

T H E B O O K O F
EXODUS**LEADER PREP****MAIN POINT**

All the rules show us our need for Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:1-17 NIV
Matthew 22:34-40

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see that the Bible isn't just a big rule book of do's and don'ts. But the rules show us what true life can look like. Different, holy, and the best way to live.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders, most likely some of your students CRUSHED their Exodus devotional plan, some may have done parts, and others may have totally forgotten to do it all together. As mature Christians, we've most likely all been in all those different places in our walks with God. Encourage your students for any small positive step they took and remind your other students it's not about perfection of a task, but pursuing God and we can start fresh on that every day. If they missed last week completely they can start fresh this week.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**THE CHECK IN**

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- Someone recap the main point of the message.
- Last week we started a Exodus devotional (*recap for new students*), for those of you who had it - how did that go?
- Today we talked about how the Old Testament has A TON of rules. Do you ever feel like Christianity has too many rules? And does that make it hard to live out your faith?

THE WORD

- READ Matthew 22:34-40. VISUAL: Write out a post it that says "Love God" and one that says, Love Others."
- Jesus really simplifies things here. Why do you think He says loving God and loving others is so important?

LET'S PRACTICE - BIBLE READING WORKSHOP

- READ Exodus 20:1-17 - Have someone read out the 10 commandments and after each one, have someone else say whether that commands falls under 'Loving God' or 'Loving Others' (*BONUS VISUAL: write a post it and put it by your above post-its*)
- What did that exercise teach you about Jesus' command to Love God and Love Others? (*Leader Cheat Sheet: Jesus' new law sums up all of the other laws. But instead of getting bogged down in the do's and don'ts, He really wants us to focus on our heart.*)
- Do you think Jesus cares more about our behavior or more about our heart? Why?
- What is one behavior you want to change? What does that thing say about your heart? (Ex. I don't want to be a disruption during small group (behavior), because I want to be respectful to the rest of the group (heart))

APPLICATION

- Studying and reading our Bible on our own is an amazing way to grow in our relationship with Jesus
- DO: Share with your students a possible Exodus devotional to go through together and talk through how you can encourage each other to read before next week.

PRAY

We are going to close in prayer. Any prayer requests?

EXODUS 20:1-17 NIV

"And God spoke all these words:

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Matthew 22:34-40 NIV

"Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."