

GOD’S CALL OUR DELIVERANCE

PART II

JACKIE OESCH

**STORIES FROM EXODUS, LEVITICUS,
NUMBERS, AND DEUTERONOMY**

LESSON 1: DELIVERED – *THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU*

LESSON 2: GRUMBLED – *YOU SHALL BE FILLED*

LESSON 3: TREMBLED – *OBEY MY VOICE*

TRANSITION

LESSON 4: CORRUPTED THEMSELVES – *BUT MOSES IMploRED THE LORD*

LESSON 5: PARDONED – *THE LORD IS WITH US*

LESSON 6: BLESSED – *HEAR, O ISRAEL*

**“...I have stored up Your Word in my heart...”
Psalm 119:11**

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GETTING STARTED

You are embarking on an adventure that will shape the rest of your life. Your journey will be unique to you and will be determined in part by your eager and enthusiastic desire to grow in your understanding of the book called The Holy Bible. Your commitment to the study promises to enrich your life as God speaks to you through His Word.

As you study you are encouraged to have some recommended supplies on hand:

1. This Bible Study unit: *God's Call, Our Deliverance - II*
2. English Standard Version of the Holy Bible (ESV). Note: If you are making a new purchase, look for a Bible, if possible, that has:
 - a. a cross-reference column preferably down the center of each page,
 - b. a Concordance usually found in the back of the Bible, and
 - c. a few basic maps also usually found in the back.
3. Pen or pencil
4. 3x5 or 4x6 index cards

With the three features listed in #2 you will be adequately supplied for your study and be ready to successfully navigate through these lessons. If, however, this is your first exposure to the Bible, you may want to consider beginning with the study entitled *Navigating the Bible*. This study provides navigational tools designed to help you develop skills and make you a more confident Bible student. *Navigating the Bible* may be downloaded at no cost or obligation from the CrossConnect Ministries website (www.crosscm.org). Although this study is recommended, it is not essential for success in studying *God's Call, Our Deliverance-II*.

Do not hesitate to mark up your Bible. It's your Bible to study. Make it your own with your notes, your underlining, highlighting, circling and arrows! You may choose to use a notebook or tablet for recording thoughts, questions, and tracking your journey through the study.

The study material is written so that you are able to learn on your own. With a degree of self-discipline you will cover the material with little or no difficulty. At the same time, you will acquire new information, share new insights, and ask some challenging questions that will beg for answers. Anticipating this response you are encouraged to seriously consider inviting a couple of friends to study with you.

May you find joy in your study. May your heart be receptive as God speaks to you through His Word. May these Bible stories reassure you of His great love given to you through His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Editor's note: For clarification, capitalized pronouns reference God. i.e. "...what He said."

UNIT INTRODUCTION

In *God's Call, Our Deliverance-I* we were introduced to Moses who became Israel's great deliverer. We watched as God's hand of judgment devastated the land of Egypt with plagues. We experienced the night that the angel of death went through the land and killed all of the firstborn of the Egyptians. We quickly ate the Passover meal and at God's command through His servant Moses we hastily gathered as a people and left the land that had held us in bondage for hundreds of years.

Now we are about to embark on a journey through a barren land. We will be traveling through the arid Sinai desert with all the Hebrews whom the Egyptians have driven from their land. Egypt has been our home and the home of our ancestors for over 400 years. Our slave masters have been cruel and have ruthlessly worked us all. Our hard labor and oppression have built the buildings and monuments of the Pharaohs. Life has been hard but, at last, our day of deliverance has come.

Now we are out traveling on our own. We have never had to fend for ourselves. We have never ventured beyond our homes and labor camps. We do not even know the people walking with us. And there are thousands of us all following the one man Moses. We are not traveling very fast but we keep moving. We are determined to leave behind all that has enslaved us and to move on to the land that our God promised, a land flowing with milk and honey, a land just waiting for us to possess.

We realize that we have not been gone long, only a couple of days. Our belongings are loaded on carts that are pushed and pulled by the oxen our Egyptian neighbors gave us. Children are running everywhere playing hide-and-seek among the carts as we travel. We cannot help but reflect on all that has happened during these past several weeks. Before our lives were consumed with hard labor. We were told everything that we could and could not do. Now we are out on our own and we are a little uncertain as to where we are going and how we are going to get there. Survival is a major concern.

We cannot help but wonder if the Egyptians are going to change their minds and come after us. If they do, we are doomed. And, when we run out of food, we will be left to die in this desert. What were we thinking? Moses keeps marching on and we keep following him. Except for the plagues that were brought upon the land when he raised his staff and the fact that he told us of his encounter with Jehovah at the burning bush, we don't know very much about him. Regardless, we are pressing on.

We have many things we need to learn. Like I said, we have been accustomed to having others tell us what to do and not to do. We have been slaves to a people who only used us for their own purposes.

They kept us in bondage and we have had no one to deliver us from our circumstances. Our lives were held captive by our enemies. Is it Moses? What about Aaron? Moses has constantly referred to the Lord our God as our Deliverer. What part does He have in all of this? Could this be God's call for us, the call to leave all that enslaved us and to be brought out to live a life set free? We only know oppression. What is it like to live life set free and released from bondage?

So, here we are, hot and tired, ready to rest and eat. Well, why don't you join us? One or two more will not make a difference. We do not have a lot to eat but you are more than welcome to come along. We are not sure how long this trip will take but I understand that we are heading south to the mountain of God called Sinai. We should not be gone long. Word is that we will be in the Promised Land in just a few weeks!

What? We have stopped. Oh, no, the word has just passed through the ranks that there is a sea ahead of us. And how are we going to cross that? Somebody better figure this out. Oh no, look at the dust raging behind us! Hear the pounding? The Egyptians are coming after us. If they do not kill us first, I just know they are going to make us slaves again. What was our leader thinking? This really is not good. We are as good as dead.

LESSON ONE

THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU

EXODUS 12-15 – DELIVERED

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INTRODUCTION

Can it be? Free at last! They have plundered the Egyptians who, devastated by the death of their firstborns, cannot get rid of the Israelites fast enough. In this lesson watch God show His protecting power as He continues to deliver His chosen people. Observe how He acts at the moment when everything seems absolutely hopeless. Discover why He waits so long.

What is the human reaction to hopelessness? In spite of their experiences in Egypt learn how they responded when faced with their potentially devastating circumstances. Consider what you might have done in their situation. How do you respond when faced with seemingly hopeless conditions in your own life? Discover some new choices.

The Egyptians drowned in the raging waters of the Red Sea (Sea of Reeds) and Israel celebrated their release from their slave master Pharaoh and his army. How did Israel celebrate? How do you celebrate when your faith has been challenged and the Lord has brought you through on “dry ground?”

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: When we completed *God's Call, Our Deliverance – Part I* the Israelites were leaving Egypt. These people had endured the cruelty of the ruthless Pharaoh who refused to let God's people go into the desert to worship Him. He was introduced to Moses whom God had appointed to be their leader and to his brother Aaron whom God had chosen to serve as Moses' spokesman.

Although Moses demanded the release of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let them go. In order to secure their release, God brought judgment on the Egyptians with plagues that ultimately destroyed the land. The last of these ten plagues claimed the life of Egypt's firstborn sons, including Pharaoh's, and in defeat he ordered the people to leave the land and take all of their possessions. The Egyptians who feared for their own lives drove the Israelites from their homes offering them much of the wealth of Egypt. Thus the Israelites began their journey to the Promised Land with Moses as their leader. This is where our study resumes.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 12:40-42. See also Genesis 15:13-16.

- What information do we find in these verses? _____

Note: The remainder of the Book of Exodus, all of the Books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy tell of the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. Because there is such a vast amount of material in these books, only a few chapters and verses will be included in this study. However, you are encouraged to read the unassigned chapters as well. Be careful that you don't become bogged down in the details and miss the stories that reveal God's care and character and all that He would have us know about who He is and who we are as we live in a relationship with Him. Let's begin our study!

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 13:17-22.

EXERCISE:

1. Take time and turn to a map that indicates the route that the Israelites took to the Promised Land. Logistically what would be the obvious route for them to take? _____

2. What was God’s reason for not taking them through the Philistine country along the coastal route? _____
 The Philistines were mighty warriors, skilled and equipped with sophisticated weapons of war. They claimed the Mediterranean coastal territory that stretched between Gaza to the south and Joppa to the north. What do you think it would have been like for the Israelites to just leave Egypt and immediately come face-to-face with these men in battle? _____

3. What does this decision tell us about God and His relationship with the Israelites? _____

4. Verse 18 says, “But _____ led the people... What direction did they go? _____

5. In verse 19 what do we learn? _____
6. Joseph was not forgotten. The sons of Israel remembered the oath they had sworn (Genesis 50:25). _____
7. God chose to manifest His presence in a unique way. What were the two forms and what was their purpose?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
8. In verse 22 what is the place or position of each in relationship to the people? _____

9. What would this position communicate to the Israelites? See also verse 18. _____

INTRODUCTION: Exodus 14 continues God’s dramatic deliverance of Israel from their obstinate enemy, the king of Egypt and his officials. One would think that the story of Israel’s exodus ended when Israel plundered the Egyptians and left them overcome with their grief. The reader wants to breathe a sigh of relief. Finally, they are free! But, the enemy is relentless in its pursuit to keep the Hebrew nation under its ruthless tyranny.

Note: As we consider this story, remember to look for the facts of the story. Ask the question: What do the words tell us? Next, ask: What is the truth about God that this story reveals? What do we learn about His character, personality, about such things as the care and concern He has for His people? What is the relationship He wants with these people? And, finally, in this study we want to look for meaning and application for our own lives. We need to ask the question: How does this event that happened so long ago have any relevance for my life today?

ASSIGNMENT: Let's continue. Read Exodus 14:1-31. If you attempt to find the location of the various places mentioned, you may have some difficulty. Some sites are not found on the map because historians do not know the exact location of these ancient places. For example, the exact place where the crossing of the Red Sea occurred is not known; however, researchers have determined a most likely place given the facts of the Bible and the lay of the land.

EXERCISE:

1. In verses 1 and 2 the Lord instructs Moses where the people are to camp. What is God's reasoning in verse 3? _____
2. What does God tell Moses will happen in verse 4?
 - a. to Pharaoh? _____
 - b. to God? _____
 - c. to the Egyptians? _____
3. Meanwhile, back in Egypt (verse 5)...
 - a. What happened with Pharaoh and his officials? _____
 - b. What was their concern (verse 5)? _____
 - c. What did Pharaoh do (verses 6-9)? What all did he take with him in verses 7 and 9? _____

His decision might not seem very important but, in the light of what is going to happen, this will affect the status of Egypt military in a major way.
4. What did God do (verse 8)? _____
5. What did the Egyptians do (verse 9)? _____
6. As Pharaoh approached...
 - a. The Israelites are terrified! When they saw that the Egyptians were marching after them they cried out to the Lord. What did they say to Moses?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - b. What was the bottom line at the end of verse 12? _____

7. Verses 13-14: Obviously, Israel is in a real predicament. Pharaoh is on their backside. The sea is in front of them. They are trapped. What does Moses tell the people that they must do? What does Moses say that the Lord will do?
 - a. People: _____

- b. People: _____
- c. The Lord: _____
- d. The Lord: _____
- e. People: _____

Part 3

INTRODUCTION: One gets the sense that Moses is a desperate man. All these terrified people! This mighty army marching after them! Hemmed in by the endless desert and this great sea! Each was an enormous threat both to Moses as leader and those whom he was leading. In verse 15 it sounds like Moses is also crying out to the Lord. When the condition seems most hopeless, God says, “It’s time!” He is ready to act and begins to give orders to Moses. Action!

EXERCISE: It’s time to move on, but move where?

1. What is his first order in verse 16? _____

2. Let’s take a moment to recall the significance of the staff of God. Review these passages:
 - a. Exodus 4:17 _____
 - b. Exodus 4:20 _____
 - c. Exodus 7:19 _____

God instructed Moses to take the staff and to use it to perform miraculous signs. When Moses used the staff, God brought His judgment against Egypt in the form of the plagues but He brought His favor, His grace and mercy, to the Israelites when He made a distinction between them and the Egyptians.

3. In verse 16 we see God acting in love for His people but He is about to bring judgment upon the Egyptians. What is God going to do according to verse 17? _____

4. Ultimately, God is going to gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army. What does God make very clear in verse 18? _____
5. Now what are we told about the angel of God? _____
6. What are we told about the pillar of cloud? _____
7. What unusual phenomenon happens in verse 20? _____
8. Describe in your own words what happens next: _____

REFLECTION: Take a moment and consider what it would have been like to be one of the Israelites.

1. If an international reporter approached you for an interview of your experience, what would you want the world to know? _____

2. You might be somewhat out of breath in your rush to get to the other side. The Egyptians are pursuing you and all of Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen are following you. Wouldn't you think that when they encountered the walls of water they would have dropped to their knees in recognition that Israel's God is the Lord? There is none other. What do you think you would have done? _____

EXERCISE: But, the hearts of the Egyptians had been hardened, just as God had said. They followed the Israelites into the sea. Then during the last watch of the night God threw the Egyptian army into confusion. It's interesting to note that "the last watch of the night" was often the time when surprise attacks occurred. And, what a surprise! What confusion!

1. What happened to the Egyptian army in verse 25? _____

2. Who did the Egyptians acknowledge was actually fighting against them? Was it the Israelites? Read it very carefully. "And the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from before the Israelites, for the _____ fights _____ against the Egyptians.'" Literally, all Israel did was walk away.

Part 4

EXERCISE: God declares His judgment on Egypt. Helpless as they were, they had walked into God's trap. The Lord was with Moses and the Israelites.

1. Once they were safely across, what was God's instruction to Moses (verse 26)? _____

2. In verse 27 Moses obeyed. He stretched out his hand over the sea and _____

3. What was the end of the story? What happened to the Egyptians? _____

REFLECTION: The Egyptian army was totally destroyed. Verse 28 tells us that not one of them survived. Now, read again verse 29-31.

