

Women in the Word
Exodus 18 and 19

March 30, 2017

GO! | *The Story
of Exodus*

1. What is the best practical advice you have ever received? Who gave you this advice?
2. Read Exodus 18:1-6 along with Exodus 2:16-22 and 3:1. Describe Jethro.

Why do you think Jethro is bringing Zipporah and her sons back to Moses now?

3. After reading Exodus 18:6-8, how would you describe Moses' feelings for his father-in-law?

Reread verse 8. What word or phrase stands out to you and why?

4. Read Exodus 18:9-12. What is Jethro's initial reaction to what Moses tells him?

What other things does Jethro do in response to God's goodness to Israel? What do Jethro's words and actions tell us about him?

What personal stories can you share with your family and friends so that they might know God better and draw closer to Him?

5. Read Exodus 18:13-23. How does Moses explain his activity to Jethro? What is Jethro's initial response in verse 17?

Discernment means to perceive right from wrong or what is more important from what is less important. Read Exodus 18:18-23. Jethro shows discernment when he speaks to Moses. What are the important things Moses should do and what should he delegate?

6. Read in Exodus 18:21 the qualifications for the men Moses would select to help him. Why are these specific qualifications important in this situation and important for leaders today?

What are Jethro's goals in his plan for Moses? See verse 23.

7. Read Exodus 18:24-27. Are you surprised by Moses' response to his father-in-law? Why or why not?

What does the response of Moses tell us about him?

How will the example of Moses change how you listen to family, friends, your husband or in-laws?

8. Read Exodus 19:1-2. It has been three months since the Israelites left Egypt. The Israelites are now at Mount Sinai also called Mount Horeb. What is important about this mountain? Review Exodus 3:1, 12.
9. Read Exodus 19:3-6. What three things does God want Moses to remind the people in verse 4?

Thinking back over the Israelites' three-month journey from Egypt, how is God's metaphor, "I bore you on eagle's wings," appropriate? See Deuteronomy 32:11.

10. In Exodus 19:5-6, God now keeps the promise He made to Israel in Exodus 6:7. What are the three titles God gives Israel? What makes these titles meaningful? Read Deuteronomy 7:6-9.

According to Exodus 19:5, what responsibility for Israel comes with God's conditional covenant with Israel?

Read 1 Peter 2:9. As believers in Jesus, we are also called a chosen race, a royal priesthood and a holy nation. According to this verse, what responsibility are we given? Do you see this as a privilege or a burden? Explain.

11. Read Exodus 19:7-8. Think about the Israelites' response when they listened to Moses speak God's words. What helps you trust and obey God's Word today?

12. In verse 9, God tells Moses that the people will hear the LORD speak to Moses. Read Exodus 19:9-15. What preparations are to be taken before this happens?

Continue reading Exodus 19:16-25. What physical manifestations occur on the third day?

As you think about the preparations and manifestations, what are some things God might want the Israelites to learn about Him as He enters into a covenant relationship with them?

13. God wants a relationship with us today, and speaks to us through His Word. In light of what you have learned about God in chapter 19, how will this affect the way you read and listen to God's Word?

14. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Exodus 20 and 21

April 6, 2017

GO! | *The Story
of Exodus*

1. Think about the family you grew up in or your present family. What are some of the guiding principles that defined your family?

2. Read Exodus 20:1-11. How does God describe Himself in verse 2?

Why would that qualify Him to lay out His commands to the nation of Israel?

3. What is God's first and foremost requirement of His people according to verse 3?

How does this command serve to protect the unique relationship that God desires to have with His people? Read Deuteronomy 4:34-39.

4. Describe the commands listed in Exodus 20:4-7.

How do they relate to God's first command in verse 3?

What does it mean when God describes Himself as a "jealous" God?

5. The Israelites had worked continuously without relief as slaves in Egypt. Now as His redeemed nation, what is God's desire for them according to the command in verses 8-11?

How does God Himself serve as an example for His people?

6. Even though as believers in Christ we are under grace, not the law, we should also recognize the need to worship and put God first in our busy lives. What are some ways you can prioritize worship and resting in the Lord in your life?

7. Read Exodus 20:12-17. Compare the commands in these verses to the commands in verses 3-11. How is the focus of God's commands in these verses different from the first four commands in verses 3-11?

If obeyed and observed, what benefits will these last six commands provide for the people of Israel?

8. When asked by religious leaders about the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus replied with the two greatest commandments. Read Matthew 22:35-40 and describe how these two commandments summarize the Ten Commandments given here to the Israelites.

9. Read Exodus 20:18-21. What is the people's response to God's display of power at Sinai?

Fear is mentioned twice in verse 20. The first time, using the word "fear" or "afraid," it describes heart-pounding terror. What does the word "fear" mean as it is used the second time in this verse?

