

EXODUS 16-28

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 6: Exod 16-28
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.

1. Read Exodus chapters 16-18.

Provide an outline for these 3 chapters:

16:1-7: God provides manna

16:8-12:

16:13-21: Rules are given for gathering manna

16:23-30:

16:31-35: One jar of manna is kept as a memorial of God's provision

17:1-3:

17:4-7: Moses struck the rock and the water came out

17:8-13: Moses holds up his arms and Israel has victory over Amalek

17:14-15

18:1-6: Jethro brings Moses' wife and sons back to him

18:7-12:

18: 13-16: Moses judges the people

18:17-23:

18: 24-27: Moses follows Jethro's advice and bids him farewell

Refer to 17:1-7. How long had this been since they left Egypt? How would you describe the condition of the people? How would you describe the attitude of the people?

Why do you think they are forgetting again the miracles that God had done for them? What as they remember it to be? Then what can we learn from the fact that they exaggerate how good it is their memory?

How would you describe God's attitude in responding to their grumbling? Why did God want to test them in v. 4? What would the test be? If God already knew the results why test them? Does God test people today? Any example of what a test would be? What is the difference between a test and a temptation?

Refer to 17:1-3. Was the people's situation serious? How might they have responded to this need? Was it reasonable to blame Moses for this? Why or why not? List out the ways in which God had already showed his provision for them. What should they have learned from God's previous miracles of provision for them?

Read 17:4-7. Contrast Moses' response to this situation with the people's response. What is the difference? Was it normal for Moses to turn to God in these situations? When the going gets tough, what do you do? Do you tend to complain, or do you take it to God in prayer? Is your faith shaken or is it reinforced?

Why do you think God wanted Moses to use the staff for all of these miracles? Was it like a magic wand? Why did Moses do this in front of the people and in front of the elders? Why do you think God wanted Moses to strike the rock?

How did the people test God? Is testing God a good way to find out evidence he is true and build your faith? What are some ways Christians might test God these days?

2. Read Exodus chapter 19. Give an outline:

vv. 1-6: God reaffirms his covenant to the Israelites through Moses

vv. 7-8:

vv. 9-13: God tells Moses his plans to come to the people in a dense cloud

vv. 14-15:

vv. 16-24: God's holiness contrasted with the sinfulness of the people

Read vv. 1-6. What does God mean that he carried them on Eagle's wings?

What is God's covenant that he wanted them to keep/ How were they to keep it? What does this tell us about how we are to treat God's commands?

Which part were the Israelites to keep? What does this tell us about how we are to keep God's commands? Write down the Great Commission in Matthew chap 28. Memorize it. What are the 2 things that characterize Jesus' disciples?

What promise did God make them if they obeyed him?

What does it mean that they are God's possession? Isn't everyone his? So what is the difference?

Why does God call them a "kingdom of priests"? A holy nation? How did the people respond to God's instructions (vv. 7-8)? Do you think this would help the people believe and follow Moses? Why or why not?

Why did God not appear to them directly?

What is the point of purification (v. 10)? Why give them 3 days to prepare? Why wash their clothes?

What was the purpose of putting boundaries around the mountain (vv. 12-13)? Why would anyone who touched it die?

Explain in your own words "purification" and "consecration." Are there any special events that we as believers need to consecrate ourselves for?

What was more important than the outer washings? How can we consecrate our hearts to God?

What is the symbolic significance of washing their clothes? Why were they not allowed to have sexual relations (vv. 14-15)? Is there any New Testament verse that supports abstinence for a time?

Why all the spectacle of thunder and lightning (vv. 16-24)? What is the significance of the trumpet? Why did the people shudder? Why the smoke and fire and earthquake? How might having seen this powerful display change how you view God and how you view your life?

What lessons do you think God intended to teach the people through this event? What lessons have you learnt about God? How would you apply them?

3. Give an outline of Exodus 20:

vv. 1-2: Foundation for the 10 Commandments: They were given by God who saved them

vv. 3-11: The 10 Commandments: our relationship to God

vv. 12-17:

vv. 18-21: The people were afraid of the thunder, lightning, and smoke

vv. 22-26:

What is the significance that God spoke these words? How did he validate himself to them when giving these commands? Why was this important (vv. 1-2)?