1. “But the people of Israel...” What a contrast from Pharaoh’s army. Who had the appearance of power and might? Who appeared to be the loser? Who seemed to have all the expertise of an organized army? Who seemed to have nothing except pillars of cloud and fire? Think of other contrasts. Winners and losers.
2. And, the Israelites looked on the shore and saw their enemy dead. Recall their terror and how they cried out to the Lord. The accusations were:
 - a. _____ brought us to the desert to die
 - b. _____ have done this to us
 - c. It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to _____ in the desert.
And now, who’s dead on the shore?
3. The Lord displayed His great power against the Egyptians. What difference did this make on the Israelites (verse 31)?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD:

1. In Exodus 13:17 we see God protecting His people. What words tell us this? _____

- The easiest or shortest way is not necessarily the best or the safest in the long run. Because of His care for them He knew that the longer route was the best...or was it?
2. Consider their complaints in Exodus 14:11-12. What do we learn about God’s people? _____

3. How does God treat them when they are scared and short-sighted, even blinded by their ignorance of His great power? _____
4. What do you think that the pillar of cloud leading them by day and the pillar of fire providing light at night meant to them? How do you think they would have regarded this supernatural thing that God, their God, was doing for them? _____
5. Would you have acted differently than the Israelites did? How so? Why? _____

APPLICATION: Have you found yourself on a road that is longer than you thought and it seems to be taking forever to arrive? Maybe a job position that you have had your eye on or a career move that you’ve wanted to make... Maybe a relationship seems to be going nowhere or the anticipation of a pregnancy seems to be a fading dream... Maybe with skyrocketing costs a college education isn’t in your future after all ...

1. If God is a God who cares for us and protects us, how do I know He cares about these concerns of my life? _____
2. If knowing that He cares and protects doesn't necessarily mean that I'm going to get that job or pregnancy or education, what might it mean? _____

3. In what ways do I tend to determine who God is by what He does for me? _____

REFLECTION:

1. Can you recall a time when you have felt hopelessly surrounded with no place to go? _____

2. When are those times when you feel as though the enemy is relentlessly pursuing you, determined to cause your ruin? _____
Maybe you struggle with an addiction or a compulsive behavior that won't let you alone. Maybe you have a person in your life that has been a bad influence and won't back off. Maybe you are plagued with fears and worry, or dark valleys of temptation, or loneliness that leads to depression.
3. What encouragement can you receive from Exodus 14:13-14? _____

4. What truths do you know about God that enable you to stand firm? How do you know He is fighting for you? _____

Part 5

MEMORIZATION: This story of the Israelites crossing the sea may have been introduced to you through the Cecil B. DeMille movie entitled The Ten Commandments. This movie portrays the event with all of Hollywood's 1950's cinema technology. You have just completed the reading of the story as recorded in Exodus. Undoubtedly, as you worked through this study your mind created some of its own pictures. With all the imaginable mental slides and scenes, God gave us the script to make it come alive. You are encouraged to put into your memory the script that goes with the scene found in Exodus 14:10-14. Pharaoh's army is approaching. In terror they see their demise. They envision themselves captured, destroyed, and even dead. In the face of such fear, Moses gives the order found in verses 13 and 14.

On an index card write these two verses. Put them to memory. Throughout these next days watch for times when you encounter fearful situations, times when the enemy approaches and you feel hemmed in on every side. Briefly note these circumstances on your card. As you put these words of Moses to

memory look for ways in which God comes to you with His peace that passes all understanding. Experience His power as you stand firm and see your deliverance as the Lord fights for you. Conclude with writing your words of thanksgiving and praise for His faithful care and protection.

PRAYER: O Lord, You care for me and protect me. You gave the pillar of cloud to guide the Israelites during the day and a pillar of fire to give light to them at night. You showed that Your presence was always with them. Thank You for guiding me with the knowledge that comes to me through Your Word. Thank You for reassuring me of Your presence even during dark and difficult days. Thank You for fighting my battles for me and giving me victory over my enemies. _____

TEACHING: In Exodus 15 we read the song that Moses and the Israelites sang following their deliverance from the Egyptians. Imagine the inexpressible joy, the victory celebration! This is their song of triumph. They responded by singing to the Lord. These are not difficult verses and will only take a few minutes to read. Note those things that begin with “I will” and tell what God has done. Then identify those words that reveal Israel’s regard for who the Lord is. Every column may not be filled for each reference.

Reference	“I will...”	What God did	Who God is
Ex. Exodus 15:1	Sing to the Lord	He hurled the horse & rider into the sea	Highly exalted

In Exodus 15:19 there is a brief summary of what happened that brought Israelites victory. And, finally, in verses 20 and 21 we see the women dancing with their tambourines and singing with Miriam, Moses and Aaron's sister, the prophetess. Note the words she sings...

APPLICATION: They all sang to the Lord for He is highly exalted! We, too, must remember that as the Lord delivers us from the difficult circumstances in our lives we give to Him our thanks and praise. Words from chapter 15 will help you as you celebrate the victories He brings to your life. Why not practice giving to Him your thanks and praise? The Lord loves to hear you tell Him how mighty and majestic He is! _____

LESSON TWO

YOU SHALL BE FILLED

EXODUS 16-18 – GRUMBLED

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INTRODUCTION

How quickly we forget! The Israelites were no different. Basic needs of water and food were necessary for their desert journey but how would these needs be met? God had demonstrated His power as their protector with the destruction of Pharaoh's army. In this lesson observe the Lord demonstrate His power as Israel's provider.

When you have need for something essential for life how do you respond? What is your typical reaction? Israel had a habit. Discover what it was. Does it sound familiar to you? It seems rather childish yet at times, whether young or old, we all have responded in a similar fashion as Israel did.

But did Israel's behavior keep the Lord from caring for His people? He provided and called them to obedience. Watch how God handled their disobedience. One critical truth He wanted them to know and understand as they lived together as His people: "I AM the Lord." What implications would it have on Israel that "I AM the Lord?" What would "I AM the Lord" communicate to the world Israel would encountered?

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: The remaining chapters of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy tell the story of the Israelites' wilderness experiences. Moses is their leader. During this period of Israel's history God was at work shaping a people that would give witness to other nations that He was the Lord their God and that they belonged to Him. God had promised their forefathers the land of Canaan as their inheritance. Now they journeyed toward the fulfillment of that promise to take possession of what He had given them.

But, things happened along the way. A community needed to be shaped and molded. The people needed to learn about their God and the relationship that He wanted to have with them. They needed to understand how they were to live and to trust that they would be feared by other nations because He was their God. And, the Israelites needed to understand that obedience resulted in blessings and disobedience in curses.

We need to get our imaginations going once again. Recall where Israel had been, enslaved in Egypt. Remember what they had just experienced with the crossing of the Red Sea and the destruction of Pharaoh's army. Now, it's quiet. The cloud has lifted and their leader has them on the move. Undoubtedly, this time in the wilderness had its challenges. We'll discover one of those challenges in this lesson.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 15:22-27. What is the first basic need of the people? _____

EXERCISE:

1. Refer to your map. The Desert of Shur will be identified in the northern region of the Sinai Peninsula. You may also find Marah, although its exact location is not certain. It is at Marah where this story takes place.
2. How long have they been traveling in the desert? _____ What have they been looking for? _____ When they finally find water, what is the problem? _____

3. What is the immediate reaction of the people? _____
What did they say to Moses? _____
Remember, it has not been that long since the Lord displayed His great power at the Red Sea.
4. Already the leader is under attack. And, who does their leader cry out to? _____

- a. What does the Lord show Moses? _____
 - b. And, what does Moses do with it? _____
 - c. What happens? _____
5. In verse 26 God makes a decree, a law for the people to follow as a way of testing them. This law has two parts to it. The first part begins “if you” and the second part gives the promise of the “I will.”

If you...	I will...

- 6. Who does He remind them that He is? _____
 - 7. What does He tell them that He does? _____
- God wants to remind them of their relationship in which He is their God and they are His people.

TEACHING:

- 1. Where do they arrive in verse 27? _____ Locate Elim on your map. You will find it just south of Marah.
- 2. Describe Elim: _____
 We’re not sure how long they have been on their journey but one can only imagine the barrenness and the heat of the desert that they have endured. What a relief this oasis must have been for this novice group of travelers! It almost seems like the Lord is saying, “I know you need water and I will provide. He brings them to Elim where there are 12 springs of water!” He certainly knew their need for refreshing water and the comforting shade of the palm trees. Note: Elim is located in a well-watered valley. The word “Elim” means “large (or robust) trees.”

Part 2

INTRODUCTION: God graciously and bountifully supplied the whole Israelite community with water. After leaving the oasis at Elim they set out for the Desert of Sin to the south. They had been on the road again for several days. The food they brought from Egypt had been eaten or spoiled by this time. The troops were hungry! Food was next on their list of needs.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 16:1-5.

EXERCISE:

1. After reading this section, what is one of the first things you noticed about the Israelites? _____

2. What were their comments? _____

Take a moment to hear what they said in Egypt. Look up Exodus 3:7; Exodus 6:5. How quickly they forgot.

3. Who did they grumble against? _____

4. What did the Lord tell Moses in verse 4? _____

5. What were His instructions in verses 4 and 5?

a. The people are to _____

b. On the sixth day _____

6. At the end of verse 4 He makes an interesting statement. What was the test this time? _____

This was to be a test of obedience. God needed to give them the opportunity to demonstrate their love for Him, acknowledging Him to be the Lord, their God.

TEACHING: In a relationally healthy home the parent establishes a relationship with the child, by lavishing an infant with love by caring for the child's basic needs. As the child grows the parent teaches the child obedience. The child is simply asked to follow the parent's instructions. The child's obedience is a means the child uses to communicate love to the parent. The child trusts and willingly obeys the parent. Obedience is the child's response to this love relationship first established by the parent.

APPLICATION: Consider a time when obedience tested your relationship with a parent, child, friend, or coworker.

1. Who gave the test? _____

2. What was the response? _____

3. What was the outcome? _____

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 16:6-8.

TEACHING:

1. God's instructions to the Israelites in verses 4 and 5 seemed simple enough. But, there was a bigger issue that needed to be addressed. What was it in verse 6-8? _____

2. When a child grumbles and complains what can be the problem? It may be that the child does not get what he or she wants. Or, it may be a grumble caused by looking back with regret. “If only...” (Verse 3). Not getting his/her way is only the surface of the problem. What is the deeper issue? What are we told God wanted the Israelites to do in verse 4? _____
3. We all resist authority. We want to be in charge, in control. The Lord was insisting that He was their God and He had chosen Moses as the one to lead these people. Moses and Aaron were the Israelites first line of attack in verses 2 and 3 but what does Moses clarify for them in verse 7? _____
4. They grumbled against Moses and Aaron. Would these two men have been able to supply the food for this great amount of people? What does Moses say in verse 7? “What are we _____.”
The Lord was the one who would supply all the meat to eat and bread they could want.
4. What was Moses’ declaration at the end of verse 8? _____

Part 3

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 16:9-18.

EXERCISE:

1. Verses 9-10: Moses had the entire Israelite community brought before the Lord. How did the Lord appear to the people in the desert? _____
2. Verses 11-12: What was God’s response to the grumbling of the Israelites? _____
3. Verse 12: What would they know because they had meat to eat and their stomachs were filled with bread? _____

REFLECTION: Doesn’t it seem a little strange that once again God would have to demonstrate His power in order for them to know that He is the Lord? Let’s review. Recall the situation in each of these references when God said something like this, “And, they will know that I am the Lord.”

Reference	Situation
Exodus 6:2, 6-8	
Exodus 14:4,18	

God repeatedly says, “Then you will know...” He wanted not only Israel to know that He was their God but the Egyptians and everyone else as well. He chose to attach Himself to these people, the ones who grumbled and complained against Him and his servant Moses. Yet, He chose to display His great power before them. What kind of God would be so patient and slow to anger, abounding in grace toward a people who regretted leaving their past life? They grumbled against a God who was determined to keep the promise that He had made to Abraham generations before (Genesis 17:1-8).

Once again, in Exodus 16:12 He says, “Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.”

EXERCISE:

1. In the next verses we learn that God supplied food enough for all the Israelites. Give an account in your own words what happened (verses 13-18) _____

2. If you had been in the desert with no hope for meat, what would be your reaction that first evening when the quail invaded the camp? Belief? Disbelief? Do you think you would “know that I am the Lord your God?” _____
3. If you had been in the desert with no hope for meat but had quail meat the night before, what would your reaction be the next morning when thin flakes, frost-like flakes were on the desert floor waiting to be gathered? Belief? Disbelief? _____
4. What was the Israelites reaction to the thin flakes in verse 15? _____
5. What had the Lord commanded in verse 16? _____
And, everyone had sufficient!

Part 4

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 16:19-30.

INTRODUCTION: Moses gives the people a command, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.” He calls the people to obedience. The people have a choice. Very easily we can make a connection between this desert scene and the garden scene with Adam and Eve and the serpent (Genesis 3). God gave instructions to them as well. They were not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or they would die. The serpent challenged if God really said that and if that’s what He said, did He really mean it. The same challenge is placed before the Israelites. Some obeyed the Lord’s command

not to keep any until morning. Verse 20 begins, “However...” Some disobeyed. They paid no attention to Moses. They kept some overnight.

