showed that He would take care of His people. It took one night to get out of Egypt. It would take 40 years to become ready to be a nation.

Changing bitter water into sweet (Exodus 15:22-26)

The Hebrews traveled east from Egypt to the desert for three days. They came to Marah (“bitter”), where the water tasted bitter. They were thirsty and began to complain. They did not like what Moses was doing, They did not have faith in God. Moses did what the people should have done. He asked God for help. God used Moses to change the water. Moses threw a certain tree into the water, and it became sweet. The people could drink it.

God told them if they obeyed Him, they would have none of Egypt's diseases. The Lord would be their healer. Later, God gave them rules for keeping healthy. If they obeyed God, they would be blessed. If they disobeyed, they would be judged.

Bread from heaven (15:27 to 16:7)

The Hebrews began to move to the south until they came

Things To
Think About

1. Do you think of yourself and what you want more than you think of others?
2. Are you not thankful when you should be?
3. Think of a time when God showed that He could meet your needs.
4. Can you think of someone in your church who has shown that they have strong faith during hard times?
5. What are some of the things for which you are thankful?
6. During class, talk about what is meant by “seeing the glass as half empty or half full.” Think about which describes you.

to Elim. It had 12 water wells and 70 trees. Each tribe could have its own well. It was not far from the bitter water at Marah to the good things at Elim. Elim was a comfortable place, but this was not where the Hebrews would stay. They had to move on.

They had been gone from Egypt for about one month and were running out of food. They were hungry. They started thinking about the past. As they thought about it, they remembered it as being better than it was. They had **moaned** and **groaned** in Egypt. Now they were moaning and groaning on the way to the Promised Land. The problem was not a lack of trust in Moses, but a lack of trust in God.

The people continued to have doubts about God. Moses explained they would know in the evening that the Lord had brought them out of Egypt. In the morning, they would see the glory of God—the greatness of God.

God promised enough food for the people. That very evening, a flock of birds landed in the middle of their camp. The people were able to have meat. The next morning, they looked on the ground and found bread. They called it *man hu*, which means “What is it?” So the bread was called “manna.” This bread was their food for the next 40 years (16:35). God met their needs. He also wanted to teach them.

God wanted to see if the people would obey Him. He told them to take only enough manna for one day at a time. They did not obey. They took more than they needed, and it became bad. God wanted to show them His greatness. But they would need more lessons before they would understand.

Water from the rock (17:1-7)

The Hebrews spent some time walking around in the desert of the Sinai Peninsula. Instead of only complaining, the people now argued with Moses because they were thirsty. The people complained against Moses and God. They did not think God could take care of them.

Moses became afraid that the people would throw stones at him and kill him. He asked why they were putting God on trial. God told Moses to take some leaders and his special stick. Go to the rock at Horeb and hit it with the stick. Water came out—enough for the people and their animals. Moses named the place “Massah” (test) and “Meribah” (argue).

Victory in battle (17:8-16)

For the first time, the Hebrew people met a desert tribe called the Amalekites, **descendants** of Esau, Jacob's brother. The Amalekites fought with the Hebrews.

During battle, Moses went to the hill and held up his hands with the special stick to show that God was blessing the Hebrews. When Moses was tired and put his arms down, the Amelikites began to

win. Aaron and Hur helped Moses hold up his arms. Joshua and the Hebrew generals won the war because God was with them.

God told Moses to write all these things down in a book. He built an altar there so they would remember what God had done. He called it “The Lord is My **Banner**” (17:15). God had led them to victory and he would continue to lead them.

What we can learn

What happened to the Hebrews can teach us lessons about ourselves.

- We long for “the good old days,” which may not have been all that good.
- We often think about bad things that might happen instead of the good things God can do for us.
- Instead of being thankful for what we have, we complain about what we do not have. God tells us He will give us what we *need*, and He will give it to us at the right time. God's time is not the same as ours. We often ask God to do something that we *want*, and we want it right now.
- We should remember that hard times will not always last long. God takes care of us in the same way He took care of the Hebrews.

Exodus 15:23 to 16:7; 17:1-7

15:23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter. So it was given the name Marah.

24 The people complained to Moses, saying, "What can we drink?"

25 Moses cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

There the Lord made a law for them and tested them. **26** He said, "Listen well to the voice of the Lord your God. Do what is right in His eyes. Listen to what He tells you, and obey all His Laws. If you do this, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord Who heals you."

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy trees. They set up their tents there beside the water.

16:1 All the people of Israel left Elim, and came to the Desert of Sin, between Elim and Sinai. It was the fifteenth day of the second month after they left the land of Egypt. **2** And all the people of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the place where no people live, **3** saying, "We should have died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate all the bread we wanted. For you have brought us out into this desert to kill all of us with hunger."

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I will rain bread from heaven for you. The people will go out and gather a day's share every day, so I may test them to see if they

will follow My Law or not. **5** On the sixth day they are to bring in twice as much as they gather each day." **6** So Moses and Aaron said to the people of Israel, "This evening you will know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt. **7** And in the morning you will see the greatness of the Lord. For He hears your complaining against the Lord. What are we, that you complain against us?"

17:1 ...They set up their tents at Rephidim. But there was no water for the people to drink. **2** So the people argued with Moses, saying, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you argue with me? Why do you test the Lord?" **3** But the people were thirsty there for water. They complained against Moses, saying, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and animals with thirst?" **4** So Moses called to the Lord, saying, "What should I do with these people? They are almost ready to throw stones at me." **5** The Lord said to Moses, "Pass in front of the people and take some of the leaders of Israel with you. Take the special stick in your hand with which you hit the Nile, and go. **6** See, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb. When you hit the rock, water will come out of it and the people will drink." And Moses did so, with the leaders of Israel watching. **7** He called the name of the place Massah and Meribah because of the arguing of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Exodus



*Adult Bible Study
in Simplified English*

God Teaches His People
How to Live
(Exodus 19-23)

Lesson 7

God's Great Offer
and Demand
(Exodus 19:1-12)

Lesson 8

Treat God This Way
(Exodus 20:1-11)

Lesson 9

Treat People This Way
(Exodus 20:12-17)

Lesson 10

How to Live
(Exodus 21:12-27, 22-27;
22:21 to 23:11)

GOD TEACHES HIS PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE

This unit tells about some of the most important words in the Old Testament. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, he taught the people how God wanted them to live. We call these laws the Ten Great Laws or Ten Commandments. These laws are still used in the United States and many countries around the world.

Unit 3's lessons give important, practical laws for living with our neighbors. They tell us how to treat foreigners, teach us not to steal, not to hurt people or animals, and explain the right way to treat the poor and those whose husbands have died. It is right to respect what other people own. It is good for children to respect their parents. These laws are clear and help all people live together.

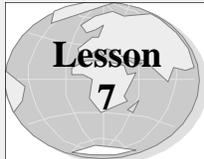
The chapters in this unit are the center of the book of Exodus. What the Hebrew people learned in these chapters is a central part of their journey to the Promised Land.

Lesson 7 tells how God made an agreement with His people.

Lesson 8 explains the first four laws.

Lesson 9 teaches about the fifth through tenth laws.