Why do the first 4 commands center on God (vv. 1-4)?

What does it mean to honor your parents? What is the difference between honoring and obeying? What benefit is associated with honoring your parents? Why?

Define murder. What is the New Testament standard on this issue? What does the Bible classify as adultery? What is the New Testament standard?

What is the motivation for lying? What are the consequences of lying?

What does it mean to covet? What are some side effects of coveting?

Why did God focus on telling them not to have other gods (vv. 22-26)? How were they supposed to worship God? Why do you think God gave them specific criteria for building an altar and offering sacrifices?

4. The various elements of the Tabernacle all had one purpose: to be places/instruments through which God reminded them that he was with them.

The Sanctuary (25:8) was inaugurated to provide Israel with a physical structure for enjoying God's special _____ among them.

The Ark of the Covenant housed the _____ (25:16), and upon it rested the _____, where God would meet with Israel and from there speak to Moses (25:22)

The Table for the bread of the Presence was arranged to remind Israel of the _____ they received after the Exodus (25:30; cf Exod 16).

Chaps 26-27 provide a very detailed account of the construction of the Tabernacle, the altar of Burnt Offering, the Courtyard, and the Lampstand Oil – each with significance for understanding God's Holy _____ among Israel.

The final section of Exodus 31 pointed to the result of God's _____ among his people, namely, their refreshment (vv. 12-8). The _____ may be considered the pinnacle of God's jealous desire for glory in his people ; in their dependence and rest (31:16-17). He was seen as the God who provides for his covenant partners.

EXODUS 29-37

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 7: Exod 29-37
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or the group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.

1. Read Exodus chapter 32 and provide an outline for the chapter:

vv.1-6: The people and Aaron make a golden calf and sacrifice to it

vv. 7-10:

vv. 11-14:

vv. 15-18:

vv. 19-29:

vv. 30-35:

Based on vv. 1-6, what was the situation which gave rise to the people making the golden calf?

What did this show about the heart of the people?

Why do you think they did this when Moses was gone, but not when he was there? What does this show about their relationship with God? How about us? When will our true character come out?

Why do you think Aaron gave in to them (and so easily)? What does this say about Aaron?

Why make a golden calf? What do you think their purpose was in this? Which commandments did they violate?

Did they completely abandon worship of the true God? What does this tell us about how Satan works? How about the process of turning away from God?

What did the people do right after engaging in this idol worship? What does this tell us about the connection between idol worship and other sinful actions?

Read vv. 7-10. Why do you think God calls them "your people" when before he called them "My People"?

What adverb is used describing how they turned away from God?

Why do you think they quickly turned away from God?

Why do people turn away from God so much?

How did God describe the people?

Why would God consider destroying them?

Why do you think God suggested making Moses into a great nation?

Did God promise he was going to destroy the nation?

Did they deserve his wrath?

What does the fact that God was angry tell us about him?

Read vv. 11-14. What pronoun does Moses use in front of "people"? Why?

What words would you use to describe Moses here?

What reasons did he give that God should spare the people? Were these reasonable?

What can we learn about Moses' character here?

Why do you think he felt the freedom to speak so boldly to God?

Was God angry with Moses for speaking out?

What does the fact that God didn't rebuke Moses (but listened to him) show about Moses' correctness in speaking this way?

What does v. 14 mean that God "changed his mind"?

Does this mean that God didn't know everything about the future or made a mistake?

Why did God say this to begin with?

2. Read Exodus chapter 32. Based on vv. 15-18, what did Joshua think was happening in the camp? What does this tell you about the state of things in the camp?

Read vv. 19-29. Was Moses' anger right?

Why do you think Moses was angry?

What were the people doing when he saw them?

What is the matter with dancing?

Why did he break the commandments?

Is there any irony/symbolism here?

What did Moses teach the people in v. 20?

Did Aaron confess his sin?

What reasons did Aaron give for leading the people into sin?

Are these reasons reasonable?

Was it true that the calf came out of the fire by itself?