REFLECTION: One might say that we can hardly blame them. How could they trust that there would be more tomorrow? Do you think that you would have been more inclined to gather only enough for the day or would you be one who would pay no attention to Moses’ instruction? Explain yourself. _____

EXERCISE:

1. Things didn’t turn out so well for some of the Israelites that first time. What happened to the food that was kept overnight? _____
2. What was Moses’ reaction to their disobedience? _____
3. Apparently, the Israelites quickly got into a routine and obediently collected as much as was needed for each day before it melted away. What were the instructions for the sixth day? _____
4. Why was this day’s order different than the other days (verse 23)? _____

To use modern terms, it probably went something like this, “Shop and cook every day except on the Sabbath.” What was the reason for this? _____

5. Next to the word “Sabbath” you may have a small italicized letter that refers you to verse 23 in the cross-reference column. Genesis 2:3 may be listed. Turn to Genesis 2:3 and reread about the very first Sabbath rest. Who took this Sabbath rest? _____
 6. The instruction in Exodus 16:22 states that they were to collect a double portion. Verse 27 indicates trouble. Nevertheless, some of the people did what? _____
 7. Moses was angry with the people in verse 20. Now in verse 28 God is angry with the people. He tells them what it means to have a Sabbath rest. What does He say (verse 29)? _____
-

APPLICATION: After God created the heavens and the earth He rested. He wants rest for His people also. He knows that unless He commanded it the people would have no special day of the week for rest. The Sabbath Day is a holy day, a day that the Lord gives for the health and well-being of people. In the Bible study unit entitled *God’s Plan, Our Choice* the concept of the Sabbath rest was introduced. Now, God wants His people to reflect Him to the world and one of the ways His people are to do that is by establishing the day of rest. This set the Israelites apart from the other nations. The God of Israel cared for His people. He knew their need for rest. Rest gave them the opportunity to reflect on Him and His

gracious provisions for them. Rest gave them time for worship and time to appreciate His creation and their valued relationships with others. When we do these things we, too, participate in the Sabbath rest.

The question needs to be asked: How do you spend your Sabbath Day? How do you find refreshment for your body and soul during this 24-hour period? _____

A life that acknowledges the Sabbath is a witness to a world that knows no rest.

Part 5

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 16:31-36.

EXERCISE: When the Israelites saw the thin flakes, they said, “What is it?” They didn’t know. They had never seen anything like it before.

1. What did the Israelites call this strange food in verse 31? _____
 2. Note the description: _____
 3. What did the Lord command in verse 32? _____
-

God wanted the generations to come to understand that these people were fed by the Lord. It’s interesting to note that the manna would rot if kept overnight but the Lord commanded that some was to be collected and kept in the jar that would last for generations to see.

4. Where did Aaron place the jar of manna (verse 34)? _____
The Testimony was later referred to as the Ark of the Covenant which eventually held other items that God wanted kept for posterity.
 5. How long did God provide the manna? _____
-

WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD: Two basic needs for survival are food and water. These needs became obvious soon after their departure from Egypt. God had fought their fight against Egypt and enabled them to cross through the Red Sea on dry ground. Now they were headed to the Promised Land led by God. He made His presence evident to all as He appeared in the cloud by day and the fire by night. But, His powerful presence wasn’t enough for the people. When they were terrified by the Egyptians at the Sea they cried out to Moses complaining that it would have been better to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert. When they were faced with the bitter water at Marah, they grumbled to Moses and said,

“What are we to drink?” Then, when they ran out of food, they longed for all the food they had in Egypt. Again, they grumbled against Moses.

In reality, however, Moses told them that their grumbling and complaining was not against him but against God. With all of their discontent, how do we see the Lord responding? At the Sea He goes to battle for them, at Marah He sweetens the water, in the Desert of Sin He provides meat and manna for them to eat. And, He did all this for forty years!

APPLICATION:

1. What word or words would you use to describe the character God displayed during these desert days? _____
2. Is this the God that you know? In what way has He revealed Himself to you? How have you come to know Him? _____
3. When is a time that you encountered a patient God who provided for your need, a time when, like Israel, you knew that He is the Lord your God? _____

PRAYER: Lord, I can only thank and praise You for Your patient love that endures in spite of my anxieties and fears. You are the Lord, my God. You are present in my life as You were in the life of Israel. You hear my grumbling and complaining just as You heard theirs. Yet, You forgive my lack of trust in You. You continue to faithfully provide me with all the food and water that I need each day. I ask you to open my eyes to see You as a patient and caring God who only wants to shower me with blessings. _____

LESSON THREE

OBEY MY VOICE

EXODUS 19-20 – TREMBLED

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INTRODUCTION

How were the Israelites to live? This lesson contains the proclamation of God's commands for His treasured people. They had just come out from under the authority of their slave masters. Now they would discover how to live in community with one another. What was God's expectation on how His people would reflect Him to the world by living as His people? God wanted His best for His people!

As you proceed through this lesson observe all that one *can* do to reflect Him. The majority of the commands are given in the negative, telling us what not to do. Throughout this study watch for the freedom for all that we can do.

Community life as God's people was beginning to develop. He provided water and food for all. He tested all. He protected all. They in turn were all to reflect Him as a community. What the community did reflected on Him. Thus, so there would be no misunderstanding, the commandments were given. Parents do this with children. To learn what family life is like parents share specific dos and don'ts. These are not given to restrict the child but to give boundaries for proper behavior and protection. Consider God's care for the community of His people as they discovered His loving protection.

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: Because the material in Exodus 17 and 18 cannot be covered in detail, take some time to become familiar with these chapters on your own. In Exodus 17:1-7 another incident occurs. The Israelites are out of water again and again they grumble against Moses. They asked Moses why they were brought to the desert to die. This conversation has happened before as we saw in Lesson 2. Once again, the Lord graciously provides water.

In Exodus 17:8-16 we read of their first battle. Who attacks them? Read the story on your own and learn how the Lord gives the victory to Israel. This story is one example of the power of prayer and may encourage you as you develop your life of prayer.

In Exodus 18 we learn that Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, comes from Midian for visit in the desert. Who did he bring along with him? Why did he come? What did Moses share with him? What did Jethro observe and what was Jethro's advice to his son-in-law? After his visit, Jethro returned home to his own country.

EXERCISE: Approximately three months have now passed since Israel left Egypt (Exodus 19:1). They have moved further south into the Sinai Peninsula and have camped close to the mountain of God in the Desert of Sinai. God has called to Moses and reinforced His covenant.

1. What does He say in verse 5? If you _____
_____, [then] _____

2. What was the response of the people when Moses set before them all the words of the Lord (verse 8)? _____
3. In verse 9 the Lord says how he will come to Moses. How will He come? _____
4. Then in verses 10-15 He gives instructions for the people. They are to consecrate themselves. What are some of the regulations for their consecration in preparation for the Lord's coming?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
5. Describe in your own words the morning of the third day (verse 16-19). _____

REFLECTION: Of all the things that are mentioned in these verses, what stands out in your mind?

Why? _____

Imagine in your own mind what it would be like to know that the Holy One of Israel, the Holy God was coming and could only be seen as fire and smoke on the mountain top. In verse 16 it says that everyone in the camp trembled. How would you explain this reaction of the people? _____

Does God's holiness scare you? Does His holiness cause you to fall on your face in awe and respect of Who He is? What would be your own personal reaction if you were in the community of people camped at the base of this mountain with God Almighty, Yahweh, Jehovah descending on the top? _____

PRAYER: I stand in amazement when I consider your holiness. You are the One who created the heavens and the earth. You are the One who existed before time began. You are the One who divided the water and swallowed up the army of the enemy. You are the One who provided water, bread and meat every day to sustain life. Now You decide to come and dwell among Your people. Thank you for your holiness. Thank you for _____

Part 2

INTRODUCTION: Exodus 20 records the Ten Commandments. God spoke all the words He gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. Notice a couple of things: In the original writing the Commandments were not numbered first, second, third, etc. Not all churches use the same order for numbering the Commandments. In Lesson 3—Parts 2 and 3 we will give attention to the first Commandments found in verses 1-11 and address the remaining Commandments in Parts 4 and 5.

TEACHING: We are ready to begin our study of the Ten Commandments, God's Law for His people. Certain things need to be understood before we proceed. We need to understand the purpose of the Law. Why did God give His Law? God's Law had three distinct purposes. One purpose was to keep His people from committing any blatant and heinous offense. An example would be murder. Just as traffic

barriers serve to keep a car on the road and avoid hitting or even killing someone, so the Law serves as a barrier keeping His people from committing some dreadful crime.

Another purpose of the Law was to show people that they were sinners, that sin had permeated their lives as well as everything else in all creation. Their lives were to reflect God's perfect image, His image in which He created them in Genesis 1:27. However, because of sin's permeation into all of creation, man had lost that image. God's perfect image that humankind was to reflect was broken and destroyed. The Law became a mirror that showed the broken sinful image that had replaced God's image. Sin no longer allowed people to reflect Him as He is. The Law became that which exposes man for what he is, a disobedient sinner.

And, finally, the Law is that which serves as a guide for living our lives. The Law serves as a rule which holds us on course living as God would have us live in relationship to Him and to one another.

Considering these three responsibilities of the Law we proceed with our study. We will be challenged to see ourselves in some of these situations because we would rather justify and deny the reality of who we are and the affect sin has had on us. You are encouraged, however, to allow God's Spirit to give you insight and understanding as He shows us our need for His act of redemption. He restored our hopeless condition that we see in the mirror of the Law. Our inability to obey His Law reveals our inability to make ourselves holy before God. God's loving action, however, saved us and gives us hope for this life and the life to come. Through the gift of His Son who lived His life perfectly reflecting God's image of holiness and keeping the Law without a flaw, the Law can no longer condemn us. Romans 4:25 reminds us that "He [Jesus] was delivered up for our _____ and _____ for our justification." He now enables us to live and reflect the image of one who has been justified, who lives "just as if I had never sinned," one who has been made right(eous) in his/her relationship with God. And, it's all because of Jesus!

EXERCISE: Exodus 20

1. In verse 2 God declares that He is the one giving these commands.
 - a. Who does He say that He is? _____
 - b. What does He say that He's done? _____
2. This is the same God who safely brought them through the Red Sea and the same God even their enemies would know to be the Lord (Exodus 14:18). You may have a cross-reference verse listed after the word "God." The reference will send you to Genesis 17:7. In this verse God says that

He is confirming His covenant with Abraham and his descendants. What does God say at the end of the next verse, verse 8? _____

3. In Exodus 20:2 God claims to be the one who brought them *out of* Egypt, *out of* the house of slavery. He is the one who brought Abraham *out of* Ur of the Chaldeans. And, as Abraham was brought *to* the land of Canaan, the land given by God for His covenant people, now, He brought the Israelites *out of* slavery *to* this Promised Land. Having introduced Himself, He gives the stipulations, the rules or commands, for those whom He delivered and now claims to be their God.

4. Verse 3: Universally, this is considered to be the first commandment. Write out verse 3:

It's amazing to think about it! If this commandment was kept, there would be no need for the other nine!

REFLECTION: You might ask the question: Why was it even necessary for this commandment to be given? If you had experienced all that the Israelites had since Moses returned to Egypt as the deliverer of God's people from slavery, do you think you would have any trouble keeping this first commandment? Yet the first command states that we are to have no other gods before Him.

1. What does this say about mankind's propensity to have other gods? _____

2. If God made a command against it, what does this say about my inclination to do it? _____

EXERCISE:

1. Verse 4 is considered by some theologians to be a restatement of verse 3 and therefore is combined with the first commandment. Others separate the two, giving a different numbering for the rest of the commandments. Remember, the Bible doesn't number them. What is the command? _____

2. Verse 5 makes reference to bowing down or worshipping anything that man created, any idol that represented what He (God) had created. The command was to worship the Creator, not the created. What was the reason He gave in verses 5 and 6? _____

3. In verse 5 God claims to be a jealous God. God uses the word jealous in this verse to describe His fierce love for His people; He doesn't want anything else to replace Him and His love.

REFLECTION:

1. Why would God say we are not to make an idol and command that such things are not to be worshipped? _____
2. Do I give God reason for concern? What are images that I have created and, if I'm honest with myself, need to admit that in my heart I love and trust more than God? _____

3. God says that when we worship what we've created that we are sinning and expressing hate toward Him. He goes on to say that the disobedient will be punished. In verse 6 He also says that He will show _____ toward those who _____ Him and _____ His commandments. His heart's desire is for us to live in a love relationship with Him. Our love for Him is expressed through our obedience to Him.

PRAYER: O Lord God, You have commanded me to have no others gods before You. You have also commanded that I should not replace you with anything created in heaven or on the earth. You want so much for me to be Yours. You want to be the only God in my life. You do not want me searching after other gods. Search my heart, O God, and see if there is any god that I have placed before You. Search my heart. Lead me to repent, to turn from my disobedience, and enable me to worship only You _____

Part 3

INTRODUCTION: In Part 2 we studied what God said about Himself. In verse 2 He said that He was the Lord, the God of Israel, the one who brought them out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. The Commandments told the people what He expected of them, what they were to do. We learned that He is a jealous God (verse 5) and demanded that Israel have no other gods before Him (verse 3). He wanted to be the One who ruled and reigned in their hearts and lives. He did not want to compete with any idol made in the form of anything in heaven, on the earth, or in the waters (verse 4). And, He promised both to punish those who displayed their hatred for Him by disobeying His commands and to show His love to all those who loved Him by obeying His commandments (verse 5, 6). In Part 3 we will continue with verse 7 through verse 11.

EXERCISE:

1. Write out the Commandment in verse 7: _____

2. Make a positive statement. What God *does* want according to this verse: _____

REFLECTION: Consider your own name.

1. What value do you place on your name? Think of a situation in which your name was misused.

2. When someone tells a lie about you, what does this do to your name? _____

3. When someone makes fun of your name, what does this do to your name? _____

4. When someone maliciously accuses you, what does this do to your name? _____

APPLICATION:

1. When the name of the Lord God is misused what happens to the name of the Lord? _____

2. God holds His people responsible for His name. When His name is misused, the one who misuses it is guilty. What might this mean to you? _____

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 20: 8-11.

INTRODUCTION: When we studied the creation story in Genesis 1-2 (*God's Plan, Our Choice*) we learned that after creating all that He had made He chose to rest on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1, 2). We touched on this again in Exodus 16:29 when we learned that the Israelites were told to gather twice as much food on the sixth day because on the Sabbath day the people were to rest.

