

The Story Week 5 Discussion Guide



New Commands and a New Covenant

The children of Israel are FREE! They've been released from their bondage to Pharaoh and Egypt, and no one chased after them! They had one supernatural experience after another. Their needs of food, comfort, and leadership were being met. But all was not right.

God takes these now former slaves and desires to partner with them – to make them His beloved and favored vassals (*look it up!* 😊) and goes about doing it in a memorable and formal fashion.

However, in the midst of the process we find that the hearts of the Israelites are not with the Lord. They desired gods of their own creation and designed their own way to worship.

God's plan and commands are *eventually* written down, given to the people and then put into practice. The Lord, through Moses' leadership continued the process of training in the proper way to worship and to live lives that were pleasing to God and following the way HE was leading them.

In this part of the story we encounter a Holy God who desires to be the ONLY God who is worshipped by the descendants of Abraham. He is faithful to His promises and gives guidance of how the people who He calls His are to live.

1. When God speaks to Moses and says “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession...”
 - a. What kind of status is God giving the Israelites?
 - b. What is the response God should expect?
2. What assurance had God already given the Israelites that He was worthy of their trust and obedience?
3. What does it mean to consecrate?
 - a. What were the Israelites to do to consecrate themselves?
 - b. What was the purpose of this process?
 - c. Is the idea of consecrating something in use today?
Can you think of any examples?
4. God’s holiness is seen at the mountain. What would have been your thoughts and reactions to that sight?
5. How do you take God’s warning not to approach the mountain? As a threat or a loving caution? Why?
6. The Ten Commandments were given to Moses by God.
 - i. Can you list them?
 - ii. Which one do you believe is most abused in 2018?
 - iii. Why do you say that?
7. What does the giving of these commands reveal about God’s character?
8. Moses read the commandments to the Israelites & they responded with “**we will obey**” Knowing what happens next, do you think they were lying? Why / Why not?
9. How long did Moses spend on the mountain the second time?

10. The Israelites became impatient and made a golden idol in the shape of a calf for themselves.
- What were the results of this idol worship
 - What would you consider false gods/idols worshipped in our society today?
11. What was Moses' reaction to the "revelry" he found when descending the mountain?
- Why did he react that way?
 - How do you react when you encounter false worship?
12. What did God say He wanted to do for Moses at this time? Why did Moses refuse that? What reasons did Moses give?
13. Why does God say **"no one may see me and live?"**
14. The Israelites are often described as "stiff-necked"
- How would you put that into your own words?
 - What is someone who is "stiff-necked" like?
15. What do you believe to be God's purpose of giving the Ten Commandments and the Law?
16. How can God be both the merciful forgiver of sin and the punisher of the guilty?
17. The Israelites had the pillar of cloud and fire that led them. What are the ways God utilizes to lead and direct His church and individuals today?
18. The Lord spoke to Moses **"as one speaks to a friend."** What steps are you taking to gain a deeper understanding of who God is?