Lesson 10 is about other laws God gave the people so they could live in agreement with Him.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Exodus 19:1-12

Memory Verse

“We will do all that
the Lord has said!”
(Exodus 19:8)

Word List

commandment: rule,
law, an order

covenant: a contract
or promise between
two people; an
agreement which both
groups intend to honor

holy: set apart, special
Israel: new name for
Jacob; later, it became
the name of the nation
of Hebrews, God's
chosen people; now,
Israel is the name of
the country

offer: to ask if
someone wants
something

**Mount Sinai, Mount
Horeb, God's Holy
Mountain:** place in
the Sinai peninsula

God's Great Offer and Demand

Has someone ever called you with a great **offer**? Perhaps it was a new credit card or a chance to win a trip to a beautiful island. They wanted you to buy a magazine and you might win a million dollars. These offers sound too good to be true. And they are. But God had an offer that was both great and true.

Think about all that had happened to the Hebrews. It was only the third month since they had left Egypt. With God's help, Moses led the people out of Egypt and away from slavery to the very mountain where he first met God at the burning bush. It was then that God promised Moses that the people would one day worship together on this mountain (Exo. 3:1,12).

The people were gathered. Something wonderful was about to happen, something more wonderful than anything God had done before. We do not know where this mountain is today. It is called different names: the **Mountain of God, Mount Horeb, or Mount Sinai**. Perhaps some people would want to worship the mountain. God knows it is more important to obey His laws. God is greater than mountains, temples, or holy lands. What is important is we know what God said there. We know about His offer to be their God if they would obey Him.

Moses learns God's Word for His people (Exodus 19:1-6)

The Hebrew people set up their tents in a desert wilderness (a place with no people). As Moses went up the mountain, God called him. This is the first of at least seven times Moses “went

where Moses met God at the burning bush and where the Hebrews met God

Things To Think About

1. Have you ever thought what it would be like to meet God?
2. What would you do if you knew you would meet God here on earth?
3. Do you think of yourself as a *priest* of God?
4. Do you think of yourself as God's special treasure?
5. How well do you keep your part of God's agreement with you? Should you change anything about the way you live?

up to God.” Moses had learned how important it was when he talked with God. God had a message for His people. God spoke of them as “the house of Jacob,” and “the people of **Israel**.” The agreement of Exodus 19 was built on the agreement which God had made earlier with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now He would make it with this new nation.

God reminded Moses of all He had done for them. In one sentence (19:4), God told of giving His people freedom and safety on their journey. God had freed the people from Pharaoh. He had shown His power and might. God had led them and fed them. He had given them water and shown them the way to go. God said He had carried the nation on eagles' wings. He had not pushed them out of the nest. He had cared for them as the mother eagle cares for the baby bird.

God had not only given them their freedom; He was giving them a **covenant** and a promise to be their God if they would obey Him. God said these people, this nation, would belong to Him. They would be His own.

God made an agreement with His people. There was an important word in the agreement—*if*. God said, “If you will obey, you will belong to Me.” God had chosen Israel out of all the nations. He would bless them if they would obey Him. Not only had He chosen them to be special, He had chosen them to be a nation of religious leaders, a holy people. God wanted to bring all people to Him, and He would use Israel to do this. They were to show others what it was like to live as people who obeyed God's laws. They were to show others what God was like.

The people's answer (19:7-8)

Moses went to tell the people what God said to him. Moses explained to the leaders about the covenant which God wanted to make. They had not done very well with obedience. They had taken more manna than needed. They had complained and not trusted God many times.

But this time all the people gave one answer: "We will do all that the Lord has said!" (19:8). They did not yet have the **Ten Commandments**, but they knew they should obey God. Moses returned to tell God what the people had said.

Getting ready to meet God (19:9-12)

Moses then led the people out of the camp to the foot of the mountain. God wanted the people to know that Moses was bringing His message to the people. Moses was not speaking his own words and thoughts, but telling them what God had told him about getting ready.

God would speak to Moses from a thick cloud. The people had traveled to Sinai with the cloud leading the way. The people would hear the very voice of God, but they would not see Him with their eyes.

The people needed to learn how to respect God. He would come in a thick cloud. They would both see and hear.

Meeting God would be a serious thing. The people must prepare for three days. They had to wash their clothes as a picture of making themselves clean on the inside. They could not go near the mountain or touch it. Only Moses was allowed to go up the mountain. God wanted to show them how important this moment was.

What we can learn

We should be careful how we come before God in worship. He is **holy** and like no other. God wanted to stress that when the people came to worship Him, it was a holy moment. The mountain could not be touched. It burned with flame and smoke.

The God Who freed the people is the God Who frees us from sin. We can now enter the throne room of God to speak with the Creator of our whole world. God welcomes us because our sins are taken away by what Christ did for us on the cross and by His resurrection.

Exodus 19:1-12

1 In the third month after the people of Israel left Egypt, they came to the Sinai Desert on the same day.

2 They had left Rephidim and had come to the Sinai Desert. There Israel set up their tents in front of the mountain.

3 And Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Say this to the house of Jacob and tell the people of Israel:

4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

5 Now then, if you will obey My voice and keep My agreement, you will belong to Me from among all nations. For all the earth is Mine.

6 You will be to Me a nation of religious leaders, a holy nation.' These are the words you will speak to the people of Israel."

7 So Moses came and called the leaders of the people. He told them all these words which the Lord had told him.

8 And all the people answered together and said, "We will do all that the Lord has said!" Then Moses went to tell the Lord

what the people had said.

9 The Lord said to Moses, "See, I will come to you in a thick cloud. So the people may hear when I speak with you, and may believe you forever." Then Moses told the Lord what the people had said.

10 The Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people. Today and tomorrow set them apart to be holy. Have them wash their clothes.

11 And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day people will see the Lord come down on Mount Sinai.

12 Let the people know the places all around that they must not pass. Tell them, 'Be careful that you do not go up on the mountain or touch any place around it. Whoever touches the mountain will be put to death.'



*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

Bible Text

Exodus 20:1-11

Memory Verse

“I am the Lord your God.” (Exodus 20:2)

Word List

broken: to break; to stop doing something as promised

Yahweh: the special name for the one true God

idol: false gods, anything we worship that takes the place of God

Sabbath: Day of Rest; seventh day when God rested after finishing the work of making the world

Treat God This Way

A young man was leaving for college. His father gave him this advice: “Try to keep the Ten Commandments. I have found I am happiest when I have kept them and unhappiest when I have **broken** them.”

Fire on the Mountain (Exodus 19)

God had chosen Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. They were no longer slaves. They were on their way to a new place to live—the land of Canaan, the land of milk and honey.

They complained most of the journey. They stopped at a mountain so God could talk to His people. Moses had talked to God and came down to tell the people that God Himself would speak to the people. This would be a time they would never forget. They began to get ready to meet with God.

On the third day, early in the morning, there was lightning and thunder. A dark cloud covered the mountain. The people in their tents shook with fear as they heard a very loud horn. Moses took the people to meet God.

The mountain was in smoke as the Lord came upon it in a fire. The whole mountain shook. The sound of the horn grew louder and louder. Moses spoke and God answered with thunder.