EXERCISE:

1. In Exodus 20:8 we have this practice made into a commandment. Write out the command in verse 8: _____
2. That sounds simple enough! But, the Lord went on to explain what He meant by “remembering the Sabbath day.” What did he say in the following verses?
 - a. Verse 9: _____
 - b. Verse 10: _____
3. Verse 11 tells His thinking behind this whole ordeal of remembering the Sabbath: _____

REFLECTION:

1. What do you think God wanted for His people that caused Him to make such a big deal about remembering the Sabbath day to keep it holy? _____
2. It's an interesting assignment to rest on the Sabbath. Attempting to rest reveals much about what we seek to accomplish (do) on the Sabbath. In the light of what you do on the Sabbath, what might be a change or two that could be made in your life to move you to a restful Sabbath?

God wants His creation to rest. This doesn't just mean humankind, but also the animals need to rest from the hunter and the laborer. Grass needs to grow; the flowers bloom and birds of the air sing. And, God doesn't want His people to miss it!

PRAYER: Once again, Lord, I see Your impeccable care for all that You have created. You command that the Sabbath day be remembered. You command this because You know all too well that I am prone to work, work, work. There always seems to be more to do than I can get done. You know that I need rest for my body, my soul, and my mind. Thank You for Your great love and care. Enable me to acknowledge my need for rest. _____

Part 4

INTRODUCTION: Having completed verse 11 we move into the study of the remaining Commandments. Verses 12-17 contain the commands that are probably most familiar to us. Let's begin by taking a brief look at each of the Commandments and reflect on how these commands of God affect our lives.

ASSIGNMENT: Read verse 12-17.

EXERCISE: All of the Commandments except in verse 12 begin with the words "You shall not." A more familiar version says, "Thou shalt not."

1. Like verse 8, verse 12 begins with a positive command. How does verse 12 begin? _____

This command addresses the way we are to treat those in authority over us. It begins with our parents. The honor we give to our parents and those in authority reflects the honor we give the God who gave to us our parents and those in authority over us. If we learn to obey our parents,

for example, we learn to obey God. When we obey our parents, we honor them. Likewise, when we obey God, we honor Him.

2. This Commandment is the only one that gives a promise. What is the promise? _____

REFLECTION: This particular commandment may raise several questions in your mind. Consider these questions as you take time to reflect on your own life.

1. Who are those individuals in my life whom I am commanded to honor? in the home? the state? school? at work? Name them: _____

2. How do I show that I honor them? _____
3. Some individuals who are in authority over me are difficult to respect. Their words and actions are not worthy of respect. How can I honor them in spite of my lack of respect for them? _____

4. How do I deal with the fact that some people who honor authority do not live a long life? _____

EXERCISE: Write the Commandment in verse 13: _____

1. What is forbidden? You may want to review Genesis 4. _____
2. In addition to taking the life of another, what else does this Commandment include? _____

3. Out of love for God we are forbidden to do anything that would hurt or harm others by what we say or do. Care for the well-being of others, offers life to them rather than death. Anger and hatred toward others are also forbidden. Consider these references and what they say about such things:
 - a. Ephesians 4:26 _____
 - b. Genesis 4:6,7 _____
4. We have considered what this Commandment forbids. Take a moment to reflect on what this Commandment encourages us to do, especially as we consider our treatment of others. _____

REFLECTION:

1. For most people it is easy to say, "I haven't killed anyone. I haven't broken this Commandment." As I reflect on the broader sense of what the command entails, what is something I am prone to do that hurts or harms others? _____

2. How do I handle the hurt I experience because of what others have done that has hurt me? _____

3. What is something I could do that would help others and show kindness towards them? _____

EXERCISE: Using this table as a tool, consider verse 14-17. What does the Commandment say? What all might that include? What are my reflections as I consider its application in my life?

Commandment	What it says	What is included	My reflections
Exodus 20:14			
Exodus 20:15			
Exodus 20:16			
Exodus 20:17			

Write some of your concluding thoughts as you look at the Commandments in their entirety. Consider what you may have learned—maybe a new insight. What is something you learned about God? How do the things you learned about God apply to your relationship with God? with others? with yourself? Your thoughts... _____

Part 5

INTRODUCTION: In this lesson we have seen how the people prepared for the Lord coming to His people on Mount Sinai. As they prepared they were warned not to touch the mountain or force their way to see Him. God had warned Moses to put limits around the mountain. It was to be set apart as holy (Exodus 19:23).

Then God spoke the words of the Law to Moses. We can think of God’s Law as a means of controlling His people, of limiting their “fun,” of restricting them. Or, we can consider His Law to be the means He chooses to guide and direct them, keeping them safe and protected, and offering to them a way of health and happiness. This Israelite community needed to know how they were to treat the One who claimed to be their God and how they were to treat one another as His people.

EXERCISE: This exercise may help to clarify some things for you. Complete this table answering the question, “Does this Commandment speak about my relationship with God or with other people?” Write each Commandment in one of the two columns.

My Relationship with God	My Relationship with Others
Verse 2: Have no other gods before Me	Verse 12: Honor father and mother...

Now that you have defined the relationship that the particular Commandment addresses, look the following references and identify the relational focus of that passage:

1. Leviticus 19:18 _____
2. Deuteronomy 6:5 _____
3. Matthew 22:34-40 _____

Jesus summarized all of the Commandments into two commands. These commands were the command to love. These commands address my relationship with both God and my fellow human beings. The Commandments give me the opportunity to demonstrate my love for God as I obey and acknowledge His Word as the authority in my life.

God initiated His relationship with Israel. He told them that He was their God and that they were His people. In giving the Commandments He let them know that they were a people who were set apart and, as His people, they were to live a life of love. Their obedient lives would reflect Him to the nations.

MEMORIZATION: Matthew 22:37-39 gives the summary of the Commandments. Write these verses on an index card and challenge yourself not only to memorize these verses but also to review the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20. As you review remind yourself that God loves you and wants your uncompromised love. Remind yourself that God wants you to be loved by others and wants you to love others as you love yourself.

You are encouraged to memorize the Commandments! They are not difficult. Write them on the index card and entitle the card the Ten Commandments. Your card may look like this:

- 1st – You shall have no other gods before me.
- 2nd – You shall not make for yourself an idol.
- 3rd – You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- 4th – Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- 5th – Honor your father and your mother.
- 6th – You shall not murder.
- 7th – You shall not commit adultery.
- 8th – You shall not steal.
- 9th – You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- 10th – You shall not covet your neighbor’s house, his wife, manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

PRAYER: These Commandments, Lord, at first glance do not seem difficult, however, the more I consider them I realize how relevant they are for my life. You remind me of your great love for Your people and Your need to recreate in me the relationship with You and with one another that was lost way back in the Garden of Eden. Give me a love that loves You with all of my heart, soul and my mind. Give me a love that loves my neighbor as I love myself. May I find great joy in obeying You and Your Word.

TRANSITION

INTRODUCTION: At this point in the story certain things seem vague. For example, was Moses up the mountain or down? Did Aaron accompany Moses to meet with God? How long was Moses gone? You may have additional questions. What the Bible text tells us is that “the people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was” (Exodus 20:21). For us to continue our study we need to understand that God gave more than the Ten Commandments to Moses. The Commandments are often referred to as the *moral law*. God also gave Moses the *ceremonial laws*. The chapters that follow, Exodus 21 through Exodus 31, reveal these laws. The ceremonial laws are based on the moral law with specific application to practical life in the wilderness and later in Canaan.

DIGGING DEEPER: The amount of material prohibits us from covering these chapters in detail. You are encouraged to do an overview. In the table complete the right column briefly stating the subject of these laws. Be careful not to get bogged down with specifics.

REFERENCE

OVERVIEW OF THE LAWS

Exodus 20:22-26	
Exodus 21:1-11	
Exodus 21:12-36	
Exodus 22:10-15	
Exodus 22:16-31	
Exodus 23:1-9	
Exodus 23:10-13	
Exodus 23:14-19	

TEACHING: Exodus 24 retells the story of all that went on—how Moses went up the mountain, who went with him, and some insight as to what happened there. The blood sacrifice was first. Next, the ascent of the 70 elders and dinner on the mountain occurs and then the Lord’s call to Moses to come up. Exodus 24:15-18 tells of Moses entering the cloud as he went up the mountain.

In verse 18 we are told that Moses is gone from the people for forty days and forty nights. During this time, in addition to the Ten Commandments, God gives to him the specifics He wanted for the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was the building structure that gave a visual to the people of His presence among them and served as the place where God dwelled. The Tabernacle was designed to be portable so when the Israelites moved from place to place they would disassemble the structure and take the Tabernacle with them.

Note: The chapters from Exodus 25 through Exodus 31 give God’s direction for the Tabernacle. We will look at these specifics in Lesson 5.

LESSON FOUR

BUT MOSES IMPLORED THE LORD

EXODUS 32 – CORRUPTED THEMSELVES

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INTRODUCTION

While Moses is experiencing the holiness of God on top of the mountain, Israel is displaying such repulsive behavior at its base. What would God do with these people? What did He want to do? They had corrupted themselves and defiled the Lord.

Moses again stands between God, who is ready to call down His wrath, and these people. What was God about to do? Why didn't He do what He said He would do? What did the people deserve? How was God's judgment displayed among the people?

This was a low point in Israel's history. The holiness of God is a stark contrast to the corruption of humankind. What Israel deserved was death but God acted with both justice and mercy. Stand back at first and attempt to comprehend the wickedness, evil, and corruption that took place on the mountain floor. Then draw in close and see God's grace and mercy, His compassion and longsuffering demonstrated as Moses presented himself a second time on top of the mountain.

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: Exodus 31:18 tells that when Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai that He gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the Law. These were the tablets of stone inscribed by _____ . All of this was happening during the 40 days and nights he was on the mountain.

So, meanwhile, what do you think has been happening at the base of the mountain?

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 32:1-6.

EXERCISE:

1. If you had been an Israelite out in this Desert of Sin and your leader had been gone for almost six weeks what would you be thinking? _____

The fact that he had gone into the thick darkness to encounter Jehovah, Yahweh, the Almighty God could mean that he had died there and now they were without a leader.

2. What did they see as a solution (verse 1)? What did they do? _____
 - a. What did they ask Aaron? _____
 - b. What was their reason? _____
3. Ultimately, who did they consider to be their deliverer? _____
 - a. Who actually was their Deliverer? _____
 - b. What were some of the things God had done for them? What were some things that He delivered them from? (i.e. battle with the Philistines, starvation) Create your list:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
4. Isn't it interesting, the first person they turn to is Aaron? Why Aaron? What had he done for them? _____

REFLECTION: Now they're asking him to "make us gods who will go before us." They lost sight of their leader. They had no knowledge of his whereabouts. So, their conclusion was that if our leader abandons us, let's "create our own gods who will go before us."

1. Does this sound foolish to you? Why? _____

2. What would you think, especially when you consider all God had done for them? _____

3. When you consider your life and all that God has done for you, do you think that God as your deliverer would abandon you? Why? Why not? _____

EXERCISE:

1. What is Aaron response to them (verse 2) _____
2. So what do the people do (verse 3)? _____
3. What does Aaron do with all that they brought to him (verse 4) _____
4. What did the idol look like? _____
5. What was the response of the people? “These _____ (verse 4).”
6. Do you have any gut response to their declaration? Do you agree with them? Why? Why not?

7. Do you consider yourself an advocate for God? Why? _____

8. In verse 4 it says that Aaron fashioned the idol with a tool. Apparently, he took great care in shaping the calf. In verse 5, what do you notice about Aaron? What does he do and what does he initiate? _____

9. How did the people respond to Aaron? What did they do (verse 6)? _____

10. Aaron had yielded to their desires. He got involved as the craftsman and created the idol that was intended to replace the Lord. He led them in their idolatry.

DIGGING DEEPER: Verses 5 and 6 are somewhat unclear. Aaron built an altar in the form of the calf. Then he announced that there would be a festival to the Lord. Was Aaron feeling guilty about what he had done? When he heard the people say that this golden calf was their god now, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, was this an awakening to the reality that he had led the Israelites into idolatry? Verse 5 says, “When Aaron saw this...” Saw what, the calf? The people declaring they had a new god? What was it that he saw? The next thing the Bible says is that he built an altar in front of the calf and made the announcement that the next day there would be a festival to the Lord.

If one takes a brief look ahead to verse 8 we learn that the people bowed down to the calf and sacrificed to it, declaring that these were the gods that brought them out of Egypt. If that's the case, then the altar was made for sacrifices to the idol and the festival was to their new god.

Part 2

ASSIGNMENT: So now that we know what's happening at the base of the mountain, let's go back up the mountain and listen to the conversation there. Read Exodus 32:7-14.

EXERCISE: God knows what is happening down below.

1. What does God tell Moses to do in verse 7? _____
2. Why this command? What does He tell Moses the people have become? _____
3. Whose people have the Israelites become (verse 7)? _____
 - a. Turn back to Genesis 6:11-13. What did God say about the condition of the earth in these verses? _____
 - b. What was He going to do about it? _____
 - c. Using Exodus 32:8 how does God describe and define corruption? _____

4. What else does God say about these people (verse 9)? _____
5. What does God tell Moses He's going to do (verse 10)? _____

TEACHING: Moses has a unique role that he plays as leader of the people. The people are not his people but God's, yet they are not able to speak directly to God nor does God choose to speak directly to them. Moses serves as a priest for the people. The priest in the Old Testament was given the responsibility of serving as the one who represented God to the people and represented the people to God. We see this happening in Exodus 32:11-14.

1. The people have sinned. Again, why has God told Moses that he wants to be left alone?

He tells Moses that He will then make him, Moses, into a _____
2. Now Moses as priest represents the people to God. Verse 11 tells us that Moses implored the Lord his God. He says, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn..." in verse 11. Then in verse 12 he says, "Why should _____"
3. Then what does he ask the Lord to do instead?
 - a. Turn from _____

- b. Relent _____
- c. Remember _____

4. What did the Lord do? _____

DIGGING DEEPER: For a deeper understanding and more insights into this particular section of Exodus, you are encouraged to explore these passages. Ask yourself what each of these passages teaches that gives you a better understanding of who God is and who you are in relationship to Him.