What will this second type of "fear" accomplish according to verse 20?

10. In Exodus 20:22-26, God gives Moses some parameters for formal worship. Record His instructions for a place of worship.

How do these instructions in verses 22-26 emphasize and support God's first two commands?

11. Read Exodus 21:1-11. In Moses' day, the Israelites could sell themselves as indentured servants due to debt or poverty. According to verse 2, how long are they obligated as servants/slaves and what happens after that?

Although the concept of indentured servitude or slavery is troubling in our modern society, where do you see evidence of God's protection even in these circumstances?

12. Exodus 21:12-36 gives instructions for dealing with physical injuries sustained by others. Which offenses call for the death penalty according to verses 12-17?

After reading through verses 18-36, what principles do you see guiding the specific instructions given to the Israelites here?

13. Looking back over the Ten Commandments and the additional instructions that follow, what do you think God's plan and purpose was for giving these commands to His people now that they are free from bondage in Egypt? Read 1 Peter 1:14-16.

How do these commandments reveal God's love for His people?

14. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Exodus 22, 23 and 24

April 13, 2017

GO! | *The Story
of Exodus*

1. Do you consider yourself a rule follower? What rules do you find most difficult to follow and why?

Explain why laws are important.

While it may seem difficult to read and study the laws recorded in Exodus, why is it so important for us to study the Old Testament Scriptures? Refer to Luke 24:44, Romans 15:4 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

2. Read Exodus 22:1-15. The laws recorded here pertain to the loss or damage of one's property. What words or phrases are used to describe the punishment for damage or loss of property?

Write a definition for the word "restitution".

How do these laws make us realize that our sins must be covered? How did God meet that need for us? Refer to Romans 6:23 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.

3. Continue by reading Exodus 22:16 – 23:9. In this section regarding laws about social justice, notice how many times the words "you" and "your" are repeated. What does that tell us about these laws?

In many of these verses, God is commanding us to care for the poor and needy. What do the following portions of Scripture tell us about this topic?

Proverbs 14:31

Proverbs 19:17

Matthew 25:35-40

How are you personally following God's command to care for the poor and needy?

4. Continue by reading Exodus 23:10-19. Verse 12 refers to the 4th commandment that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. Read Exodus 20:8-11 and record the 4th commandment in the space below.

What is the purpose of the 4th commandment?

What does the 4th commandment remind us? Refer to Genesis 2:1-3.

5. In Exodus 23:14-19, God commands the Israelites to participate in three different feasts throughout the year to remember Him. What are the three feasts and how would they remind the Israelites of God's faithfulness?

What are a few ways you celebrate God's faithfulness throughout the year?

6. Read Exodus 23:20-33. In verse 20, God says, "Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on your way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared." This is the first of several promises God made to the Israelites considering their journey to Canaan. Make a list of the other promises you see in verses 21-33.

God had promised to provide the Israelites victory over their adversaries, but what did God expect from the Israelites? Refer to verses 21, 22-25 and 32.

7. God warns the Israelites and us to do everything we can to avoid sin and to get rid of the idols that take our focus off Him. What are the idols in your heart that compete with God for your attention, your affection, your time and your resources?

What are some practical ways you can focus on God and walk with Him in obedience?

8. Read Exodus 24:1–8. For any covenant to be established, it must be confirmed by both parties involved. The terms of the covenant were laid out in Exodus chapters 19–23 and in chapter 24 we are told how it was confirmed. In Exodus 24:3, 7, how did the Israelites respond to the terms of the covenant?

What specific actions did Moses take to seal the covenant?

9. Read Exodus 24:9-14. According to verses 10 and 11, what amazing events happened when the 73 men ascended the mountain with Moses?

If you were one of the 73 men, share what emotions you might have experienced.

By sharing a meal with the Israelites, God showed Himself to be a willing party in the covenant He had made with them. What do we learn about God's character from His willingness to meet with His people and share a meal with them?

10. Finish by reading Exodus 24:15-18. Now the people of Israel see the glory of God. How has God displayed His glory in your life?

11. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Exodus 32:1 - 33:17
April 20, 2017



1. List some of the ways the discipline of prayer has impacted your walk with God.

2. God's children have been following God in the wilderness for three months since the exodus. Now Moses has been meeting with God on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights. Read Exodus 32:1-6 to continue the story. What words would you use to describe the Israelites from these verses?

What great miracle do they attribute to the false god they have just created?

Many years later Psalm 106:19-22 would describe this very scene. Read these verses and record the reasons that Israel turned their backs on God.

What temptations might we face when we ignore God's past goodness in our lives?

