

Wednesday

Read: *Exodus 20:12-17* How to live in peace with others

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Do you think these commands are reasonable or practical for us today? Why?*
2. *Which of the ten commandments offers you the most freedom? The least?*

Prayer Focus Your laws are all about relationships, Great God; our relationship with you and with others. Help us follow your guidelines for living with forgiveness, love, compassion.

Thursday

Read: *Exodus 20:18-19* The people's fear

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does nature seem the best way for God to get our attention?*
2. *Do you think the people were fearful of being punished for disobedience?*

Prayer Focus God, your laws are not ways to make us into obedient slaves. You didn't design your commandments to pounce on us when we misstep. Help us remember your laws not only guide us, but protect us as well.

Friday

Read: *Exodus 20:20* Our reassurance

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What kind of test is this for the people? Is it necessary today?*
2. *How do you express your reverence for God in your everyday life?*

Prayer Focus Living in you and obeying your laws is what makes us a new creation, God of all. Help us take your commandments to heart, so we can offer our best in your name.

Why Obey God?

Pastor's message: *Exodus 20:1-4; 7-9; 12-20*

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *If you had the power, what is one rule you would most like to make?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Exodus 20:1-4; 7-9; 12-20**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

WHY OBEY GOD? OCTOBER 8, 2023

Monday

Read: Exodus 20:1-4 *God the rescuer*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does God remind the people of their past?*
2. *How do you understand the idea of an 'idol'?*

Prayer Focus Holy One, we're grateful for the reminder that you are our Only One and that to put anything or anyone before you is an empty experience. You alone are our creator, provider, and sustainer, the way to life, and we will choose you first.

Tuesday

Read: Exodus 20:7-9 *God's name; Sabbath is sacred*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What would be a wrongful use of God's name?*
2. *How do you honor the sabbath?*

Prayer Focus Your laws are for our good, always, to help us live together in your creation. God, give us the trust to obey you even if it means going against the ways of the world. Thank you for the way you know us, inside and out.