Is Aaron's response typical when a person is confronted with his sin or abnormal?

What lessons can we learn from this?

Why does it describe a people derision to their enemies?

Who responded to Moses' call to commitment to the Lord?

Why was the task they were given so difficult?

What do we learn about the right priorities in our lives?

Do you think it was necessary? Why or why not?

Why was God going to bless the Levites?

Read vv. 30-35. What was Moses' attitude (v. 31)?

What does v. 32 tell us about Moses' commitment and love for his people?

Is there anyone else in the Bible who makes a similar declaration?

Can you make a similar declaration about your love for your countrymen?

Can you even give up one day a week/month to reach out to them?

Did God accept Moses' idea? Why not?

What was God's decision about this situation? How did God display mercy? How did God display justice?

3. Read Exodus chapter 33. In vv. 1-3, what did God command the people to do now?

Why was God still willing to give them the Promised Land even after they sinned?

Why did God not want to go up in their midst?
What does this teach us about their character?

Read vv. 4-6. How did the people react to this news?

Why would they not put on their jewelry?

Do you think their remorse was genuine?

How can you tell if remorse/sorrow is genuine or not?

How do we know if it is real repentance?

Is there any times when we can follow the Israelites' examples to put off our own makeup, jewelry, etc.?

Read vv. 7-11. What tent does this refer to?

What was the purpose of the tent?

Why would Moses go out to the tent? Who else could go out and why?

What happened when Moses went into the tent?

What did the people do when they saw the cloud?

What does v. 11 show us about Moses' relationship with God?

How does God speak with us?

In vv. 12-16, what was Moses' reaction to God's statement?

What are the basics of Moses' argument to God?

Is it OK for Moses to argue with God?

What is Moses saying in v. 15?

What would distinguish the Israelites from all the other people in the earth?

How would you describe Moses here?

What lessons can we learn from Moses here?

Have you been interceding for others more since you learned you should intercede from Moses' example?

If not, what should you do?

In vv. 17-23, did God listen to Moses and why?

What does it mean that God knew Moses' name?

Does God know our names too? How do you know?

What was Moses' request of God this time?

Why do you think Moses asked this request of God?

What does v. 19 show us about God's character?

Who deserves God's grace or compassion?

So who are the ones God shows his grace and compassion to?

Did God agree to Moses' request?

Why did God not allow Moses to see his face?

What did Moses see?

Why do you think Moses did not describe what he saw there?

Since God is a spirit, how then could he have hands and a back?

What lessons have you learned from chap 33?

4. Read Exodus chapter 34 and give a basic outline:

vv. 1-4: Moses prepares 2 stone tablets to take up to Mt. Sinai

vv. 5-7:

vv. 8-9: Moses intercedes for the people the fourth time

vv. 10-17:

vv. 18-28: Review of the Israelite's covenant responsibilities

vv. 29-35: Moses' shining face

In vv. 1-4, why did Moses have to cut out more stone tablets?

What was God going to do with these?

What does this show us about God's character?

Why was no other man or animal to go on the mountain?

What does v. 5 mean that the LORD stood with him while he called on the name of the LORD?

In vv. 5-7, who made the statement (vv. 6-7)?

How does God describe himself?

Do any of these stand out to you?

If we describe God's character (or gospel), how should we describe him?

Will God punish children/grandchildren for his ancestor's sins?

If not, what do these verses mean?

In vv. 8-9, what was Moses' reaction to God's statement?

How do many people in the world today react to God's Word and God himself?

How must we react?

What did Moses do next?

How many times has Moses interceded already for the people?

Have you made any changes in your prayer life to intercede for others more since we have been learning about Moses doing that?

In vv. 10-17, what is unique about the miracles that God does?

Why does he say his miracles are a fearful thing?

What was his first warning for them upon entering the Promised Land? Why?

What would be the result of disobedience? What applications can we make of this?

What might the surrounding nations say to pressure them to live together, marry together, worship together, and conform to their customs?

What do worldly people say to Christians today to try to get us to be like them? What should our response be?

In vv. 29-35, why do you think Moses' face was shining this time, but is not mentioned the last time? Why was his face shining?