Psalm 106:23 tells us how Moses interceded for Israel's sin. Read this verse. What did Moses' prayer for Israel accomplish?

3. Read Exodus 32:7-9. What are the phrases that God used to describe Israel's sin?

4. We see God's response to Israel's grave sin in Exodus 32:10. What great judgment is God threatening here? How could God's words have been a temptation for Moses?

5. Exodus 32:11-14 records Moses' amazing prayer of intercession for Israel. Summarize the reasons that Moses pleads for God's mercy on Israel.

Read Jeremiah 18:1-10 and explain how God can alter His plans as He sees fit.

How might Moses' prayer for Israel give us direction when interceding for others?

6. Read Exodus 32:15-20. This is a dramatic scene. Consider the actions that Moses took. If you were a guilty Israelite watching this, what might these actions symbolize to you?

Moses broke the tablets of God's commandments.

Moses burned the golden calf with fire.

Moses ground the calf into powder and made the people drink it.

What more can we learn about this situation when reading Moses' own words from Deuteronomy 9:15-21?

7. Besides praying for the people of Israel, whom else did Moses pray for specifically? Why? Read Exodus 32:21 with Deuteronomy 9:20.

Read Aaron's defense of his sins in Exodus 32:22-24. Where does Aaron lay the blame and what lie does he tell?

8. What were the realities about Aaron's involvement in Israel's sin?
Reread Exodus 32:2-6, 25.

It is always a temptation to defend ourselves when confronted with our sin. What can we learn from Aaron's responses here to direct us when we are confronted with our own sin?

9. Read Exodus 32:25-28. Here is a confrontation between good and evil. The Levites are told to kill those Israelites that are determined to continue to worship false gods. Why were the Levites chosen to rid Israel of this great evil?

Why was such a horrible task a necessary one? Read God's call to Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel, in Genesis 12:1-3. Also read God's command in Leviticus 20:26.

10. Read Exodus 32:30-35. Moses is again interceding for the sin of God's children. How can we see both justice and hope in God's response to Moses?
11. Read Exodus 33:1-6. What is the good news and the bad news for Israel in these verses?
12. Read Exodus 33:7-11 and share the evidence of Moses' close relationship with God and the evidence of the people of Israel's strained relationship with God.
13. Moses has specific concerns about Israel's future and so once again he goes to God. Read his prayer in Exodus 33:12-17. What is Moses' main concern? Why does God graciously agree to Moses' plea?

14. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Exodus 33:18-34:35
April 27, 2017



1. Exodus 33:18-23 completes a conversation between God and Moses that began in 33:12. To review the first part of that discussion, read Exodus 33:12-17. What request does Moses make of God in verse 13? What is God's response in verse 14?

2. Read Exodus 33:18-23. What does Moses request of God in verse 18?

God responds to Moses' request with four statements beginning with "I will." What do these statements reveal about His character?

What do the following verses add to our knowledge of God's character so that we might trust His authority over our lives? See Deuteronomy 32:4 and 2 Samuel 22:31-34.

3. God's glory is a demonstration of His presence. In Exodus 33:20, what limitation does God put on His revelation to Moses? Why does He do this?

Share a time when you have experienced God's glory. How did that experience encourage you in your faith?

4. Read Exodus 34:1-4. What were the first stone tablets and why did Moses break them? See Exodus 32:7-8, 15-16, 19.

5. Read Exodus 34:5-9. List the ways God describes His own character in verses 6-7. Considering the incident with the making of the golden calf in chapter 32, why might God have chosen to speak of these particular aspects of Himself?

Describe one way your own life is blessed by these aspects of God's character.

Based on your above description, write out a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

6. Read Exodus 34:10-17. In verse 10, what descriptive words does God use to tell how He will act on behalf of His people?

The covenant that God is restoring is known as the Mosaic Covenant. Israel agreed to obey God's laws and God would in turn bless them richly. That covenant was broken when Israel disobeyed God's command to worship Him alone. What instructions does God give in verses 12-17 to help the people obey this command in the future?

7. Read Exodus 34:18-29. According to verse 24, what good things would happen for Israel when they faithfully obey God's commands?

What part would God play in this? What part would the people play?

After 40 days of being with the Lord, what tangible object is Moses carrying as he comes down the mountain? What do you think was its purpose?

What steps do you or can you take to remember and live by God's Word today?

How is that a useful practice in your everyday life?

8. Read Exodus 34:29-35. What caused the people fear as they looked at Moses? Why do you think it made them afraid?

In verse 34 Moses removes his veil when he goes in to speak with God. What does this reveal about Moses' relationship with Him?

9. What is one truth you learned in our study of Exodus that will impact your relationship with God in the days to come?

10. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.