The people would remember what happened. God had shaken a mountain. He had made a path through the water when they left Egypt. He made lightning, and He sounded like thunder.

The gods in Egypt were made of stone and could be carried around. This God moved the ground they walked on. God

**Things To
Think About**

1. How well are you doing in keeping the first four commandments?

2. What are some ways in which people today are worshiping other gods or worshiping **idols**?

3. What do you believe are the right ways to use God's name?

Do you know people who use God's name in the wrong way?

Do you do that?

4. Why do most Christians choose Sunday as the day to use worship?

5. Do you think of yourself and what you want more than you think of others?

had rescued them. He had freed them. He had led them with the pillars of cloud and fire.

Now He had come to them. Moses went up the mountain, and the people stayed at the bottom. They were to receive the laws so they could live as a new nation.

Worship only God (20:1-2)

God spoke to the people. The people knew Who it was. They never doubted that He was there with them. They never doubted that the laws came from the God Who saved them and brought them to the mountain.

God used His special name "**Yahweh**." He said, "I am the Lord your God." He reminded them that He was the One Who brought them out of Egypt. God wanted them to obey because of His love for them, rather than fear.

1. No other gods (20:3)

The people were not to allow anyone or anything to come between themselves and God. He is not to be second or third or fourth. He is to be first. And God was not just to be *first*. He was to be the *only*. This is a law for each person to keep. Many gods had been worshiped by the Egyptians. There could be no other gods for the people of God.

2. No idols (20:4-6)

The first law is about Whom we worship. The second law is about *how* we worship. God says we must not make any item or thing that serves as a symbol for God. God is

spirit. God is the Creator. He made us. We are not to make an **idol**. God told them:

- Do not make an image that takes the place of God.
- Do not worship a god that looks like anything in heaven above or the earth below or in the waters under the earth.
- Do not work for other gods.

God is a jealous God. God wants to protect His relationship with us. Nothing can come between us and the One true God. If we remain faithful to God, He will show loving-kindness to thousands who love Him and keep His laws.

3. No swearing (20:7)

We are to use God's name in the right way. If we love God with all our heart, what comes out of our mouths will be praise and worship. For the people, a person's name represented all a person was. To use God's name lightly or without thought was to use the power and nature of God in a wrong way. Today, some people say, "Oh, God!" when they are surprised. They are not praying. They are using God's name in an empty way. Respect God by using His name carefully.

4. Worship God regularly (20:8-11)

The first time the word **Sabbath** was used was Exodus 16:23. When the people gathered manna to eat, they were told to collect an extra amount the day to use on the Sabbath (or seventh day). The Sabbath was to be a holy day, a day of rest.

God said to "remember the Day of Rest." To remember this day meant it was a special day. They were not to work, so they would know that it was special. God rested on the seventh day after He completed His work of making the world. God gave honor to the Day of Rest and made it holy or different from all other days. This is one of two positive laws.

What we can learn

The first four laws talk about our relationship with God and being faithful to Him. When we do not worship God in the way we should, we dishonor Him. We are God's children. God wants us to put Him first in our lives. God showed His love for us by giving us rules to live by. We show that we love Him when we obey those rules.

Exodus 20:1-11

1 Then God spoke all these words, saying,
2 “I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house where you were servants.
3 “Have no gods other than Me.
4 “Do not make for yourselves a god to look like anything that is in heaven above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth.
5 “Do not worship them or work for them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God. I punish the children, even the great-grandchildren, for the sins of their fathers who hate Me.
6 But I show loving-kindness to thousands of those who love Me and keep My Laws.
7 “Do not use the name of the Lord your God in a false way. For the Lord will punish the one who uses His name in a false way.
8 “Remember the Day of Rest, to keep it holy.
9 Six days you will do all your work.
10 But the seventh day is a Day of Rest to the Lord your God. You, your son, your daughter, your male servant, your female servant, your cattle, or the traveler who

stays with you, must not do any work on this day.

11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea and all that is in them. And He rested on the seventh day. So the Lord gave honor to the Day of Rest and made it holy.”



*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

Bible Text

Exodus 20:12-17

Memory Verse

“You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (Matthew 22:39)

Word List

honor: to prize and treat as valuable; show respect for, care for

covet: to want what is not yours so much that you wish you had it and the other person did not

Treat People This Way

When Jesus was asked which was the greatest of all the laws, this was His answer, “The greatest Law is . . .The Lord your God is one Lord! You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ...The second Law is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself’” (Mark 12:29-31).

Jesus combined all Ten Laws into these two. “Love the Lord your God” is about laws 1-4. These four laws are about how we are to relate to God. We are to worship God only.

If we have a right relationship with God, we can have a right relationship with others. Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” This covers laws 5-10. We will honor the other person’s body, rights, and possessions.

We live in a world where it seems that everyone wants to have their own way. God made man and woman and said that what He made was good. Our lives are a gift from God. How we treat others is important to God.

5. Honor parents (Exodus 20:12)

This law comes right after the laws about God. The first law: “Have no gods other than Me” (20:3) leads to the other teachings about God. Now, this law: “**Honor** your father and mother” leads to the laws about how to treat other people. If we learn the right way in our families, it is easier to treat other people right.

God gives life (Genesis 1:26). Mothers and fathers give

Things To
Think About

1. Are your parents living? If they are, how do you show them *honor*?
2. What does the sixth commandment say about war?
3. Are sex sins a serious problem in this country?
4. Can you think of some of the different ways that people steal from each other?
5. Do you feel that lying is a serious sin? Do you live as if it were a serious sin?
6. What happens when people covet?

life to their children. Children learn to love because their parents loved them. They learn to honor their parents. In Bible times, people worshiped God together as families.

The key word in this law is the word “honor.” Read the definition again in the Word List. Honor for parents is a godly act. Parents are supposed to be teachers and show their children how to live. Parents should show what God is like to their children. Note that children are to honor both parents.

This is the first law with a promise. Respect for parents meant that the people would have a long-lasting stay in the Promised Land. A long life on earth is promised. This is the second positive law.

6. Respect life (20:13)

Life is a gift from God. We are made in the image of God. We are to respect God’s gift of life. Many people want to know what it means for God to say, “Do not kill.” There are many ways to kill: accident, war, abortion, suicide, murder, self-defense, punishing criminals.

Taking someone’s life for any reason is serious. The law, “Do not kill,” tells any person that they may not take the life of another person. We are not to “take the law into our own hands.”

God’s laws to Moses set up a way for one who killed another to have a fair trial. There were cities these people could go to be safe and wait for their trial. There must be two witnesses to say they have seen the crime. (It was better to have three witnesses.) Life is important. God gave us our

lives and we are to treat other lives with respect.

7. Respect marriage (20:14)

God intended for the family to stay together. He made Eve for Adam. His plan was that there would be one man for one woman for life. When one is not faithful to marriage, it hurts everyone.

Sex sins are a sin against God and the person one is married to. Love, respect, and trust are difficult when there are sex sins. Jesus said we are to watch our thoughts as well as our actions: “You have heard that it was said long ago, ‘You must not do sex sins.’ But I tell you, anyone who even looks at a woman with a sinful desire of wanting her has already sinned in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28).