What does this tell us about his interaction with God?

How might our lives be different after spending time with God?

Will people be able to notice this difference as they did with Moses?

In what way do we "shine" before others?

How can we ensure that our lives are shining?

What did Moses do with his shining face? Why?

EXODUS 38-40; LEVITICUS 1-8

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 8: Exod 38-40; Lev 1-8
- b. The following questions may be used for reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.

1. Read Exodus chapters 39 and 40. Why do you think God wanted all these details recorded in Scripture?

What did the precious stones on the ephod and the breastplate of the high priest represent?

How long was the time between the Exodus and when the Tabernacle was constructed?

How did God show his approval of the completed Tabernacle?

When Moses looked over the work of the Tabernacle, everything was in order – just as the LORD had commanded. If a fellow believer were to inspect your life as a Christian, would he be able to say that everything is just as the Lord commanded? B What areas should you work on?

2. Refer to Lev 1:4. What does the word “atonement” mean?

What is a burnt offering (1:9)?

Describe the traditional burnt offering in Lev 1 and 6:8-13.

The ultimate fulfillment of the burnt offering is in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. His physical life was completely consumed. He ascended to God, and his covering (garment) was distributed to those who officiated over his sacrifice (Matt 27:35). But most

importantly, his sacrifice, once for all, atoned for our sins and restored our relationship with God.

3. Read the following summary of the five offerings in Leviticus chapters 1-7:

<http://biblecentre.org/content.php?mode=7&item=899>

4. For the Levitical priesthood, read the following article:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Levitical-priesthood.html>

LEVITICUS 9-20

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading for Week 9: Lev 9-20
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.

1. What were the instructions for the ordination offering (8:23)? What do you think these signify?

Why was the ordination ceremony necessary (8:34)?

How long did the ordination ceremony take (8:33)? What is the symbolic significance of the duration?

What if they did (v. 35)?

How were the very first offerings consumed (9:24)? What is the significance of this?

What were the Israelites' reaction to it (9:24)?

What preceded this event (9:22)?

What did Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, do so that God burnt them alive (10:1)? What do you learn about God from this event?

What was done with their bodies (10:4)?

How did they carry them (10:5)?

That must have been an awful sight! What were the remaining 2 brothers, Eleazar and Ithamar, to do in response (10:6)? Why (10:7)? Did they obey?

What does this teach about how we approach the throne of God, and about mixing God's instructions with our own ideas?

What did God require of priests in the area of personal conduct (10:9)?

God spoke with Moses a lot. When did God first address Aaron directly (10:8)? What did God say to Aaron?

2. What was the difference between clean and unclean animals (11:1-8)?

Make a list of clean animals and unclean animals.

What if a person accidentally touched the dead body of one who was unclean (11:25)?

What if an unclean crawler died and fell on a clean object (11:32)? Were there any exceptions (11:33)?

What if the dead thing fell into a spring or cistern (11:36)?

What if it fell on seed grain to be planted in the field (11:37)?

What if it was an animal permitted to eat, but drops dead (11:39)?

Did God command the Israelites to develop a hate for unclean animals (11:41)?

What was the attitude of a detestable perspective on unclean animals (11:43)?

Why (11:44)?

3. Read the following article:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/animals-clean-unclean.html>

4. For more information about the concept of clean and unclean, refer to the following:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/clean-unclean/>

5. Read Leviticus chapter 16. Could Aaron and the other priest enter the Most Holy Place any time they felt like it (v. 2)? Why?

How did the priest prepare to enter the Most Holy Place (v. 3)?

Why was this necessary (v. 16)?

Could Aaron as high priest have help in this ritual (v. 17)?

Was the ritual done now (v. 18)?

What did this ritual do (v. 19)?

What are the 3 areas that had to be made clean in order that a priest could go into the Most Holy Place (v. 20)?

Then what (v. 20)?

Why was this done (v. 21)?

What did Aaron do with the sacred garments he was wearing (v. 23)?

For what reason (v. 24)?

Where was the fat (v. 25)?

What happened to the man sent out with the goat (v. 26)?