- 1. Ezekiel 20:13-14 _____

- 2. 1 Corinthians 10:6-7 _____

PRAYER: O Lord, You have made it very plain in this lesson that I have a heart that is so fickle. One minute I promise to obey all that You have commanded and the next minute I'm disregarding everything You have said and done for me. My heart is prone to disobedience. Forgive me. Thank You, Jesus, for serving as a priest on my behalf. You have taken upon Yourself all the wrongdoings of the world. You have taken upon Yourself the Father's anger. You were crucified and died for all humankind and now You live as my advocate before the Father's throne. Because of Your sacrifice I am free to live, free to serve You, free to love, honor, and obey You. For this I give You my thanks and praise. _____

Part 3

ASSIGNMENT: God knew exactly what was happening down the mountain but now Moses was about to see it for himself. Read Exodus 32:15-24.

EXERCISE:

- 1. Undoubtedly, Moses was eager to bring before the people the Testimony that had been inscribed with the finger of God (Exodus 31:18). Yet, he knew something was terribly wrong. What do we learn about the two tablets of stone in verse 15 and 16? _____

- 2. Joshua had gone part way up the mountain with Moses (Exodus 24:13) but, when God called Moses, he alone went up into the cloud. Now Moses is coming down and meets Joshua. What does Joshua say about the noise he heard (Exodus 32:17)? _____

3. What did Moses say the noise sounded like? _____
4. Now Moses approaches the camp and sees what the people have done and are doing. What is his reaction? _____
5. What a devastating moment this must have been! Where had Moses just come from?

- And now, what was he facing? _____
6. Moments before he had held the tablets engraved with the finger of God, God's work. Now they were shattered. His anger burned and in his anger he threw them hard enough to break the stone into pieces. Your thoughts: _____
7. The tablets were destroyed. Literally, the Law was broken, shattered. What did Moses do next in verse 20? _____
8. Verse 21: What is his question to Aaron? _____
9. And, briefly, what was Aaron's response?
 1. Verse 22: _____
 2. Verse 23: _____
 3. Verse 24: _____

TEACHING:

1. This is obviously a low point in Israel's community life. One can't help but laugh a "you've-got-to-be-kidding" laugh as we hear Aaron tell Moses, "and out came this calf!" What was the problem? _____
2. Aaron had abdicated all of his authority. What tells you this? _____
3. What was the other problem that was exposed when Moses asked him to account for what had occurred (verse 21)? _____
4. Aaron took no responsibility for what had happened? Review his response to Moses in verses 22-24. He acts as a victim of the circumstances. Who does he blame? What words and phrases does he use that reveal this? _____

APPLICATION: All too often it is easier to relinquish authority and take no responsibility for wrongdoings than it is to take the responsibility of authority and act accordingly.

1. Consider a time when you were in the role of authority. It may be within the home as a father, or at work as a manager or executive, or as an athlete on a team. What was it for you? _____

2. Recall a situation in which you had the choice to take responsibility and take the blame or abdicate it and act as a victim placing blame on everyone else. What did you choose to do? _____

3. What was the outcome? _____

4. Whether in the area of authority or responsibility, what did you learn? _____

PRAYER: O Lord, all too often I find myself identifying with Aaron. I don't want to take charge, take a stand, or do the right thing, especially if it means ridicule, rejection, and resistance. Instead many times I choose to do what will make everyone happy, keep the peace, and not cause a disturbance or disruption. Peace at all cost becomes my mantra. Forgive me for those times when I am irresponsible and uncaring. Then, Lord, there are those times when I do take the authority and lead. I do take responsibility for my actions and decisions. Thank You for the courage to do the right thing even in the face of opposition. Develop Your character in me. _____

Part 4

TEACHING: Part 3 ended with Aaron's rather unbelievable words in Exodus 32:24, "So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off. So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.'" Moses, however, doesn't believe such absurdity. He has come from his encounter with the Holy God to the despicable wretchedness of humankind. He has brought the will of God, the Commandments, and was confronted with the hard reality of the propensity of God's people to do evil. On the mountain Moses had pleaded with God on their behalf. He asked God to "turn from Your _____ anger and relent from this _____ against Your _____ (Exodus 32:12)." Now he has seen the calf and the dancing and his own anger burns within him (verse 19). One more thing to keep in mind: What had God intended for Aaron (Exodus 29:44-46)? _____

1. What was to be his primary role? _____
2. Now what does Moses see him doing? _____

Aaron doesn't seem to get it. Why is Moses so upset? He tells Moses, "You know the people; they are set on _____." His statement is true. The people are prone to evil. Moses, however, recognized the battle. God had called these people to be His own. He declared Himself to be the Lord, their God. They were the ones He had chosen to reflect Him to the nations. They were the ones to whom He gave the promise of property, progeny, and prosperity. He was the one who had delivered them from the Egyptians and brought them across the Red Sea and now across the desert to this mountain where His perfect law had been given.

But, the evil that was evident in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3 was aggressively on the attack hundreds of years later. They had been brought by God out of Egypt but they constantly wanted to return. When confronted with the crises of Sea, the bitter water, and no bread or meat, they always reverted to the past and wanted to go back. This situation is no different. They chose to worship the gods of Egypt whom they could create rather than maintain their trust in the Lord, their God, their Deliverer. God wanted His best for them and gave them the Law in which to discover that goodness. Instead they wanted to go their own way and do their own thing. As a result, instead of revealing God's goodness the Law exposed their wretched condition.

QUESTION: In your notebook write your response to this question: If God had not said, "You shall have no other gods before me" or "You shall not make for yourself an idol..." would their worship and revelry been wrong? (See these suggested references from Romans: Romans 3:20; 4:15; 5:13; 7:7)

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 32:25-29.

INTRODUCTION: Now we see Moses in his role as priest representing God to the people. He has brought the Testimony to them (verse 15). He has observed the abomination of the people worshipping and dancing around the idol they had made (verse 19). His anger burns as a righteous anger and the tablets are destroyed. Punishment for sin is inevitable. In verse 20 the calf is burned, ground to powder, scattered in the water, and the Israelites are made to drink it. But, there's more...

EXERCISE:

1. What did Moses observe in verse 25?
 - a. The people were _____
 - b. That Aaron had _____
 - c. And so they became _____
2. He stood at the entrance of the camp and what did he tell them in verse 26? _____

3. And, who responded? _____

4. Speaking the word of the Lord, their God, the God of Israel, what was the command? _____

A slaughter was about to ensue—brother against brother, friend against friend, neighbor against neighbor.

5. What was the result of the Levites' obedience (Exodus 32:28)? _____

When Jacob blessed his son Levi in Genesis 49 he mentions that their swords are weapons of violence and that they have killed men in their anger.

6. When Moses blesses the tribes at the end of his life in Deuteronomy 33:9 it says that the tribe of Levi “observed Your _____ and kept Your _____.” They defended the Word of the Lord.

7. Moses gave them the Lord's blessing (Exodus 32:29). What did Moses tell them? _____

8. This is exactly what God did. The Levites were set apart. What did God tell Aaron in Number 18:5-7? _____

REFLECTION: Use your imagination. If you were the one to report all what happened that day...

○ What would you want to find out? _____

○ Who would you interview? _____

○ What questions would you want answered? _____

○ What would you highlight and why? _____

○ What would the headlines read? _____

Part 5

INTRODUCTION: Because of Israel's sin, three thousand people were killed by the Levites. They acted in a war-like manner against their fellow-Israelites slaying family members, friends, and neighbors. What a day! The first battle this nomadic nation has experienced is a battle that took place within their own community camp. The forces of evil instigated chaos--the people were running wild, out of control, and the laughingstock to their enemies (Exodus 32:25). They were destroying themselves and ruining God's reputation that He had staked on these people. From outward signs one would think that evil was

the victor. In Part 5 watch as God steps forward reestablishing His relationship with those He had chosen to be His.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 32:30-33:6.

EXERCISE: Once again we see Moses carrying on his priestly duties as he represents the people bringing them before God. What does He say in verse 30? _____

TEACHING: The consequences of sin are only a part of the punishment for sin. The idol was destroyed, the revelry and wild living were silenced, and three thousand had died. But, there was more that needed attention. The biggest effect of sin is its destruction to the relationship between God and humankind. Their sin of disobedience put a separation between God and the people. Moses knew this and made the people mindful of the damaged relationship they had created. Undoubtedly, if left to themselves they would have ignored, overlooked, or denied what their disobedience communicated to God. Anything more would seem unnecessary. “Let’s just move on.” “Let’s just forget it.” But, Moses confronted the people again the next day. He let them know that this was a great sin, a sin that totally destroyed their relationship and now he would go before the Lord to see if making atonement for their sin was even possible.

REFLECTION: Using the example of someone stealing from a friend, consider this:

1. Is paying back what was taken, even serving prison time, enough to right a wrong? Why? Why not? _____
 2. Even with all of that is done, what has yet to be resolved? _____
-

To review: The word “atonement” is the act of bring together two warring factions. It’s the act of reuniting the two.

EXERCISE: Moses goes back to the Lord.

1. Verse 31: What does he confess? _____
2. Verse 32: What does he ask? _____
3. If God does not forgive them, what does Moses ask? _____

Moses was willing to be cast out of God’s presence for the sake of the people. He pleads to the Lord for forgiveness. “Please forgive their sin.”

4. Rather than have them destroyed he asked that their sin be placed on him. What had Moses done wrong? Where did the guilt lie? Representing the people, he risked the wrath of God and even his own death. Your thoughts _____

5. Verses 33-35: God answers Moses' plead for the people.
 - a. What was the verdict for those who sinned? _____
 - b. What was His command to Moses? _____
 - c. What did He promise? _____
 - d. What was His punishment for what they did? _____
4. We learn in Exodus 33:1-6 that God instructed Moses to leave this place and proceed on to the land that He had promised. What was the distressing news that He had Moses share with the people? _____
5. What was the reaction of the people? _____
6. What did they strip off? _____

REFLECTION: This is a sad commentary on Israel's history. We dare not, however, think we are any better than they were. We may not be found dancing and running wild in front of the golden calf as they did but we cannot help but ask ourselves the question: What are those things that I run wild around that cause me to go out of control? Each of us needs to take time to reflect on our own lives and ask other questions: What are the things that I place above God? What are the "gods" in my life? What are the "idols" that I worship? _____

We can't stop with the questions of condemnation, however, for as Moses went to the Lord to make atonement, to reunite the broken relationship between God and the people, we, need to understand that we, also, have a priest who goes before the throne of the Father making atonement for us. Our priest is Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. Because of His suffering and death done on our behalf, the Father's wrath has been turned away. It has been taken away, removed. Our atonement has been made through Jesus' blood and righteousness, His rightness.

MEMORIZATION: 1 John 2:1-2 is a Bible passage that gives reassurance to the truth that our sins have been atoned for, that God's wrath has been forever turned away from us regardless of what we have ever done or could do. St. John begins with the words, "My dear children..." He sounds like a father speaking tenderly to his children. Write the words and hear him speak to you as one who knows the love of Jesus Christ Himself.

PRAYER: I can only come to You, Lord Jesus, with words of thanks and praise. I know myself all too well. I know that I have done some dreadful things in my life. Your Word reassures me that in spite of what I might ever do or have done that You died for me. You have made atonement for me. You have restored the relationship that my wrongdoings have created between me and the Father. Thank You! I want You to live in me and to work through me so that others might come to know this same Good News.

LESSON FIVE

THE LORD IS WITH US

STORIES FROM EXODUS, LEVITICUS, AND NUMBERS - PARDONED

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INTRODUCTION

Several stories are told in this lesson. We learn of God's desire to move from a more remote relational position with His people to an intimate place as He abides among them. Watch what happens when the tabernacle's construction is finally complete.

The story of the Day of Atonement will hold a lot of teaching and instruction. God's forgiveness and removal of our sin as far as the east is from the west becomes real as the goat is sent out into the desert to die.

Then the spies are sent into the Promised Land. Learn their report. Listen to the response of the people. Watch for the response of two particular spies. Consider which side you might have been on had you been present that day. And then discover the outcome of their travel into Canaan.

And, what happens to Moses?

The last story is a story that enables us to focus not on the death and destruction happening among the Israelites but on the One who would be Israel's ultimate Deliverer, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: In this lesson we will look at larger sections of Scripture that will broaden our learning and increase our understanding of God’s relationship with these stiff-necked, yet chosen people. In spite of Israel’s propensity to disobey, God remained faithful to the covenant promise He had made with Abraham. He would be their God and they would be His people. In the parts of this lesson you will discover where certain information is found in the Bible. You are encouraged at a later time to return to these references for a more detailed study.

ASSIGNMENT: Exodus 25-30 and Exodus 35-40 are God’s instructions regarding the Tabernacle. In your notebook you may choose to make a chart with two columns. In the first column give the Bible reference and in the second identify the aspect of the Tabernacle that God addresses in Exodus 25-30. Read what interests you but understand that you are only looking for the general topic of each section.

EXERCISE: God gave meticulous instruction to Moses. His instructions were detailed. He knew exactly what He wanted, even the materials that were to be used. In Exodus 31:1-11...

1. Who was the person in charge, filled with the Spirit of God? _____
2. Who was his aid? _____
3. Who were those given skill to make everything? _____

TEACHING: All that was recorded in these chapters is repeated in Exodus 35 through 39. As you recall, when Moses saw the Israelites worshipping the idol that they had made, he threw down the two tablets of the Testimony that God had given to him on the mountain. Moses again ascended Mount Sinai and God gave him the Testimony a second time (Exodus 34). In the following chapters God articulated again all of His instructions regarding the Tabernacle. At last the day comes to assemble the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle is assembled. Aaron and his sons are wearing the priestly garments. All the crafted pieces are in place. The work is finished!

ASSIGNMENT: Read Exodus 40:1-37.