8. Respect property (20:15)

This seems simple to understand.

Taking what does not belong to you is a sin against your neighbor and against God. We are not to steal. We can understand that we should not take someone’s money or property. But what about not paying someone back when we borrow from them,

or buying on credit? What about taking someone’s time? Or what about a business that puts bad things in the air and steals the good health of those who live near by?

Perhaps more importantly, do we steal the opportunity for someone to become a Christian when we do not tell them about salvation? We might never take something that does not belong to us, but we should think about this law.

9. Respect truth (20:16)

To be able to speak is a gift from God. We are made in God’s image. We are able to speak with Him and with each other. God is clear that we are always to tell the truth. Yet lying may be one of the most common sins. Proverbs 6:16-17 says that God “hates” a lying tongue. Revelation 21:8 even puts those who tell lies with those who will be put into the lake of fire and sulphur.

Some have said that to tell a lie is worse than making false money. You can find the money and destroy it. Once a lie is told, you can never bring it back.

We must take this law seriously also. We are commanded to tell the truth about

our neighbor. Most of us have been guilty of telling someone what we have heard from someone else about a person. Ask yourself these questions: Did you see it with your own eyes? Did you hear it with your own ears? This law is important for court cases. But it is also necessary to tell the truth in all areas of life.

**10. Do not desire
what is not yours (20:17)**

This last law goes from actions to how we think and feel. Wanting what is not ours leads to many other sins. Another way to say this is, “Do not **covet**.”

Some people want something so badly that they owe money to their credit card company. A person who covets will never have enough. Life is more than what we (or other people) own. Wanting things can keep us from doing God’s will.

Coveting can lead to stealing, sex sins, sometimes murder. Jesus said that life is more than clothing, and fine things (Matthew 6:19-21,25-33). What is your treasure? Our treasure should be a life that we have lived the way God wants.

What we can learn

These are the Ten Laws. God gave them to us out of love. They are to help us in every part of the way we live. We are all measured by them and find we need God’s help to live up to His standards.

Exodus 20:12-17

12 “Honor your father and your mother, so your life may be long in the land the Lord your God gives you.

13 “Do not kill other people.

14 “Do not do sex sins.

15 “Do not steal.

16 “Do not tell a lie about your neighbor.

17 “Do not have a desire for your neighbor’s house. Do not have a desire for his wife or his male servant, his female servant, or his bull or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”



*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

Bible Text

Exodus 21:12-17,
22-27; 22:21 to 23:11

Memory Verse

“Do not keep from doing what is right and fair in trying to help a poor brother when he has a problem.” (Exodus 23:6)

Word List

curse: speak a desire to cause the harm of another, calling on unseen powers to injure the person being cursed

foreigner: a person from another country

widow: a woman whose husband has died

orphan: a child children whose parents have died or who belongs to no family

How to Live

God gave the Ten Commandments to show how He expected His people to live. At Mount Horeb, the people knew God was speaking, and they were afraid. Moses told them, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so you may have enough fear of Him to keep you from sinning” (Exo. 20:20).

Many of us can name most of the Ten Laws. But how do we make sure we do what the laws say? Faith in God means we want to obey what He says. God explained more about how to worship Him. He gave more lessons about how to treat others.

These chapters from Exodus are called “the book of the covenant.” There are two different kinds of lessons in the book of the covenant. They help us understand that God cares about everything we do. One kind of teaching begins with “If.” They tell what will happen, either a blessing or a punishment “if” a person acts in a certain way. Another kind of teaching is written the way the Ten Laws are written: “Do” or “Do not.”

Laws about killing and fighting (Exodus 21:12-17)

These verses tell more about the sixth law. Murder is a sin. Yet God knew some deaths were not planned. Someone might have killed another person without meaning to. The family of the dead man might try to kill the killer and his family. God gave a fair teaching. If a person planned to kill another person, punish him by death. If he did not plan it, he could go to a safe place. A decision would be made whether he was guilty or not.

We are warned not to hit our fathers or mothers. When children grow up and are stronger than their parents, they must

Things To
Think About

1. How do you treat people who do not treat you well?
2. How have you helped someone who had little money?
3. Do you live your life to honor God?

never use their new strength against their parents. Parents deserve respect and honor at every age. We are not to **curse** or say bad words about our parents.

God said a man must not steal a man and sell him. God does not want powerful people to hurt the less powerful.

Limits on punishment (21:22-27)

When God gave these laws, He limited how much punishment could be given. Other groups punished very heavily. God said only an “eye for eye, tooth for tooth” could be taken. The punishment had to fit the crime. Masters could not abuse their servants. Servants were to be treated fairly.

Take care of the poor (22:21-27)

God is concerned with how we treat others. Many poor people have no one else to look after them. God is their special protector. The first teaching has to do with **foreigners, widows, and orphans** (22:21-24, 23:9). We are not to treat badly those who are different from us. The Hebrews knew what it was like to be in a country that was not their own. God said we must treat others with respect.

Widows and orphans were often forgotten. But God did not forget. God promised to hear their cry and help, just as He did when the Hebrews in Egypt cried out to God.

God expected the Hebrews to take care of the poor. The one who loaned money was to treat the borrower kindly. A neighbor could not charge interest for the money loaned. The poor borrowed money to meet their needs and not to make an investment. The lender was to return the poor

person's coat each night because it might be his only blanket.

Laws about worship (22:28-31)

The Hebrew was not to curse God or a ruler. They were not to speak words that cause damage or harm. God wanted His people to show their faithfulness to their Lord. They were to return to Him part of what they had been given through worship.

Tell the truth (23:1-3)

God was concerned about honest speech, especially in the court. You could not use the court to be unfair to anyone, even the wealthy. They were to be fair at all times to all people—rich and poor alike.

How to get along (23:4-9)

God's people were to help their enemies because God had helped the Hebrews. They were to treat their enemies better than they themselves might be treated. This is not an easy law. But Jesus said the same thing: "Love those who hate you. ...Pray for those who do bad things to you.... Then you may be the sons of your Father Who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:44-45).

Help the needy & God's world (23:10-11)

Every seven years, the Hebrews were

not to plant their land, so the land could rest. However, the poor could eat what grew on those lands during the year of rest.

What we can learn

Most of us do not grow grapes or farm land that we can let rest every seven years. But God wants us to treat others with respect. Think about these lessons:

- How we treat others shows how we obey God.
- Do all you can to help all people.
- Meet the needs of poor people.
- All parts of our lives are to honor God.

Exodus 21:12-17, 22-27; 22:21 to 23:11

21:12 "Whoever hits a man so that he dies will be put to death. **13** But if he did not plan to hurt him, but God allowed it to happen, then I will give you a place where he may run to be safe. **14** But if a man wants to hurt his neighbor and he plans to kill him, then take him away from My altar and put him to death.

15 "Whoever hits his father or his mother will be put to death.

