

▶ **GLENSTONE CHAPEL** ◀
Community Group Bible Study Guide

Passage: Exodus 20:1-3

For use June 15-21, 2008

**QUESTIONS TO USE IN GROUP
OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY**

LAUNCHING¹ [5-10 minutes]

1. "When did someone do something for you that was completely beyond what you expected? How did you respond?" OR
2. "Who has given you an that you NEVER would otherwise had? How did you feel toward them?"

OBSERVATION [10 minutes]

Read the entire passage (20:1-17)

1. What was the life situation of the original hearers before these '10 words' were spoken? (i.e., what had happened to them in Exodus 1-19?)
2. What stands out to you about the 10 commands (progression, topics, etc.)?

Reread the specific passage (20:1-3)

3. What jumps out at you about these 3 verses? Why?
4. How does God describe Himself in these verses? (Read Exodus 3:7-10!)

INTERPRETATION [10-15 minutes]

1. Why does the history of Exodus Chapter 1-19 matter to this passage?
2. Why might the listeners' time in Egypt result in their hearing these commandments as gifts rather than burdens?
3. Why might God want to remind them of who He is and what He has done for them?
4. Out of the 10 commandments, why might this one be the first listed?

APPLICATION [10 minutes]

1. How do our life situations compare with the life situation of the original hearers of these words? (i.e., what kind of slavery does God rescue us from?)
2. How can these 10 words become 'gift' to us rather than a 'burden'?
3. If God were speaking these words to us today (which He is), what 'gods' would He be competing against in 21 century American culture?
4. What is involved in the 'worship' of these gods?
5. How would you expect a person's life to change if they worship the LORD God only?
6. Do you find yourself convicted of anything after thinking through this passage together?

¹Choose a question to move thinking into the theme of the passage; **note**, this is not an *ice-breaker*.

FOR PERSONAL PREPARATION**Passage: Exodus 20:1-3**

- 1. Key Issue:** See these commands as a gift! They provide a guideline for how we love God and love each other! Having studied Galatians, we know that obedience to these commands does not establish our right standing with God. Faith in Jesus Christ and his death/resurrection accomplished that! We can now go back and see the law for what it is... a tutor. It helps us to understand what “faith expressing itself through love (Gal 5:6) looks like! That order of Faith followed by Love makes all the difference!
- 2. Context matters:** When we read a passage, we need to ask what is going on at the time! Given the life situation of these people, it is incredibly affirming that God cares about them enough to give them these boundaries for life. They have been liberated from slavery. They are becoming a nation. They are moving toward a homeland of their very own. And now... they have the affirmation that God is personal and willing to establish some clear guidelines for how they are to live with him individually and collectively as a new nation. Their loving God is giving them a Constitution! Here as in all of scripture, context matters!
- 3. Explore the gods we worship:** Worship involves time, energy, resources, and sacrifice! Consider what competes for your time, energy, resources, and sacrifices. Worship involves expecting benefits from sacrifice and devotion. Consider what you sacrifice for in the hopes of receiving a benefit. Help people consider what having God as their only God really means!