EXERCISE:

1. What happened next? _____

The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle! There was no room. God's glory filled the tabernacle. The cloud that had settled on the mountain had now settled on the Tent of Meeting.

2. What is the difference between the placement of the old "tent of meeting" in Exodus 33:7 and the new Tent of Meeting, the tabernacle, in Exodus 25:8? _____

3. What would it mean to the people that their God chose to dwell among them? _____

MEMORIZATION: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 is a New Testament reference. These four verses speak to us today. God wants us to know that He isn't just present in a building called a church but that He has made us His temple. He, the living God, chooses to live in us. When they first left Egypt He made Himself visible to the people with the cloud and the fire. Then He moved Himself from the tent of meeting outside the camp to the Tent of Meeting, the Tabernacle, within the camp. The Tabernacle was a constant reminder to the people of God's constant presence in Israel's midst. Now in 2 Corinthians 6 we learn that He chooses to live even more intimately than that. He lives within us. We are the temple of the living God. As a result He gives very clear instruction regarding the care of His temple. What does He tell us in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17? _____

You are challenged to memorize the verses from each of these chapters. On one side of your index card, write out 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 and, on the other side, write out 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. In your notebook journal what it means to you that God has chosen to live within you. Also write down thoughts about your life and conduct as you consider that God's Spirit lives within you.

PRAYER: It is an awesome thought to think that Your glory filled the Tabernacle. You chose to live among the people of Israel, even when they had acted in such defiance against Your holy will. Now I am challenged to think what it means that You have chosen to live within me. I am Your temple and Your Holy Spirit lives within me. I bow in humility before You. Take my life and by Your grace fill me with Your presence. _____

Part 2

TEACHING: The Book of Leviticus contains instructions on one thing after the next. All of these instructions are referred to as the Levitical laws. These laws were given by God for the Israelites to obey.

They included instructions on their offerings, regulations regarding their food, treatment of diseases and cleansings. They addressed unlawful sexual relations, punishments for wrongdoings, ways to conduct feasts and so on. All of these laws created community boundaries. These laws gave the people instruction on their worship of God and on how they were to treat one another. He is the one who established the way they were to live. He is the one who knew what was best and He wanted only His best for them.

In this part of Lesson 5 we are going to briefly look at one chapter, Leviticus 16. Not all of the details are necessary for understanding but the whole picture will give you an understanding of a particular day celebrated annually by the Israelites. The rituals for this day seem endless. Don't become discouraged. This is all a part of the adventure! Together we will grow in our understanding of the "scapegoat" and the Day of Atonement.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Leviticus 16.

EXERCISE: For our study overview begin at verse 6.

1. What is Aaron to do? _____
2. After offering a bull for his own sin offering, what does he do next (verse 7)? _____

3. One of the two goats is offered to the Lord as a sin offering. What happens to the other goat (verse 10)? _____
4. Where is the blood sprinkled from the first goat slaughtered for the sin offering (verse 15)? _____

5. Verses 16, 18: Blood makes atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar because of (verses 16, 19) _____

Note: Remember, atonement is the bringing together of two warring parties.

SUMMARIZE: Aaron, the High Priest, first makes atonement for himself and his family and then he makes atonement for the Tabernacle (the Most Holy Place, the altar). Finally, he makes atonement for the people with the scapegoat, the goat that removed, or carried, the sin of the people out into the desert. Atonement is made by the sprinkling of the blood and by sending the scapegoat into the desert.

TEACHING: One of the pieces that God instructed Moses to build was the Ark of the Testimony, also known as the Art of the Covenant. It was covered with solid gold. Among the things that it contained were the two tablets of the Law that God gave Moses on Mount Sinai. The Ark was kept out of the sight of the people. It was the meeting place of God and was kept in the Tabernacle in a room called the Holy

of Holies. Only the High Priest was able to enter this area and this was done only once a year. The priest would take the blood from the slaughtered goat and sprinkle it on the cover of the ark, the atonement cover, and in front of it. The lid of the ark, or the atonement cover, was called the “mercy seat.” It was thought to be the place where God sat, the place where God revealed His merciful Word to Moses.

EXERCISE:

1. Why was the sprinkling of the blood of the goat in verse 16 necessary? _____
 The blood was that which removed the uncleanness of the Israelites (verse 19).

2. What was Aaron to do with the live goat? What happened to the scapegoat in verses 20-22?

In this manner, the sins of the people and all of their rebellion and wickedness were removed far from the people until the goat was released in the desert to die. Their sin was no more.

3. How often was this lasting ordinance to be done (verse 34)? _____

BY WHOM	ATONEMENT	HOW
High Priest Aaron	For himself and his household	Sacrificing the bull for a sin offering; sprinkling the blood in front of and before the atonement cover (Ark)
High Priest Aaron	For the Tent of Meeting, altar, Most Holy of Holies	Sacrificing of the goat for the sin offering; sprinkling the blood in front of and on the atonement cover of the Ark, on the mercy seat.
High Priest Aaron	For the people - Confess their wickedness and rebellion—all their sins placed on the head of the goat	Live goat sent away carrying on itself all the sins into the desert to a solitary place and there released to die

REFLECTION: Our God is a holy God and hates sin but at the same time loves the sinner for our God is love. Atonement is bringing together two enemies in a relationship of peace. If I am a sinner, one who is unclean and rebellious, how is it possible for peace to be made between me and a God who hates sin? If sin is that which has made us enemies, what is there that removes the sin and enables us to be friends? How can we ever be reconciled to God? Sin must be removed for God to come and dwell among His people. So every year they kept this ordinance. Every year the high priest made atonement for himself, his family, and even for the Tabernacle that is among them in the midst of their uncleanness (verse 16). Every year he placed the sins of the people on the goat and sent it away by itself far into the desert, completely removing the sins from the people.

But, when Christ came as the High Priest, He, entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood! The Day of Atonement was the day that Jesus gave His blood as the atoning sacrifice, as the sacrifice that brought peace between our God who hates sin and the sinner whom He loves. He took upon Himself the sin of the world and yet He had committed no sin.

1. It's difficult to understand such love, the love of God for each one of us. What difference does it make in my life knowing that my sins have been atoned for? _____

2. What difference does it make in the way I live my life? _____

3. Hebrews 10:22, 23 says, "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." Having been washed in the blood of Christ, the Savior of the world, we have been cleansed and now have a conscience free from guilt. We have been forgiven. Our sins are removed.

PRAYER: Offer Him your thanks and praise. _____

Part 3

INTRODUCTION: The distance between Egypt and the Promised Land of Canaan would not take more than two months for the Israelites to travel. However, the story found in the Book of Numbers will reveal a different time table. A quick glance at Numbers 11 tell us that the people's grumbling and complaining had not stopped but was an ongoing buzz within the camp. In chapter 12 we learn that even Moses' own brother and sister began talking against him. Such dissention caused God's anger to burn against the people.

The Israelites left Mount Sinai and traveled to Hazeroth where they stayed. Locate the possible site for Hazeroth on a map in your Bible. Our story picks up at this time and place. It's time to check out what's ahead.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Numbers 13:1-25.

EXERCISE: The Plan

1. Verse 1: What are the Lord's instructions to Moses? _____
 - a. What was special about this land? _____
 - b. Who was to be sent? _____
2. Verse 2: Who were the ones sent out from the Desert of Paran? _____
 - a. The list is given. Note especially verses 8 and 16. _____
 - b. Another spy to keep your eye on is in verse 6. _____
3. Verse 17: What were Moses' instructions to these men? What were the men to check out?
 - a. Verse 18: _____
 - b. Verse 19: _____
 - c. Verse 19: _____
 - d. Verse 20: _____
4. Verse 21-24: They accomplished their mission. What did they bring back? _____
5. Verse 25: How long were they gone? _____

ASSIGNMENT: Read Numbers 13:26-33.

EXERCISE: The spies came back with their report.

1. What did these leaders report?
 - a. Positive: _____
 - b. Negative: _____
 - c. Notice the big "but" in verse 28: _____
2. Caleb spoke up in verse 30. What was his position? _____
3. What was the position of the other men? How did they choose to influence the others? _____

4. According to verse 33, how did they view themselves? _____

REFLECTION: What's going on here? What were the dynamics? These leaders had been sent by Moses to explore the land, to check things out. Were they given the responsibility of deciding whether or not the Israelites should go in and take possession of the land? What did God make clear in verse 1? What did He say? _____

The land was His gift to them. He was keeping His promise to their forefathers. They didn't have to pay for it. They didn't have to do anything but take possession of it, to claim it, to own it! Of course, this didn't mean that they wouldn't have to fight for it but this is where the picture seems to break down.

These men saw themselves alone in battle against the people who occupied the land. Wrong! God said

that He was giving them the land. He was their Champion. He would lead the charge against their enemies. Nothing was said about the Israelites needing to fight their own battles.

Caleb was the lone spokesman at this point. Caleb, a voice of one, declared to the people, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it (verse 30).” What do you think Caleb understood that the others missed? What did he see that the others did not? _____

Then there’s the majority. Democratic thinking says that the majority rules. The majority wins. Often we even go so far as to say that the majority is right. Why would they need to spread a bad report about the land they had explored? _____

APPLICATION: What are some of your own thoughts?

1. Have you been in a situation where you have been the lone voice? _____
2. Have you ever been in a situation where you found yourself siding in with the majority and doing whatever it took to persuade others that what you believed was right was right? _____

3. Recall a time when you let fear keep you from receiving something that you knew in your heart God wanted to give you but you let fear win and make your decision for you? _____

4. At this point in the story, whose side do you think you’d be on? What would be your vote? Why? _____

PRAYER: O Lord, keep me mindful of Your presence in my life. You have countless ways of blessing me. You are the one who gives me every good thing. Keep my eyes focused on You and not on those things I fear. And, when the time comes that I need to be the voice of one, grant me the courage to speak up with boldness and confidence trusting You, the Champion! _____

Part 4

The story continues...

ASSIGNMENT: Numbers 14:1-25.

EXERCISE: What a tragic commentary!

1. Identify words and phrases in verses 1-4 that reveal Israel's shallow character:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
 2. The report from the men and the bad report that had been circulated had done their damage. They were prey to the exaggeration of their own imaginations. They cried out their "if only" and thought it better to go back to Egypt. They were ready for everyone to go their separate way. We're heading back with a new leader. What was Moses and Aaron's reaction? _____

 3. Who joined them (verse 6)? What was their reaction? What did they say? _____

 4. What was their warning? _____
 5. What was their exhortation (verse 9)? _____
 6. The talk of the assembly to stone them meant death. At that point the "glory of the Lord" appeared. What does God say?
 - a. How long _____
 - b. How long _____
 - c. I will _____
 - d. I will _____
- Haven't we heard something similar to this before? Review Exodus 32:9, 10.
7. In Numbers 14:13-16 what does Moses lay before the Lord? What is the bottom line? _____

 8. What is Moses' intercession? _____ He asks for the Lord to display His strength. Moses called forth God's character, the character He revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai.
 9. What does God say about Himself in Exodus 34:6, 7? _____

 10. What does Moses say about God in Numbers 14:18? _____

 11. What does Moses ask in verse 19? _____
 12. God says, "I have forgiven them, as you (Moses) asked. Nevertheless, God had been treated with contempt and the punishment was: _____

13. Who was exempt from this sentence and what did God say about him? _____

14. Verse 25: What did God tell them to do? _____

ASSIGNMENT: Read Numbers 14:26-45.

EXERCISE:

1. In the next several verses the Lord continues to tell Moses and Aaron what the consequences will be for all the grumbling and complaints of “this wicked community.” What are they told (verses 26-35)? _____

2. What happened to those Moses had sent to explore (verse 36-37)? _____
 But, God spared the lives of _____ and _____ (verse 38).
3. Then Moses reported to the community all that God had said. What was their response?
 - a. Verse 39: _____
 - b. Verse 40: _____
 - c. Verse 40: _____
4. What did Moses tell them would be the consequences of their disobedience? _____

 - a. Why would they fail? _____
 - b. What would be their demise? _____
5. Those who chose to disobey were told that the Lord would not be with them and neither Moses nor the Ark of the Covenant left the camp. They went anyway. What was the outcome? _____

 They presumed that God would go with them. They believed that God was on their side. They assumed that saying, “we have sinned” was enough and sin had no consequences.

REFLECTION:

1. Have you ever felt as though your admission of guilt for wrongdoing and feeling sorry for the direction you’ve chosen to take were sufficient and that you were exempt from any consequences? Was God wrong to be angry with these people? Is anger wrong? Consider your own anger. What is it that makes you angry, that makes you burn inside? _____

2. What were the reasons God was angry in these lessons? _____

3. Do you believe He had a right to be angry? Why? Why not? _____

MEMORIZATION: Moses describes God in Numbers 14:18. He seems to be saying, “One more time, Lord, forgive them one more time.” But, by asking, Moses draws on what he knows to be true about the character of God. Take time to write verse 18 on an index card. Memorize these words. Let them continually bring to you reassurance and peace. The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. This is who He is. As you meditate, reflect and think about these words, consider what other words you would use to describe the Lord from what you know about Him. Maybe it’s the word “faithful.” Then take time to recall God’s faithfulness to the Israelites and recall God’s faithfulness to you. Write as many things as you can remember and record them in your notebook.

PRAYER: As you recall stories and incidences in your own life lift up your heart in praise and thanksgiving to Him for who He is: _____

Part 5

INTRODUCTION: One would think that Moses was one of the greatest men who ever walked the earth. In Numbers 12:3 we learned that there was no one more humble than he was. We can wonder if he never made any mistake or did any wrong. We know he did. The surprise to all of us is that Moses was never permitted to enter the Promised Land. He was only able to lead the people to the place where they would enter to take possession.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Numbers 20:1-13 and discover what kept Moses from entering the Promised Land of Canaan.

EXERCISE:

1. Once again, what’s the problem in Numbers 20:2? _____
2. Once again, how do the people respond to the situation? What do you expect them to say and do?