16 Whoever steals a man and sells him, or keeps him for himself, will be put to death.

17 Whoever curses his father or his mother will be put to death."

21:22 "If men fight with each other and hit a woman who is going to have a child so that she loses her baby but no other hurt comes to her, he must pay whatever the woman's

husband says he must, as agreed upon by the judges. **23** But if there is other hurt also, then it is life for life, **24** eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, **25** burn for burn, cut for cut, sore for sore.

26 “If a man hits the eye of his male or female servant and destroys it, he will let the person go free because of the eye. **27** If he knocks out a tooth of his man or woman servant, he will let the person go free because of the tooth.”

22:21 Do not do wrong to a stranger and make it hard for him. For you were strangers in the land of Egypt. **22** Do not bring trouble to any woman whose husband has died or any child whose parents have died. **23** If you bring them trouble, and they cry out to Me, for sure I will hear their cry. **24** My anger will burn and I will kill you with the sword. Then your wives will lose their husbands. And your children will lose their fathers.

25 “If you let any of the poor among My people use your money, do not act toward him like one who is owed money. And do not make him pay you for the use of it. **26** If you ever take your neighbor’s coat to keep while he owes you money, return it to him before the sun goes down. **27** For that is his only covering. It is his clothing for his body. What else will he sleep in? When he cries out to Me, I will hear him. For I have loving-pity.

28 “Do not curse God, or a ruler of your people. **29** Do not wait before giving Me a gift from your gathered grain and the fruit of your fields. You will give to Me the first-born of your sons. **30** You will do the same with your

cattle and your sheep. The first-born will be with its mother seven days. On the eighth day you will give it to Me. **31** You will be holy men to Me. So you will not eat any flesh torn to pieces in the field. You will throw it to the dogs.

23:1 “Do not tell a lie about someone else. Do not join with the sinful to say something that will hurt someone. **2** Do not follow many people in doing wrong. When telling what you know in a trial, do not agree with many people by saying what is not true. **3** And do not show favor to a poor man when he has a problem.

4 “If you meet a bull or donkey that belongs to a man who hates you, be sure to return the animal to him. **5** If you see the donkey of one who hates you falling under its load, do not leave the problem to him. Help him to free the animal. **6** Do not keep from doing what is right and fair in trying to help a poor brother when he has a problem. **7** Do not lie against someone. And do not kill those who are right and good or those who are not guilty. For I will not free the guilty. **8** Do not take pay in secret for wrong-doing. For such pay blinds the one who sees well and destroys the words of a good man. **9** Do not make it hard for a stranger because you know how a stranger feels. You were strangers in the land of Egypt.

10 “You will plant seeds in your land for six years, and gather the grain. **11** But in the seventh year you will let the land rest without planting. So your people who are in need may eat. Whatever they leave, the animals may eat. You are to do the same with your grape-fields and olive trees.

Exodus



*Adult Bible Study
in Simplified English*

Called to Worship
Only God
(Exodus 25-40)

Lesson 11

Breaking the Agreement;
A Second Chance
(Exodus 32:7-34)

Lesson 12

Starting Over
(Exodus 34:1-28)

Lesson 13

God Lives with Us
(Exodus 25:1-8;
29:43-46;
33:7-11,14-16;
40:16-38)

CALLED TO WORSHIP ONLY GOD

This final unit of study covers the last 16 chapters in the book of Exodus. The most important part of these chapters is about worship. God tells about right ways and wrong ways to worship.

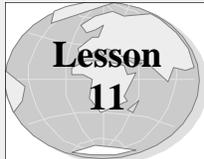
Churches have different ways of using music to worship. Some churches want to change so more people will come to church. Others do not like change. Is there a right way everyone should worship?

Lesson 11 is about what happens when we do not worship only God. The Hebrews were guilty of not keeping their promise to God. They were given another chance because Moses went to God for them.

Lesson 12 explains what happened when the Hebrews received their second chance from God. He renewed His agreement with them. God gave them His plan for worship.

Lesson 13 tells of God's plans for building a tabernacle (meeting tent). We learn what God it to look like, what the leaders would do, and how to worship. God wanted them to be ready for Him to live among them.

As you study these lessons, think how you can do a better job with your private worship and how you can better prepare to meet God when you worship with others.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Exodus 32:7-34

Memory Verse

“They have been quick to turn aside from the way I have told them.” (Exodus 32:8)

Word List

barrier: something that blocks the way; something that separates the relationship between two people

Breaking the Agreement; A Second Chance

Have you ever broken a promise? The Hebrews did. They promised to obey God, the Ten Laws, and the book of the covenant. But they didn't. Moses and Joshua made a trip up the mountain to get God's lessons for the people. Earlier, the people had said with one voice, “We will do all that the Lord has spoken” (Exo.24:7). Moses was gone for over a month.

While Moses was gone, the Hebrews decided they wanted to worship a god they could see. Aaron melted their gold jewelry and made an idol in the shape of a calf. They worshiped this idol by eating, drinking, giving gifts, and sex sins. This kind of worship was very different than the rules God was giving Moses.

God's anger against the Hebrews (Exodus 32:7-10)

The people were not acting like the children of God. Moses was told to go back down the mountain. Something terrible had happened. God no longer spoke of the Hebrews as “My people.” He told Moses, “Your people, whom you brought out of Egypt” (32:7). They said the calf was the god who brought them out of Egypt. To worship another god was to break their promise to worship only the one true God.

They were “quick to turn” from God (v. 8). God said He would destroy these people and start a new nation with Moses.

Moses begs for another chance (32:11-14)

Moses gave three reasons why God should not punish them:

**Things To
Think About**

1. Do we ever deserve a second chance?
2. Does it make you think about what Jesus later did when you read how Moses asked God to let him take the place of the people?
3. We say that the grace of God is a free gift. Is grace really free or does it cost someone something?

- God had already done much for these people. He had chosen them, shown His great power and freed them from slavery.
- Moses said the Egyptians would say God had brought the people out from the desert only to kill them.
- Moses ended by asking God to remember the promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God had promised the land to them, that they would be a great nation, and their children would become as the stars of the heavens (Gen. 15:5; 26:4).

Because Moses begged for the people, God changed what He said He would do. Moses made a difference. Forgiveness is possible when someone asks God. Later, it was Jesus Who did this for all time: “There is one God. There is one Man standing between God and men. That Man is Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5).

Moses and a sinful nation (32:15-29)

Moses carried down from the mountain two new stone writings of the Law. God Himself had cut the words into the stones. They were very important.

When Moses and Joshua started back to the camp, they heard the sound of the people. Joshua thought it was the sound of war. Moses said it was the sound of singing. Then Moses saw the golden calf. The people were dancing. Now Moses saw for himself what God had told him on the mountain. Moses became so angry that he threw down the stone writings and broke them. The people had broken their agreement with God, so Moses broke the stone tablets.

Moses melted the golden idol and ground it into

powder. He mixed it with water and made the people drink it.

Moses asked his brother Aaron why this “great sin” had happened. Aaron told Moses everything, except for his part in it. He had just thrown the gold into the fire and “out came this calf” (32:24).

Remember what Adam said when he ate the forbidden fruit? “The woman...gave me fruit of the tree” (Gen. 3:12). Eve said, “The snake fooled me” (Gen. 3:13). We all want to blame someone else.

