Lesson 2

Online Bible Study “Covenant”

Lessons 1-7 “Creating”

Lesson 2: “Freedom and Instruction – Privileges and responsibilities of the covenant”

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers

Our longing for Relationship: It’s a privilege and a gift to experience a committed relationship, but a lasting relationship is always confirmed through responsibilities and expectations.

Readings:

Day 1: Exodus 1-4. Oppression, survival and the charge of a leader

Day 2: Exodus 13:17 – 15:21 Crossing boundaries for freedom

Day 3: Exodus 20-24 Sinai covenant

Day 4: Leviticus 19-22. Holiness Code

Day 5: Numbers 11-14. In the wilderness

Questions:

Exodus 20:1-17 “Ten Commandments”

1. How does the beginning of this covenant text (Exodus 20:1-6) describe God’s role in the covenant? How does this picture of God compare to the picture you have of God’s relation to you in your covenant relationship with God?
2. The opening commandments (Exodus 20:3-11) describe the people’s obligations toward God. What are they?
3. How do the instructions to keep the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11) connect with the creation story in Genesis 1:1-2:4a and with the account of the Sinai covenant in Exodus 31:12-18? How do these instructions reflect the themes of holiness and the imitation of God from your readings for Leviticus 19-22?
4. The concluding commandments (Exodus 20:12-17) describe the people’s obligations toward each other. What are they? What do you think of this summary of the people’s basic social responsibilities?
5. If you were to make a list of your ten most important responsibilities in your covenant relationship with God as you understand it, what would they be? How does your list compare to and differ from this biblical list?

Meditation on Leviticus 19:1-2 You must be holy because God is holy.

Exodus 20:1-17 Ten Commandments