APPLICATION QUESTION:

1. When you are in a crisis, what can others expect that you will do and say? What’s your MO (mode of operation)? _____

2. Are you OK with the way you respond? What might be a response that reflects God's character at such times? _____

EXERCISE (continues):

1. Where do Moses and Aaron turn when confronted with the attack of the people one more time (verse 6)? _____
2. What was the Lord's instruction to Moses? _____

3. What did God say would happen? _____
4. Instead, what did Moses do (verse 11)? _____
5. What went wrong? What did Moses do that displeased the Lord (verse 12)? _____

Does Leviticus 10:3 give any insight? _____

6. What was the name of the waters where they were (verse 13)? _____

INTRODUCTION: In Numbers 20:1 we learn that Miriam died at Kadesh and now in verses 22-29 we learn that Aaron also died. Before his death, however, the Lord wanted the whole community to know who would succeed Aaron as High Priest. Moses, Aaron and Aaron's son Eleazar are called by God to come up the mountain. Eleazar is dressed in Aaron's priestly garments. Then Moses and Eleazar come down the mountain. Everyone knew that he was to be the new high priest. Aaron had died and the community mourned for him for thirty days.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Numbers 21:4-9

EXERCISE:

1. What's wrong now? What are their complaints in verses 4 and 5? _____

2. What was the Lord's punishment this time? _____
3. The people brought the confession of their sin to Moses. What did they ask him to do? _____

4. And, once again, Moses came before the Lord on behalf of the people. What was the Lord's instruction for Moses? _____
5. What was the purpose of the snake on the pole? _____
6. So, Moses did what God said and what happened to those who were bitten (verse 9)? _____

TEACHING: Beginning in Genesis 3 we have watched God’s plan of salvation for all humankind unfold. Already in Genesis 3:15 God gave the promise of a Savior who would bring peace between a holy God and a sinful human race. Stories throughout the Old Testament continue to point us to the one who would bring peace and deliver us from the bondage of sin. The story in Numbers 21 points us again to the one who would be the deliverer, Jesus Christ, God’s own Son. We are given a New Testament cross reference in Numbers 21:9. (Notice the cross-reference mark and look in the cross-reference column.) The reference given is John 3:14-15. Turn to John 3 and write out these two verses:

To complete the teaching continue to read verses 16 and 17. These four verses speak of Jesus. His death sentence was death by crucifixion. He was raised up on a different pole, a cross. He was raised up on a cross for all to see. When the bitten Israelites looked upon the bronze snake for life they lived, so when we look upon Jesus for life we, too, shall live. But, life for us is more than living in our human lifetime. The life He gives us is eternal life with Him (John 3:16-17).

PRAYER: O Lord, Your love invaded our world when You gave Jesus as our Savior. Moses and the Israelites looked up to a snake and You graciously spared their lives. We look up to the cross and see our Savior and You graciously give us life, the abundant life, life everlasting with You. May Your Spirit give us eyes to see who You are and a heart open and eager to embrace You as the One who gives to us eternal life with You forever.

LESSON SIX

HEAR, O ISRAEL

DEUTERONOMY 1-34 – BLESSED

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INTRODUCTION

The majority of the Book of Deuteronomy is the recording of Moses' farewell address to the Israelites before the mantle of leadership was passed and he died. What did he share and why would you imagine he would choose to share the things he does? Early in this lesson you will learn different subject matters that Moses chose to address. As you listen to Moses speak to Israel consider what those things might be that you would share with your children and grandchildren and those who follow you. What might be your legacy as you prepare to leave in death those you love?

Passing the mantle of leadership after all of the years spent together in the wilderness can be a traumatic experience. The Israelites were expected to follow this newly appointed leader. Observe the steps the Lord took to make this a relatively smooth transition. Who was God's appointed new leader? What were his qualifications? What were God's words of reassurance for him and for Israel?

The relationship between God and the Israelites remained the same even though Moses was no longer with them. He was their God and they were His people. They were set apart to be a holy nation, His treasured possession. Their calling was the same. We, too, have a similar calling as God's people set apart for His holy use. Learn what St. Peter says in his first letter to new Gentile Christians. Hear him speak to your heart as a New Testament believer.

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: In Lesson 6 we will approach our study differently. This will be the wrap-up of the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah. Moses has brought the people through forty years of wandering in the wilderness. They are ready to take possession of the land. Moses knows that he will die soon. The Book of Deuteronomy is much like a legacy he is leaving with the Israelites. These are his last words to the people. Off the top of your head, if you were Moses and about to die, what would you want to share with those you had led for all these years? _____

Remember, we cannot touch on everything contained in this Book of Deuteronomy. We will, however, highlight specific segments that will complete God’s deliverance of His people to the land (Exodus 3:8) that He had promised (Genesis 15:18-21).

OVERVIEW:

Reference	Content
Deuteronomy 1-9	Historical review as God shaped the people into community
Deuteronomy 12, 28	If you obey, you will be blessed; if you disobey, you will be cursed
Deuteronomy 31	New leadership appointed to succeed Moses
Deuteronomy 32:48-52	Moses blesses the tribes
Deuteronomy 34	The death of Moses

ASSIGNMENT: Read through Deuteronomy 1-9. As you read, don’t concern yourself with detail. Rather attempt to answer the question: What is Moses sharing the last time he addresses the Israelites?

EXERCISE: The first thing Moses does is review some of the significant events that occurred during their wandering in the wilderness. Some of the different events that Moses chooses to recall we have studied; others we have not. Do your best to summarize some of the events and commands:

REFERENCE	EVENT
Deuteronomy 1:9-18	
Deuteronomy 1:19-46	
Deuteronomy 2:1-23	
Deuteronomy 3:21-29	
Deuteronomy 4-5	
Deuteronomy 9:7-10:11	

TEACHING: Reflecting on the past helps us to remember. If we don't remember, we repeat our mistakes.

1. What were some of the things that Moses wanted the people to remember as they left the wilderness and went in to take possession of the land?
 - a. Deuteronomy 4:10 _____
 - b. Deuteronomy 5:15 _____
 - c. Deuteronomy 7:18 _____
 - d. Deuteronomy 8:2 _____
 - e. Deuteronomy 9:7 _____

Find other times the word "remember" is used. Write them in your notebook. This list is a start.

2. Why would all of this remembering be so important? Why did Moses feel it necessary to recall their history, after all, much of it wasn't very uplifting? _____

We need to remember that the generation who had experienced God's deliverance of His people out of Egypt and through the Red Sea was dead. The children needed to be told the stories that were a part of their parents' experience. Moses reviewed the stories, the significant events in the life of the Israelites that the children needed to know and remember. This was their heritage, their legacy.

The stories needed to be told—the good, the bad, and the ugly. Those things that Moses chose to recall, he declared in the public assembly. All the people were to know. There would be no secrets, no hiding wrongdoings, no covering over with excuses and lies. The history was to be told just as it happened.

The stories for Israel were to be more than chronological events. These stories held the story of this nation’s redemption. These stories contained how God had chosen them, delivered them, and brought them through their life experiences. These stories told how God had brought them under His rule and reign again and how He brought them to the Promised Land. These stories told them how they had been saved from their enemies. These stories told of God’s love and faithfulness to them and how He fulfilled His promise to their forefathers. These stories told of God’s redemptive work. These stories needed to be remembered, lest the people forget and turn to other gods.

APPLICATION:

1. We are a people that make lists. We write “to do” lists, grocery lists, and places we want to go and see. We do this so we won’t forget. Have you ever considered making a list of things that you want others to remember? What are the stories that you want those coming after you to know? _____

2. Do you have the courage to include the good, bad, and the ugly? _____
3. What would your openness and honesty say to those who heard your stories? _____

4. What would these stories communicate to others about your relationship with God and His great love for you? What would they communicate to others about your own redemption? _____

5. To be honest about the bad and the ugly just to share about the bad and ugly serves no purpose. However, sharing those things as a means of pointing to God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ gives God’s Holy Spirit the opportunity to work faith in those who hear. Testify to the redeeming work in your life of what God has done. What do you want those coming after you to know about God’s love and forgiveness? _____

PRAYER: You have been faithful to me, O Lord. You have brought me out of slavery to sin and set me free to live as Your redeemed child for You have forgiven my sins and brought me into a love relationship with You through Your Son Jesus Christ. I am forgiven. You want all people to know they are forgiven. Give me the courage to tell the story that may be a legacy to others. May my stories

communicate who You are. You are my God and I am your child and heir of eternal life with You. For this I give you my thanks and praise. _____

Part 2

TEACHING: In the Old Testament we learn that God chose to relate to His people through the use of the Law. His command was that His law was to be obeyed. He was very explicit about what He wanted. His instructions were articulated so that no one could say they didn't understand what He commanded. Through Israel's history, as we have already seen, they would go through a period of obedience and then disobedience. God would punish them; they would repent and promise to be good. Then, before you knew it, they were back disobeying again. This probably doesn't surprise us. We see it in our own lives. If we've been around children, we've seen it in their lives.

Sin has often made wrongdoing, those things that God forbids, more attractive to us than those things that He advocates. The battle between God and Satan rages on. Satan continues to use lies and deceit to woo God's people into his realm of wickedness and corruption. He is after our souls and will do whatever it takes, using whatever power he has to enslave and destroy us. God, on the other hand, is our Champion. He fights our battles for us. He chooses to give us His law in order that we might know what is good for us and to protect us from the consequences of sin. He wants us set free to live the abundant life. What a contrast between these two enemies!

What's interesting is that God's people are unable by themselves to keep the Law. We make wrong decisions. We become prey to the evil one. We are attracted to those things that are a desecration of God's Laws. The raging enemies have their battle going on in us. We are the battlefield. We can be disgusted with the Israelites and their behavior but, at the same time, we need to admit that we are just like them. In spite of Israel's inconsistent behavior, however, did God act inconsistently toward them? He was faithful to His Word and His Word never changed. Even when they worshipped other gods, He remained their God. Even when they displayed ingratitude with their grumbling and complaining, He was their God. What they did was not going to dictate who He was. He demanded obedience because He knew that their act of disobedience gave them the opportunity to exercise their free will and choose another god. His love for them demanded the Law and perfect obedience to that Law. If the Law was broken, then His love demanded their punishment.

With this introductory teaching we begin to learn what God taught the people through Moses regarding obedience and disobedience, blessings and curses.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Deuteronomy 11:26-29.

EXERCISE:

1. What were Israel's choices in verse 26? _____
2. "_____ you _____..." is the blessing in verse 27.
3. "_____ you _____..." is the curse in verse 28.
4. This seems clear enough. At first glance, which would you choose? _____
5. Throughout Israel's history it seems that the Lord keeps harping on this thing of following other gods. Why does He keep repeating it? What don't they get? _____

6. It has been said that those things we are told we are not to do are the very things that we have the potential to do. What was Israel's potential? _____

7. What did God know Israel would do given the chance? _____
8. It's interesting to note in verse 29 that God is about to place a visual before the people so that when they lived in the Promised Land they would be reminded of the blessing and curse that God set before them. Two mountains were on the western side of the country. One mountain was _____ and the other _____. One would proclaim _____ and the other _____. These mountains were to serve as visual reminders to the people.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Deuteronomy 28.

EXERCISE:

1. We are not going to give attention to each of the blessings and curses mentioned in this chapter. However, as you read through the blessings God promises in verse 1-14, can you think of anything He left out? _____
2. It's interesting to note how much lengthier the curses are for disobedience. All of these things will come upon them for disobedience. If this is the choice, doesn't the way to live seem obvious? _____

REFLECTION: Take a moment to consider Moses at this point. He's pouring out his heart to the people. One can't help but wondering if they're listening, or are they bored and their minds are

wandering on other matters. Moses knew the character of these people. God had called them stiff-necked and rebellious. Moses could only lay before them the Word of the Lord.

1. Are there situations in your life where you find yourself pouring out your heart to someone with a desire to keep them from doing what you know they are prone to do?

Oftentimes, there is nothing that one can do. God gave the free choice to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They were given the choice to obey or disobey God. They chose to disobey. Because sin has permeated our hearts we have lost our free will to obey in anything more than an exterior or shallow way. Like the Israelites, time and again, we choose disobedience. Only by God's grace and through His power given to us in Jesus and His perfect obedience are we able to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. When we fail to love and obey Him He forgives and restores our relationship with Him. Once again, we are empowered by His grace to love and obey Him.

2. Can you identify with God's desire for obedience and yet knowing all the time the other person has been given a free will to obey or not? _____

God stood ready to receive Israel in spite of what they chose. He endured with them their punishment, the consequences of their sin. He remained true to them regardless of their unfaithfulness to Him. How might this play out in your relationships? _____

PRAYER: O Almighty God, merciful Father, _____

Part 3

ASSIGNMENT: Read Deuteronomy 31:1-8.

EXERCISE: The time has come for the baton of leadership to be passed.

1. How old is Moses? _____ The first forty years of his life he spent in the house of _____. The second forty years he lived in the land of _____ as a shepherd. And, the third forty years he spent leading the _____.
2. Forty years is a long time to be in one leadership position. For all these years the people have had one leader. He was the visible representation of God to them. He served as the deliverer as

God executed His judgment on Pharaoh. He served as an arbitrator to settle the disputes and disagreements that arose within the camp. He bore the burden of responsibility and took the criticism of the people against him and Aaron. He served as mediator and when God wanted to destroy the people he pleaded to God on their behalf. A new leader! Why would this be such a big deal? _____

3. Moses in essence says, "I'm old and tired. I can't lead you any longer." What was the other reason he gave for the need of new leadership (verse 2)? _____
4. Moses would not be crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land but what does he say in verse 3? _____
5. Moses told them that the Lord would do things that he would never have been able to do. Like what (verses 3-4)? _____

Moses told them that he wouldn't be crossing with them but the Lord would. He wanted them to know that the Lord had brought them here and, although he (Moses) wouldn't be with them, the One who brought them this far would be.