Moses begged God not to destroy the people completely. But he knew they needed to be punished. He invited those who had not worshiped the idol to join him and God. Members of Levi’s tribe said they were loyal to God. They killed 3,000 people who had not been sorry for their sins. This was serious punishment for serious sin.

God’s plan for a second chance (32:30-34)

Moses said to the people, “You have sinned” (32:30). Then he went back up the mountain to see if he could plead with God to forgive their sins. He asked God to remove the guilt of their sins. He even offered to take their punishment for them.

God said each person was responsible for his own sin and would be punished. God chose not to destroy them. Moses would still lead the people to the Promised Land. God’s angel would lead the nation toward the land.

Sin is serious. It makes a **barrier** between us and God. Only God can take away this barrier. The forgiveness God offers us is made possible by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, Who gave His life for us and takes our sins away.

What we can learn

God honors those who pray for others. Like Moses, Paul said he would choose to be kept from Christ if it would help his people be saved from the punishment of sin (Rom. 9:3). Jesus prayed for His disciples the night before His death (John 17).

We would like to think that sin is not very serious. We might even pray, “Forgive me for what I am about to do.” We must remember how seriously God takes sin. God forgives not because He must, but because He chooses to.

We must not take God’s forgiveness lightly, but we can rejoice that God gives us new chances.

Exodus 32:7-34

32:7 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down. For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have turned to sin.

8 They have been quick to turn aside from the way I have told them. They have melted gold and made a calf for themselves. They have worshiped it, have given gifts to it, and have said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!’”

9 The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and see, they are a strong-willed people.

10 Now let Me alone, so My anger may be against them and I may destroy them. But I will make you into a great nation.”

11 Then Moses begged the Lord his God, saying, “O Lord, why are you very angry against Your people whom You brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and a strong hand?

12 Why should the Egyptians say, ‘He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and destroy them from the earth’? Turn from Your anger and change Your mind about destroying Your people.

13 Remember Abraham, Isaac and Israel, who were your servants. You promised them by Yourself, saying, ‘I will make your children become as many as the stars of the heavens. And I will give all this land I have spoken about to your children. It will be

theirs forever.’”

14 So the Lord changed His mind about the things He said He would do to His people.

15 Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two stone writings of the Law in his hand. The stones were written on both sides, on one side and the other.

16 The stone writings were God’s work. The writing was God’s writing cut into the stones.

17 When Joshua heard the sound of the people as they made noise, he said to Moses, “There is a sound of war at the tents.”

18 But Moses said, “It is not the sound of winning, or the sound of losing. It is the sound of singing I hear.”

19 As soon as Moses came near the tents, he saw the calf and the dancing. Moses became very angry. He threw the stone writings from his hands and broke them at the base of the mountain.

20 And he took the calf they had made and burned it with fire, ground it to dust, spread it over the top of the water, and made the people of Israel drink it.

21 Then Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you to make you bring such great sin upon them?”

22 Aaron said, “Do not let my lord be angry. You know the people yourself and how sinful they are.

Lesson 11 Scripture passages continued

23 They said to me, ‘Make a god for us who will go in front of us. For we do not know what has become of Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt.’

24 And I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them take it off.’ So they gave it to me. I threw it into the fire and out came this calf.”

25 Moses saw that Aaron had let the people go wild and become a shame to those who hated them.

26 So Moses stood in the gate of the place where they had set up their tents and said, “Whoever is for the Lord, come to me!” And all the sons of Levi came together around him.

27 He said to them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Every man put his sword on his thigh. And go from one end of the tents to the other, and each one kill his brother, his friend, and his neighbor.’”

28 So the sons of Levi did as Moses said. About 3,000 men fell that day.

29 Then Moses said, “Today you have set yourselves apart for the Lord. For each man has been against his son and against his brother, so the Lord may bring good to you today.”

30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned. Now I am going up to the Lord. It might be that I can have your

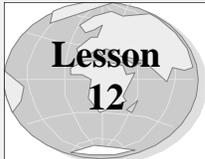
sin forgiven.”

31 Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “O, this people have sinned. They have made a god of gold for themselves.

32 But now, if You will, forgive their sin. If not, then take my name out of Your book which You have written.”

33 The Lord said to Moses, “I will put out of My book whoever has sinned against Me.

34 But go now. Lead the people where I told you. See, My angel will go before you. But in the day when I punish, I will punish them for their sin.”



*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

Bible Text

Exodus 34:1-28

Memory Verse

“ . . .The Lord God,
with loving-pity and
loving-favor, slow to
anger, filled with
loving-kindness and
truth.” (Exodus 34:6)

Word List

compassionate: full
of loving-pity

gracious: full of
loving-favor

steadfast love: full of
loving-kindness; love
that lasts

**Passover and
Unleavened Bread:**
feast to remember
when the people left
Egypt and did not
have time to let the
bread rise

Starting Over

The TV advertisement told viewers to buy a jar of face cream called, “Renewal Cream.” It promised that your face would be renewed—made young again. But the Hebrew people needed to be renewed with something more powerful than “Renewal Cream.” Just a few days after agreeing to be God’s special people, the Hebrews sinned against God by worshiping a golden calf. What would happen to them next? God forgave them. He allowed them to start over and gave them even more teachings about how to obey His laws.

Moses came back to camp forty days after going up the mountain. He had a new set of the Ten Laws. But he looked different: Moses’ skin was shining. He had been with God.

God shows Who He is again (Exodus 34:1-7)

Starting over is never exactly the same as doing something the first time. Israel had broken God’s agreement. Moses had broken the stones with the laws written by God’s own hand. God had forgiven the people because of Moses’ words. God promised to be with them as they continued their trip.

God told Moses to get ready to meet Him. The people should not come up the mountain. Only Moses could come. God would speak to him alone, not to Aaron, the elders, or the people.

Moses cut two pieces of stone like the first ones. God came down in a cloud and met him. This meeting was different: No thunder and lightning; no earthquake. God shared with Moses the information about Himself that no one else had ever known.

**Things To
Think About**

1. What causes people to need to start over with God?
2. Have you ever had an experience with God at a time when you needed Him most?
3. Is there a special time of worship that is meaningful to you?
4. Do you believe you can be forgiven, but you must still live with the consequences of your sin?

Verses 6-7 explain about God and His name:

- ***Compassionate:*** Loving-pity is like the word for where the baby lives before birth. This word is like the kind of love the mother has for her child.
- ***Gracious:*** Loving-favor means God is not forced to love us or act kindly toward us. God gives us His love freely.
- ***Slow to anger:*** The word really means “long-nosed.” When you are angry, you take short breaths. When you are relaxed, you take long, deep breaths. “Short-nosed” means to be impatient. “Long-nosed” means patience and understanding.
- ***Steadfast love:*** Loving-kindness is an agreement to keep on loving thousands of people or for thousands of generations.
- ***Truth:*** This word is often found with loving-kindness. We can always rely on and depend on God.
- ***Forgiving wrong-doing and sin:*** God will lift our guilt from us when we have sinned. He can forgive our sins completely.

The last part of Verse 7 shows another side of God. He is gracious but He cannot let sin go unpunished.

