



## L2.L42: Israel Prepares to Meet God

### Exodus 19

*When Moses and the children of Israel left Egypt, they began their journey toward Mt. Sinai just as God had instructed (Exodus 3:12). They arrived at Mt. Sinai, the mountain of God, a few weeks after departing Egypt. God announced to Moses that He would speak to the Israelites from a thick cloud around the mountain. But they were required to prepare themselves. What did the Israelites need to do to prepare to meet God? Would they finally see the God who delivered them from the most powerful nation on the earth?*

#### Discuss:

- God proposed a covenant with Israel. What does it mean to be in a covenant?
- There was a lot of excitement in the camp with the anticipation of meeting the Creator. How would we feel if we had the opportunity to meet God like the Israelites did?
- Why did the Israelites have to clean-up before meeting God? Why do we wear our best clothes to Sabbath services?
- In what ways was God's presence announced to Israel? How did God get the attention of the people?
- What were some of the conditions of God's covenant with Israel?



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#### Memory Challenge:

##### Exodus 19:5-6

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.



## L2.L43: God Speaks to Israel

### Exodus 20

*God wanted to enter into a special relationship with Israel, but they had to agree. He planned to speak the terms of the agreement to Israel directly. The most magnificent fireworks display could not compare to what the people saw, and the loudest thunder storm would diminish in comparison to what they heard that day. Could the people, sinful as they were, stand before the Creator and live? What was so important that God wanted to say it Himself?*

#### Discuss:

- The sights and sounds were truly amazing that day. What did the people hear? What did they see? What things do you think they felt?
- The people heard God's voice, but they did not actually see God. Whose was the voice which they heard?
- Why are each of the commandments important? How do you think the world would be different if everyone kept these ten laws?
- The people were very afraid while God was speaking, even Moses was shaking in his sandals (Hebrews 12:18–21). How do you think we would feel if we were there?
- In the end, the people did not want God to speak with them anymore.



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#### Memory Challenge:

##### Exodus 20:20

And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."



## L2.L44: The Golden Calf

### Exodus 24 & 32

*Moses went to the top of the mountain where God gave him detailed instructions on God's law and constructing the tabernacle. God also wrote the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone and gave them to him. While Moses was away for 40 days, the people began to wonder when he would return. Not knowing what had happened to Moses, the people took matters into their own hands.*

#### Discuss:

- The people had made a covenant with God saying they would do everything that God told them to do. Did they really keep their word?
- What was Aaron's role in creating the idol? Why did Aaron participate in the worship of an idol? Did God hold Aaron accountable for his actions (Exodus 32:21–25; Deuteronomy 9:20)?
- What was Moses' reaction to Israel's sin? Was it wrong for Moses to be angry? What are the limitations God puts on human anger (Ephesians 4:26)?
- There are always consequences for sin. What are some of the consequences for Israel's worship of the golden calf?



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#### Memory Challenge:

Exodus 19:5–6

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.



## L2.L45: Joshua and the Spies

### Numbers 13-14

*A man named Hosea, who Moses called Joshua, was from the tribe of Ephraim. Joshua was already used by God in the wilderness as an assistant to Moses at Mount Sinai and as a leader of troops in a victorious battle against the Amalekites! Now the Israelites were coming close to the entrance to the land God promised them and it was time for Joshua to help out again - this time as a spy! Joshua and eleven other spies were sent into the land to see what the land was like and what kind of people lived there. When they returned, the group brought with them delicious fruit, exciting news of the land, and a disagreement that would impact the lives of every person in Israel.*

#### Discuss:

- The Amalekites attacked Israel near the beginning of their journey to the Promised Land (Exodus 17:8-16). What job did Moses give Joshua in Israel's first battle?
- How did Joshua assist Moses at Mount Sinai? (Exodus 24; 32)
- Why was Joshua chosen as one of the spies?
- When the spies came back what did they say about the land and the people they saw? What did the spies recommend? What did Joshua and Caleb recommend? How difficult do you think it was for them to stand up against the crowd?
- What was Israel's punishment for refusing to go into the promised land?



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#### Memory Challenge:

##### Numbers 14:8-9

“If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them.”