

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 05.23.2021

PENTECOST SUNDAY! – EXODUS 20:1-21

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Today is Pentecost Sunday! The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) is the culmination of the experience of Redemption. Since the great Exodus from Egypt was intended to lead to the Revelation on Mt. Sinai, the giving of the 10 Commandments or the 10 Words of God. God took the Jews out of Egypt so they could be His own treasured people, holy and separated from the pagan/demonic cultures around them. The New Moon of Nisan marks the beginning of Sacred Time. Passover remembers the Passover Lamb, the 1st day of unleavened bread remembers the Exodus from Egypt, the 7th day of Unleavened Bread remembers the crossing of the Red Sea, and the counting of the Omer (50 days) remembers the giving of the 10 Commandments exactly 7 Weeks after the Exodus, Sivan 6. The book of Ruth is read during Pentecost, since the events recounted took place during the time of the Spring Harvest, and Ruth is a picture of willing acceptance of the Savior God of Israel. Ruth was a Moabitess, a non-Jew who converted to being Jewish and became part of the lineage of King David and the Messiah Yeshua through the Love of a "Goel," or Kinsman Redeemer. Pentecost is seen as the Marriage of the Savior God and His Bride Israel. The 10 Commandments are seen as the Ketuvah, or Marriage Contract between the Bride and Groom. Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion:

1. What struck you or stood out to you from this week's sermon in Exodus 20?
2. Have you ever experienced a situation when you had to go to considerable lengths to keep a promise? If so, what happened? What motivated you to keep your word?
3. How does keeping our word help us build trust with other people? What happens to that trust when we fail to do what we say we will do?

A "covenant" is similar to a promise in that it is an agreement between two or more people. The Bible speaks of such agreements (Gen 21:27,32; 1 Sam. 18:3). In the Old Testament, the concept of "covenant" began with a one-sided declaration of God, "I will establish my covenant with you" (Gen 6:18). Then God made His intentions known to man. Before they received the Ten Commandments, the people of Israel entered into a covenant relationship with God (Exodus 19:5-6). This is a picture of God entering into a marriage relationship with Israel. The Lord required Israel to obey His voice and keep His covenant.

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 19:1-6

1. What does it mean to be God's "treasured possession" (v. 5)? Why are all believers considered "treasured possessions"?
2. In which areas of life were believers to be holy, set apart, or different (19:6)? How are believers today to be set apart?

Every nation in the world belongs to the Lord because He's the Maker and Sustainer of all things (Ex 9:29; Ps 24:1), yet He chose Israel to be His treasured possession (Deut 7:6; 14:2; 26:18;). This choice was not because of any

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special merit that Israel possessed, because they had none (Deut 26:5-11), but was a result of God's love and sovereign grace.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER TO READ EXODUS 20:1-7

1. What do you think it means that God is a jealous God? Why would God be jealous of a stone idol?

God created us to enjoy Him; in Him we find goodness, kindness, mercy, power, and glory. We do not add anything to God, but He still desires our affections because He loves us—and as it turns out, loving Him is what is best for us. God is not jealous like people are jealous. People are usually jealous because of wounded pride or fear of loss. God is jealous because His love for us is so strong that it causes Him to desire what is best for us. Worshiping a false god will ultimately ruin us. God's concern for us moves Him to discipline us from our idols so we might not be destroyed by them.

2. What do verses 5-6 teach us about God? What does it mean to misuse the name of God?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER TO READ EXODUS 20:8-17

1. What is the purpose of these laws? If you keep these laws, do you have anything to boast about? Why or why not?

The law isn't given to us to make us righteous. The law is given so that we will come to recognize our own sinfulness because we are law-breakers, and the law teaches us about the holiness of God. God is not a cheat, a liar, nor will He ever steal. As sinful humans, we are guilty of breaking all of these commands, even if we only break them in thought (see Matthew 5:21-22, 28).

2. In what ways does every command relate to God and people? In what ways is love the fulfillment of the law?

One of the primary functions of the law was to prepare the way for the birth of Christ (Gal. 4:1-7). When the people came to realize they weren't keeping the law, they had a greater understanding that they needed a Savior who would save them from their sins. The Ten Commandments demonstrate the holiness of God. All Ten Commandments deal with mankind's responsibilities toward God: the first four are particularly Godward, while the last six pertain to how to treat other people. There is a direct correlation between how we relate to God and the way we treat our fellow human beings. If we love God, we obey Him and we'll also love our neighbors and serve them (Matt 22:34-40; Rom. 13).

3. How do you think you would've responded if you'd been among the Israelites and witnessed what they did?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER TO READ EXODUS 20:18-21

1. Why were the people so afraid when the Lord gave them His law?

The Lord's holiness and power were terrifying to the people. They also knew that the commands God gave were things that they were guilty of doing, and so they feared that God might strike them down for their sinfulness.

2. Why would God terrify His people as He was giving His commandments?

The Bible teaches us that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding...the fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning people away from the snares of death" (Proverbs 9:10, 14:27). The Lord, Moses said, was testing His people so that they would fear Him and not sin. The Lord wanted His people to know how serious the commands were, and of the fearful consequences from not keeping them. Of course, everyone falls short of the law of the Lord, and so this reminder is also given so they will repent when they sin.

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Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Ray stated that The Jews read the book of Ruth during Pentecost. Ruth is also a picture of the Church, the Bride of Christ. His Living Word is our Ketuvah or contract of marriage. As Jews reaffirm the Covenant of Mt. Sinai on Pentecost, this was a type of another Pentecost the climax of God's deliverance through Jesus, the true Lamb of God, the New Covenant of God's Word on our heart by the Holy Spirit. Note also that Eve was the 1st Bride – the entire world was created for the Bride (she was made very last). Adam and Eve had the perfect Garden Wedding. Eve was the girl of his dreams. Created on the 6th day, their 1st day was the Sabbath, a day of Rest, the beginning of their Honeymoon! Amen!

1. Why is the book of Ruth so appropriate to read during Pentecost?
2. How can meditating on God's law help us be more grateful for the grace we have received through Jesus Christ?
3. How might the law be useful to us in sharing the gospel with others?
4. Have each member make an "I will statement" from this lesson. "Express what the Lord has impressed on their heart to obey.

PRAYER - Pray that you will take advantage of opportunities to witness to the people God places in their lives.

"Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity." Ex. 24:9-10