God’s agreement made alive again (34:8-11)

After Moses heard God speak, he put his face to the ground in worship. He had learned from God about His mercy and grace. Moses knew he could ask God to help the people because of His gracious love and favor.

Moses knew that the people were strong-willed, but he asked God to go with them the rest of the journey. Moses asked God to take the people again as “His own.”

God said He would do what Moses asked. He would do powerful works which had never been done on earth. God would bring them to their Promised Land and give it to them as they defeated the people living there. But the Hebrews would have to obey God's commands.

What Israel must do (34:12-28)

God gave special teachings about how the people were to treat Him. He needed to repeat the Ten Laws because the people had worshiped the golden calf.

The most important part of the new teachings was about the right way to worship. The people were not to be like those living in the Promised Land. God knew the Hebrews might be tempted to worship false gods. God is "jealous" that we worship only Him.

Real worship shows joy in what God has done. It helps us see God as the giver of all good things. God said the nation should worship together at three times:

1. *Passover and Unleavened Bread*

(34:23): This feast would remind them each spring of when they left Egypt.

2. *Feast of Weeks* celebrated the beginning

of the wheat harvest. Later known as Pentecost, it was a remembrance of the giving of the law at Mount Sinai.

3. *Feast of Ingathering* helped them remember God's help when they were wandering in the desert and also gathering the fruit of the vine.

In addition to these three worship times, the people were to remember God's blessings each week by resting on one day. When they were blessed with the birth of a child or a new lamb or cow, they were to offer a gift to God. This would help them remember God is the giver of all life.

God told Moses to write down the words He gave. Israel would always have a record of what had happened when they made a new agreement with God.

What we can learn

God is gracious and merciful and forgiving. But He will not allow His people to sin. He will bring judgment on the guilty. When we sin, we need to "start over" just as the Hebrews did. Knowing and keeping God's laws can help us live the way we should. We are free to follow God.

Exodus 34:1-28

1 The Lord said to Moses, “Cut two pieces of stone like the first ones. And I will write on the stones the words that were on the first stones which you broke.

2 So be ready in the morning. Come up in the morning to Mount Sinai. And stand before Me on the top of the mountain.

3 No one is to come up with you. Do not let anyone be seen on the whole mountain. Even the sheep and the cattle may not eat in front of the mountain.”

4 So Moses cut two pieces of stone like the first ones. Then he got up early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord told him. And he took the two pieces of stone in his hand.

5 The Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with Moses as he called upon the name of the Lord.

6 Then the Lord passed by in front of him, saying, “The Lord, the Lord God, with loving-pity and loving-favor, slow to anger, filled with loving-kindness and truth,

7 keeping loving-kindness for thousands, forgiving wrong-doing and sin. But He will not let the guilty go without being punished. He brings the sin of fathers down upon the children, even the great-grandchildren.”

8 Moses was quick to put his face to the ground and worship.

9 And Moses said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in Your eyes, I pray, let the Lord go

with us, even if the people are strong-willed. Forgive our wrong-doing and our sin. And take us for Your own.”

10 Then God said, “See, I am going to make an agreement. I will do powerful works in front of all your people which have never been done on earth among any nation. All the people with whom you live will see the work of the Lord. For what I am going to do with you will fill people with fear.

11 Be sure to do what I am telling you this day. See, I am going to drive out of your way the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

12 Take care to make no agreement with the people of the land where you are going. It would be a trap to you.

13 Instead you are to tear down their altars, break their objects of worship, and cut down their false gods.

14 For you must not worship any other god. For the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

15 So do not make an agreement with the people of the land. Or when they follow their desire with their gods and give gifts to their gods, they would ask you to eat of their gift used in worship.

16 And you would marry your sons to their daughters who follow their gods. And they would lead your sons to follow

Lesson 12 Scripture passages continued

their gods also.

17 Do not make any gods for yourself.

18 “Keep the special supper of bread without yeast. Eat bread without yeast for seven days as I told you, at the time set aside for it in the month of Abib. For you came out of Egypt in the month of Abib.

19 Every first-born belongs to Me, and all your male animals, the first-born from cattle and sheep.

20 But the life of a first-born donkey should be paid for with the blood of a lamb. If you do not pay for its life, you should break its neck. Pay for the life of all your first-born sons with the blood of a lamb. No one is to come before Me without a gift.

21 “Work six days, but rest on the seventh day. Rest even during plowing time and gathering time.

22 Have the special supper of weeks at the first gathering of rain. Have the special supper of gathering time at the end of the year.

23 Three times a year all your males are to come before the Lord God, the God of Israel.

24 For I will drive nations out of your way and give you more land. No man will desire to have your land when you go to show yourselves before the Lord

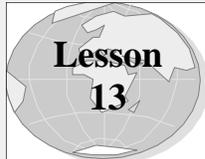
your God.

25 Do not give the blood of My gift together with bread made with yeast. Do not leave any of the gift of the special supper of the Passover until morning.

26 Bring the first of the first-fruits of your ground into the house of the Lord your God. Do not boil the meat of a young goat in its mother’s milk.”

27 The Lord said to Moses, “Write these words. For by these words I have made an agreement with you and with Israel.”

28 Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights. He did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the stones the words of the agreement, the Ten Great Laws.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Exodus 25:1-8;
29:43-46;
33:7-11,14-16;
40:16-38

Memory Verse

“I will live among the people of Israel and will be their God.”
(Exodus 29:45)

Word List

tabernacle: dwelling place—just as the people were living in tents, so God would live with them in a tent

sanctuary: holy place
Ark of the Covenant: special box kept in the most holy place in the tent; inside the box were the flat stones with the Ten Laws and other things which showed that God was with the people during their time in the Sinai Desert

God Lives with Us

God had already taught the people how to *obey* Him. In this lesson we will study how the people were to *worship* Him. God taught Moses how to build a **tabernacle**, a place to worship Him. These teachings take up about half of the Book of Exodus.

God told Moses that He wanted the Israelites to build a tabernacle. God designed the tent and all that was in it to teach the people about Himself. He wanted them to know how to have a relationship with Him. God wanted to live with His people.

The grace of God (Exodus 25:1-8)

God told them how to give an offering. No one was forced to give. “Every person whose heart makes him willing” (15:2). The word *offering* means “to lift up or raise.” It means the people put aside their gift for this high and holy reason.

The only reason they had anything to give was because of what they had received from the Egyptians the night they left Egypt. We, too, are only able to give back to God what He has already given us. The people were told what to bring—gold, silver, brass, special cloth, fine linen, leathers, wood, oils, spices, and jewels to be used on the cloth for the religious leaders.

Then God told them what the gifts were for. The people were to build a special place to worship. God would live among the people. He chose to stay with them, but He could also leave.