6. Who presented Joshua to them as their new leader (verses 3b, 7a)? _____
7. Verse 6 is Moses word to the people:
 - a. Be _____
 - b. Do not _____
 - c. The Lord _____
 - d. He will never _____

Then in verse 7b Moses speaks to Joshua:

- a. Be _____
- b. You shall put them _____
- c. The Lord _____
- d. He will never _____
- e. Do not _____ Do not _____

In verse 23 the Lord commands Joshua:

- a. Be _____
- b. For you _____
- c. And I _____

8. The transfer of leadership has been made. Joshua was to be the one to bring them into the Promised Land. Although the men would be different, God would not change. He would remain faithful to Joshua as He had been to Moses. He had nothing to fear.

MEMORIZATION: Moses spoke powerful words to the people. These are words that empower us to do what we are called to do. These are words to be remembered! Write Deuteronomy 31:6 on an index card and memorize this verse. Look for opportunities in which to encourage a person in leadership with these words. Often they are called upon to lead others into areas that hold a great deal of risk and unknown factors. Encourage them with the words, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified.” Remind them that “the Lord your God goes with you.” And, lift up His promise to them: “He will never leave you nor forsake you.”

APPLICATION:

1. How do you feel about new leadership? Is it difficult to accept? Why? Why not? _____

Moses made the transfer before all the people. He blessed the people as they were about to take possession of the new land and then he blessed Joshua as the one who would go before them as their leader.

2. Both Joshua and the people were told that the Lord would deliver into their hands the kings who occupied the land they were to possess. The stories of the Israelites defeating the kings Sihon (Heshbon) and Og (Bashan) are recorded in Deuteronomy 2 and 3. We did not study these stories but it is important for you to understand that God hardened the heart of the king of Sihon in order that by his defeat the Lord began to put the terror and fear of the Israelites on all the nations. Then the Lord God brought the Israelites to Bashan and they left no survivors.
3. Difficult times were ahead. Those times would demand their strength and courage. It was a time when people and leader were called into harmony, working together at the Lord’s direction. What opportunities do you have in which your influence can be used to bring peace and harmony, unity of spirit, cohesiveness and cooperation between a group and its leader as they work together for a common good? _____

PRAYER: You blessed the people with the gift of a new leader. In Deuteronomy 31:23 You commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous. You gave him the promise that he would bring the people into the land that You had promised to them. And, You promised that Your presence would be with them. This day, Lord, as I go about my work, I ask for strength and courage to do the work assignments, knowing that as I do I have the promise of Your presence. Thank You for the peace I have knowing that You will never leave me nor forsake me. _____

Part 4

ASSIGNMENT: Read Deuteronomy 32:48-52.

EXERCISE: It is time.

1. Where does God tell Moses to go in verse 49? _____
2. What is he to do there? _____
3. What else does God tell Moses will happen there? _____
4. Once again, God tells Moses why he and Aaron would die before entering the Promised Land (verse 51):
 1. _____
 2. _____
5. Therefore, _____

ASSIGNMENT: Read Deuteronomy 34.

EXERCISE: The maps will be helpful to give you and orientation to verses 1-3.

1. Locate Mount Nebo. At the north end of the Dead Sea (Salt Sea) you'll find Jericho. To the east is Mount Nebo. What did the Lord show Moses from this location (verse 1)? _____
2. Identify these places on a map that shows the distribution of the land among the twelve tribes.
 - a. Gilead to Dan – Gilead is located north of the Dead Sea (Salt Sea), east of the Jordan River. Dan is a town to the far north near Mt. Herman.
 - b. All of Naphtali – This is the region given to the tribe of Naphtali and extends to the north on the western side of the Jordan River.
 - c. The territory of Ephraim and Manasseh – Ephraim and Manasseh were the two sons of Joseph. These tribes received land further south between the Jordan River and the Great Sea (Mediterranean).
 - d. All the land of Judah – Judah's territory is a large land mass west of the Salt Sea and within that land is the land given to the tribe of Simeon. The Negev is located here.
 - e. Jericho to Zoar – Jericho we located earlier not far from the north end of the Salt Sea and Zoar is situated at the southern tip of the Sea.
3. Miraculously God enabled Moses to see the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. To Moses God says, “ _____
_____.”

- a. Having kept His promise to Moses, Moses dies. The Lord buried him in Moab. What is an interesting detail included in verse 6? _____
 - b. What do we learn about Moses when he died? _____
 - c. The Israelites remained in Moab how long? _____ Why? _____
-

REFLECTION: One can't help but think this was a sad time for Israel. It is a time for us to reflect on Moses' life and recall the miracles that God performed through him. As students we have read about one experience after another. Take some time to reflect and recall some of the stories we have studied.

1. Recall the women God used to shape and mold him into the man he became.
2. Think of the environments in which he lived, everything from a Hebrew home to the home of Pharaoh, from the tents of the Midianites to the tents of the Israelites.
3. Consider the staff that God used to bring the plagues of judgment on Egypt and the arm of mercy on the house of Israel, to part the Red Sea, to bring forth water from the rock, and to perform other miraculous signs.
4. Remember the high point when the Lord supplied them with manna and quail, and the low point when they disobeyed and it turned to maggots.
5. Remember the high point when the Lord wrote with His finger the Law on the two tablets of stone and gave them to Moses and the low point when he shattered them because of their idolatry and revelry.
6. Imagine the sight as the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Undoubtedly, other things come to mind for you. What was a specific incident that had particular meaning for you? Share your thoughts: _____

EXERCISE:

1. And now, the days of mourning are over. It's time for the Israelites to move on and take possession of the land. What does it say about Joshua in verse 9? _____
2. How did the people respond to Joshua? _____
3. What are the final comments about Moses that we read in verse 10-12?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

PRAYER: It only seems fitting to take a moment and thank the Lord for Moses, the gift He gave to Israel, blessing their lives through this man. Take time to thank and praise Him for significant leaders in your life, courageous and daring people who are willing to put their life on the line for the sake of others. O Lord God, _____

Part 5

INTRODUCTION: One reoccurring sentence that is found throughout Exodus, Leviticus, and now Deuteronomy is: “I am the Lord your God.” Repetition means significance. For an interesting exercise, take one chapter, Leviticus 19, and read it in its entirety. As you read underline every time the words “I am the Lord” or “I am the Lord your God” are written.

So now, we need to ask the question: Why does God keep repeating these words? What is significant about these words? In Deuteronomy we discussed the need to remember and the danger of forgetting. We all have the tendency to forget. However, if Israel forgot that “I am the Lord your God” it would mean defeat and destruction for this nation. Their salvation rested in the truth of these words.

In this section of our lesson we will consider the impact of this statement not only in the lives of Israel but also on our lives as we hear Him say to us, “I am the Lord your God.”

EXERCISE: When did we first start hearing these words? Let’s review.

1. In Exodus 3:14-15 God is talking to Moses within the burning bush. Moses asks Him for His name so he could tell the Israelites who sent him. What was God’s answer? _____
2. After Moses initial encounter with Pharaoh, God reassures Moses in Exodus 6. What does He say in verses 2, 6, 7, and 8? _____
3. Who was to know that He was the Lord in Exodus 7:5, 17? _____
4. How would Israel know that He was the Lord (Exodus 8:22)? _____

5. Who else did God want to know that He was the Lord and how were they to know (Exodus 10:1, 2)? _____
6. Who He was and what He did brought judgment to whom (Exodus 12:12)? _____
7. Who did God want to remind in Exodus 14:4, 18? _____
8. Who did God need to remind in Exodus 16:12? _____

Repeat in order to remember! Remember in order not to forget! Remind and remember!

TEACHING: In Leviticus 11:44 we are told that God is holy. This is what He says about Himself. What's interesting is that He calls us to be holy. Read verses 44 and 45. God is calling His people to be distinct, to be different. He commanded them to consecrate themselves and be holy. He was instructing them to see themselves as set apart from everyone else. He was calling them to a new way of thinking about themselves. Because He is the Lord their God He is calling them to a new level, a new code of behavior. He is calling them to be like Him! He wants to raise them up to a whole new level of thinking, a whole new way of looking at themselves. After all, He is their God!

What did this mean? It meant they were not to do what everyone else did. For example, in Leviticus 18:21 we know that the heathen offered their children as sacrifices to the god Molech. God called them to a different way and said that such a sacrifice to Him or any other god of the heathens would profane the name of your God...and I am the Lord. Verse 30 says something similar when God says, keep My requirements. Do not follow the detestable customs of the heathens. Do not defile yourselves. I am calling you to something different! I am the Lord your God!

All of God's laws given in these Old Testament books that we have been studying are laws that protect the people from committing the detestable acts that the heathen gods demanded. God's way was different. God's way is holy for He is holy and He is calling His people to follow His ways and to be obedient, set apart as a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-6).

REFLECTION: So, how does one digest this? How does one begin to comprehend that the way everyone else does it is not the way God does it or wants it to be? The Israelites had spent 400 years under the influence of the Egyptians and the worship of their gods. In the desert they even attempted to recreate those gods as we saw in Exodus 32 with the golden calf. Now they were about to enter the Promised Land and the nations that inhabited the land were idolaters. They did not know the God of the Israelites.

1. What were some of the things God had done to show them that He was God, I AM, Yahweh, Jehovah? What were some of the things God had done to show that He was the one worthy of their worship? _____

2. What were some of the things that He said were different from the ways of the other gods of the nations? _____

Were they just to believe that He was there God because He said so? We know that isn't true because He didn't just speak but He acted on their behalf as a God who loved and cared for them. The gods of the

nations were dreaded and caused the people to live in fear. The people would always live trying to appease the angry gods. The gods would demand sacrifice, often human sacrifice, even the sacrifice of children. How was the God of Israel different? Consider the ways.

1. What did He demand (Exodus 20)? _____
2. How is He described (Exodus 34:6-7)? _____

3. What does He want (Leviticus 19:5-6)? _____

God attaches Himself to His people with the covenant promise made to Abraham in Genesis 17:7. He keeps that promise throughout the centuries. Nothing depended on their love for Him, only His offering of love to be their God and for them to be His people.

APPLICATION:

1. Can you hear the Lord calling you to be set apart as He seeks to raise you above the crowd, above the ordinary, into a relationship of love with Him? Where might He be tugging at your heart?

2. Do you understand that He wants to show you a new life with Him, a life with new potential, new purpose, a life with value, significance and meaning? How is He setting you apart as His own?

3. Describe the people whose God is the Lord! Consider 1 Peter. St. Peter describes the people whose God is the Lord. You are encouraged to read the entire book. Here are some examples:
 - a. 1 Peter 1:14 _____
 - b. 1 Peter 1:22 _____
 - c. 1 Peter 2:1-3 _____
 - d. 1 Peter 2:9 _____
 - e. 1 Peter 2:11-12 _____
 - f. 1 Peter 3:8-9 _____
 - g. 1 Peter 5:6-7 _____
4. What does this new life look like for you? Remember, it's all because He wants to be the Lord *your* God. _____

TEACHING: The Lord brought Israel out of Egypt. His deliverance brought freedom and release to the captive nation. Now they were to drive out the nations that occupied the land that was theirs (Deuteronomy 7:1). The Lord would deliver them into Israel's hands and when they were defeated, Israel

was to destroy them. They were to be removed from their memory. Nothing was to remain. Their idols and sacred stones were to be broken down and smashed. I AM is their God and there are to be no other gods before Him. The strength that God used to deliver His people He was going to use to drive out the nations in order that Israel might receive its inheritance.

MEMORIZATION: God's regard for His people in Moab all positioned to take possession of the land is the same with us who live in our homes and communities around the world. He is the one who gave the Israelites purpose and value. He does the same for you and me. Write the words of Deuteronomy 7:6.

Write this verse on an index card also and then jot down words and phrases that remind you of who you are because *He is the Lord your God!* Celebrate that this holy God, this God of love wants to be your God!

PRAYER: I can do nothing but give You my praise and thanks. You are my God and I am Your child. This relationship exists only because of You. Without Your Word of Truth I would be left wandering around in my own self-made desert with no meaning or purpose. But, You have made me Yours. You have called me to higher ground. You have enlarged my area of influence and have called me to living a life that reflects Your holiness. May I be found faithful. May I rest in Your faithfulness to me. _____

UNIT REVIEW

**GOD'S CALL,
OUR DELIVERANCE**

PART II

REVIEW: You are a reporter for the *Alexandrian Gazette*. The newspaper is read far and wide across Egypt, Sinai, Midian, and Canaan. Your boss has just left your office. He has given you the assignment for the next six weeks to write a series on the travels of the Israelites from the land of the Pharaohs to the Promised Land of Canaan.

1. What would be the six heading titles for your column?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____

2. Who would you interview? Who would give to you your best material?

3. What *facts* would you want to know? What do you believe would interest your readers?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

4. What *truths* would you want to know about this God of theirs? What have you heard about Him that you want to verify to be the truth?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

5. What would you be able to report regarding the *application* of the facts and truths you have gathered and as they play out in the community life of these people?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

CLOSURE TO GOD'S CALL, OUR DELIVERANCE: The journey has been long and arduous. The oldest Joshua and Caleb are permitted to enter the Promised Land but the others have died along the way. The children and grandchildren are those who have traveled all these years and are now ready to take possession of the land. Some remember crossing through the sea on dry ground and witnessing the death

of Pharaoh's army. All have been taught many things. Life in the wilderness under God's direction and Moses' leadership has built a strong community. Together they constructed the Tabernacle according to God's design. They have been blessed with the miracles of manna, quail, and water. Together they have suffered because of their disobedience and with one voice they have promised their obedience. Moses and Aaron are dead now and Joshua is their new leader whom God has chosen to move them forward, to fight the battles and drive out their enemies from the land that is theirs. The Lord is their God!

PRAYER: The day has come. Israel is ready to move in and take possession of the land that You have promised. We have a new day also. You have brought us to this day and to this time in our lives when You have called us out of the darkness and bondage of sin and have delivered us into a life filled with the light of your love. Empower us to move forward with boldness and confidence because we know that You are the Lord our God. _____

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