What happened to the bull and the goat given as sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement for Israel (vv. 27-28)?

We know how atonement sacrifices were made on the Day of Atonement. What else happened on that day (v. 29)?

After reading Leviticus chap 16, comparing the High Priest to Jesus, list some of the obvious ways forgiveness has changed from then to now.

Read the following verses and write down how God views our sins after we give him control of our lives:

Col 2:13-14

Heb 9:13-14

Heb 10:10

1 Jn 1:9

1 Jn 2:1

How have forgiveness changed your life?

Why do people have a hard time feeling forgiven by God?

LEVITICUS 21-27; NUMBERS 1-2

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading for Week 10: Lev 21-27; Num 1-2
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell questions.

1. Leviticus Chapters 17-26 is known as the Holiness Code. Read the following article:

<https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-leviticus/>

For a summary of the Feasts/Festivals in Leviticus, read the following:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jewish-festivals.html>

The Sabbath year (once every seven years where all farming stopped) – What would be the direct consequences of this year-long Sabbath (25:1-7)?

What effects might such land management have on Israel's local economy?

What would the practice of "land Sabbath" say about trusting God?

As far as historians can go back there is no record of Israel ever following the 50 year Jubilee (Lev chap 25:8 ff). Why do you think this was never practiced?

What are the consequences of picking and choosing what commandments of God we follow?

Leviticus may appear outdated with its peculiar rituals, the disturbing economic practices, as well as the bloody animal sacrifices. So, for us today, how do we remain reconciled to God?

What is the best way to worship a Holy God?

How are we act toward each other within the framework of God's covenant?

2. Read Numbers chapters 1 and 2. Why did God order a census (1:3)?

Why were women and males under twenty not included in this census?

Why were the Levites not counted in the census (1:49-50)?

The Levites were given a special calling. God gives each of us a specific calling as well. What has God called you to do for him?

Why was it necessary for Israel to be prepared for war while they were still in the wilderness?

How important is it for us as Christians to prepare ourselves for spiritual warfare (Eph 6:10-20)? How are we to do that?

In Leviticus chap 2, the children of Israel obeyed what the Lord said, they followed his direction, even where to sleep!

What direction has God given you that may not seem important or make sense right now but you must follow?

Discuss the importance of obedience in the life and teachings of Jesus in the 4 Gospels. Give book, chapter, verse.

NUMBERS 3-10

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading for Week 11: Num 3-10
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.

1. Read Numbers chapter 3. God gave specific instructions throughout his Word that must be obeyed. If we are not obedient there will be consequences.

How have you known this to be true in your life?

2. Read Numbers chapter 4. Sometimes the tasks that God calls us to are a burden. They can be difficult to bear.

How have you been obedient to God when the task seemed like too much of a burden to carry?

3. Read Numbers chapter 5. Sin is always found out, for we cannot hide anything from God. We must confess our sins to God in order to keep our relationship with him growing.

What is hindering you from drawing near to him today?

4. Read Numbers chapter 8. All that belongs to God must be set apart and cleansed. Jesus' blood cleanses us, but we must ensure that we remain set apart throughout our daily lives.

What steps do you take to ensure that you remain set apart from the world?

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5. Read Numbers chapter 9. The people of Israel faithfully followed God's guidance.

How are you following God's guidance in your life right now?

NUMBERS 11-20

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 12: Num 11-20
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.

1. Read Numbers chapter 11. God takes care of his children's needs, yet if we are not careful we can grow weary of his provision and long for something different ...something more.

How do you ensure that your spirit remains grateful for his provision?

2. Read Numbers chapter 13. Even though the land of Canaan was promised to them and God had provided for them, the people still did not trust God to bring them into the Promised Land safely.

What is God asking you to trust him to do today?

3. Read Numbers chapter 14. When we fail to take God at his Word and seek to do things our own way, he will allow us to wander. In the midst of our wanderings we often miss out on the blessings that God has for us.

What blessings have you missed out on because of your own wanderings?

4. Read Numbers chapter 20. Instead of focusing on all the great things God had done for them, the people continued to complain.

What are some things you can praise God for today?