The holiness of God (29:43-46)

God said the worship place would be a **sanctuary** because it was a place where the holy God would live and where God’s people would worship. God would set apart the meeting tent, the

tent of meeting: ordinary tent outside the camp where Moses met “face to face” with God, with the leaders of the people to pass on God’s commands and settle disagreements

Things To Think About

1. When you go to the place where you worship with others, look around. Do you learn anything about God from the windows, where the preacher stands, etc.?
2. Think about what you do in worship. What do you learn about God?
3. What are some reasons why people do not give to God? What can the church do about that?
4. How can we make sure we treat God with respect and holiness when we worship, rather than just entertain people?
5. When have you have learned more from God about what you are supposed to do? Did you follow through?
6. How can you prepare in the right way to worship God regularly?

altar, and the religious leaders.

God wanted His Tabernacle to be more beautiful than any other building. The Tabernacle had two special rooms divided by a beautiful curtain. The first room was called the Holy Place. Only the special religious leaders could go into this room. They would burn a special perfume at the altar while they prayed. The second room was called the Most Holy Place. Only the high priest would go into this room once a year. The **Ark of the Covenant** was in this room.

God had delivered His people from Egypt and brought them to Himself at Sinai. Now He planned a worship place that would travel with them when they left the mountain. This would remind them of all the great things God had done for them. God made three promises: (1) He would meet the people in worship with His glory; (2) He would live among them; (3) He would be their God.

The will of God (33:7-11, 14-16)

God had given Moses all the teachings for building the tabernacle while the people were worshiping the golden calf. Until the tabernacle was built, there was to be a **tent of meeting**. This meeting tent would be the place where people could come to find an answer from the Lord or know the will of God. It was outside the camp and a simpler place than the tabernacle. The people made known their need to Moses, and Moses would go inside the tent. The people knew God was there because the same cloud which had led them this far would be at the door of the tent.

God and Moses had a special relationship. We read, “The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend” (Exo. 33:11). The people would watch when Moses went to the tent. While Moses and God spoke together, the people would worship from their own tents.

Verse 16 says Moses would know rest or wholeness from being with God. God allows us to approach Him the way He chooses. We want to know God is with us. We need to know God’s purpose for our lives. As we worship, we discover His will.

The glory of God (40:16-38)

It had been a year since Israel left Egypt. The people had camped at Sinai for nine months. They finished the pieces for the new tabernacle. But it was not completed until Moses “finished the work” (v. 33). This is the same word used when God made the world. “Moses did all that the Lord told him to do” are words we read seven times.

The work had taken a long time. They had made: The frame and cover for the two-room building; furniture for rooms, including the most holy place and the holy place (the outer room which was outside

the curtain); furniture in the courtyard; open space around the meeting tent.

A cloud covered the meeting tent. This reminded them that God was present and would be with them as they moved with the meeting tent to the Promised Land. When God’s shining-greatness filled the tent, Moses did not even go inside. At night, a fire was in the cloud. When the cloud rose from the tent and moved away, the people started on their way to the Promised Land.

What we can learn

God chose to live among the Hebrews in the meeting tent. In the New Testament, John wrote, “Christ became human flesh and lived among us. We saw His shining-greatness. This greatness is given only to a much-loved Son from the Father. He was full of loving-favor and truth” (John 1:14).

John also wrote about the future: “I heard a loud voice coming from heaven. It said, ‘See! God’s home is with men. He will live with them. They will be His people. God Himself will be with them. He will be their God’” (Rev. 21:3).

We meet together in worship so God can live among us. Worship is a gift we are allowed to enjoy.

**Exodus 25:1-8; 29:43-46;
33:7-11,14-16; 40:16-38**

25:1 The Lord said to Moses, **2** “Tell the people of Israel to take a gift for Me. Receive the gift for Me from every person whose heart makes him willing. **3** This is the gift you are to receive from them: Gold silver and brass, **4** blue, purple and red cloth, fine linen, goat hair, **5** rams’ skins made red, badgers’ skins, acacia wood, **6** lamp oil, spices for the oil used in worship and for perfumes, **7** onyx stones, and stones to be set in the clothing of the religious leaders. **8** Let them make a holy place for Me, so I may live among them.

29:43 I will meet there with the people of Israel. It will be set apart by My shining-greatness. **44** I will set apart the meeting tent and the altar. And I will set apart Aaron and his sons to work as religious leaders for Me. **45** I will live among the people of Israel and will be their God. **46** They will know that I am the Lord their God, Who brought them out of the land of Egypt to live among them. I am the Lord their God.

33:7 Now Moses used to take the tent and set it up far away from the other tents. He called it the meeting tent. Anyone who wanted to meet with the Lord would go

away from the other tents to the meeting tent. **8** When Moses went out to the tent, all the people would get up and stand at the doors of their tents. And they would watch Moses until he went into the meeting tent. **9** Whenever Moses went into the meeting tent, the cloud would come down and stand at the door of the tent. And the Lord would speak with Moses. **10** When all the people saw the cloud standing at the door of the meeting tent, they would stand up and worship, each at his tent door. **11** The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the other tents, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not leave the meeting tent.

37:14 The Lord said, “I Myself will go with you. I will give you rest.” **15** Then Moses said to Him, “If You Yourself do not go with us, do not have us leave this place. **16** For how will it be known that I and Your people have found favor in Your eyes, unless You go with us? Then I and Your people will be different from all the other people on the earth.”

40:16 Moses did all that the Lord told him to do. **17** On the first day of the first month of the second year, the meeting tent

Lesson 13 Scripture passages continued

was set up. **18** Moses set up the meeting tent, laid the bases, set up its pieces of wood, put in its cross-pieces and set up its pillars. **19** He spread the covering over the meeting tent. And he put the top covering over it, just as the Lord had told Moses. **20** Then he took the Law and put it into the special box. He put the mercy-seat on top of the special box. **21** He brought the special box into the meeting tent and hung the curtain. He put the curtain in front of the special box of the agreement, just as the Lord had told Moses. **22** Then he put the table in the meeting tent, on the north side of the tent, outside the curtain. **23** He set the bread in its place on the table before the Lord, just as the Lord had told Moses. **24** Then he put the lampstand in the meeting tent, away from the table, on the south side of the tent. **25** He set up the lamps before the Lord, just as the Lord had told Moses. **26** He put the gold altar in the tent of meeting, in front of the curtain. **27** And he burned sweet-smelling perfume on it, just as the Lord had told Moses. **28** Then he hung the curtain at the door of the meeting tent. **29** He set the altar of burnt gifts in front of the door of the

meeting tent. And he gave the burnt gift and the grain gift on it, just as the Lord had told Moses. **30** He put the washing pot between the tent of meeting and the altar, with water in it for washing. **31** Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and feet there. **32** They washed when they came into the tent of meeting and when they came near the altar, just as the Lord had told Moses. **33** He made the open space all around the meeting tent and the altar. And he hung the curtain for the gate of the open space. So Moses finished the work.

34 Then the cloud covered the meeting tent. The shining-greatness of the Lord filled the holy tent. **35** Moses was not able to go into the meeting tent because the cloud had rested upon it and the shining-greatness of the Lord filled the tent. **36** When the cloud was lifted from the meeting tent, the people of Israel would go on their way through all their traveling days. **37** But when the cloud was not lifted, they did not move on until the day when it was lifted. **38** For the cloud of the Lord rested on the meeting tent during the day. And fire was in the cloud during the night. It was seen by all the people of Israel as they traveled.