

A HOLY PEOPLE - Studies 1 –6

The Israelites have moved from the oppressive bondage of Pharaoh into liberation, and in these next chapters they are learning what it means to relate to God. The Sinai events involve a memorable meeting with God, a renewal of the covenant and the giving of the law. These events offer a model of the two way relationship between God and his people who need to respond with obedient hearts and dedicated lives.

Exodus 21-23 are a collection of laws often called ‘The Book of the Covenant’ which gave guidance and direction to the daily lives of God’s people at that time.

Study 1

Meeting with God

Exodus 19:1-25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 30 MINS

AIM: That as we meet with God we will learn how to reflect his character in our lives.

When God first called Moses to go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of the slavery and bondage of Egypt, one of the promises was that the people would “worship God on this mountain” (Exodus 3:12). So whenever Moses came before Pharaoh, the message was, “The Lord, the God of the Hebrews has sent me to say to you: Let my people go so that they may worship me in the desert” (Exodus 7:16; 8:1,20; 9:1, 13; 10:3).

The term ‘desert’ does not always mean a dry wasteland but sometimes uninhabited grazing country. Their arrival at Mount Sinai, an uninhabited grazing mountain three months after the Exodus from Egypt was to enable them meet with God and to worship Him. It was a very significant time for Israel and an important time of preparation for all that was to take place in the future.

Read Exodus 19:1-9

God’s invitation:

1. Three months after the Israelites left Egypt what promise that was now being fulfilled (v.1-2)? See Exodus 3:12.
2. How does God describe to Moses the three important things he has already done for his people (v.4)?
What further gracious promises does God make and what are the conditions for their fulfilment (v.5-6)?
3. What was the people’s response to God’s invitation (v.8)?
4. What was God’s purpose in his plan to speak to Moses from a cloud (v.9)?

Read Exodus 19:10-15

Important preparations:

5. What three specific things were the people to do to prepare for this meeting with God (v.9-15)?
They had two full days to prepare. What does this say about the care that had to be taken in their preparations?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONT.	
<p>Read Exodus 19:16– 25 God speaks to his people:</p> <p>6. What were the signs of God's presence on the top of the mountain (v.16, 18-19)? What was the effect of the Lord's presence on the people?</p> <p>7. Who was able to lead the people out of the camp to meet with God? What was the special relationship he had with God (v.9, 20)?</p> <p>8. Why were the people not able to come any closer to God's presence on the mountain (v.21-23)?</p>	<p>themselves 'clean' inside and out. Two days were spent getting ready and on the third day God made his presence known. There was lightening and thunder and with a loud trumpet sound. The whole mountain shook and the people were afraid of the presence of this mighty and holy God. Only Moses, who had this special honour of talking directly to God, was able to lead the people out of the camp to meet with him.</p> <p>In Christ, we also are inheritors of God's special covenant relationship. How do we reflect God's presence and his character to the world around us?</p>
TEACHING SUMMARY 5 MINUTES	APPLICATION 20 MINUTES
<p>This is a memorable occasion in the history of God's people. Here God confirms a new relationship with Israel which they will always look back to for their identity and security. It is God who issues the invitation through Moses who then presents it to the elders and the people.</p> <p>In view of their experience of God's faithfulness so far - he has saved them, carried them and brought them close to himself - the Israelites are invited to make a formal commitment to their relationship with him. (v.5). As a consequence of this relationship, they will become God's special treasure, a people belonging to him in a different way to all other people. They will serve him as a kingdom of priests, set apart and consecrated for his service to fulfil his plans.</p> <p>This special meeting requires the people to make careful preparations; to make</p>	<p>Divide into two or three groups for discussion and prayer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the role of believers today in God's unique plans? How are you seeking to be part of these plans? 2. The Israelites were told to make very careful preparations before coming into God's presence. How far do you think this should apply to us today? <p>Read Exodus 20:1- 26 before next week. What is the value of these commandments for us today?</p> <p>PRAYER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Thank God for the special relationship you can have with him in Christ. * Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to reflect God's character in your daily life and as you meet with others. <p>MEMORY VERSE: Exodus 19:5-6</p>
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