



Newly freed from Egyptian slavery, God's people are led to Mt. Sinai. At Mt. Sinai, through Moses, God gives the law, which was the great charter of freedom for the people God chose to live in covenant with him and to serve as a light to the nations. The Ten Commandments give a summary of God's law for our lives. They teach us how to live rightly with God and one another. This law remains a charter of freedom for all who would love, know and serve the Lord today.

Opening Question:

What was the most important rule in your family during your formative years? What happened when you broke this rule?

Read: Exodus 20:1-21

What image, theme or idea stood out to you as you read this passage?

Understanding the Story:

What does God remind the people of before he gives them the Ten Commandments? (see 20:2) What "right" did God have to issue these commands?

Having lived for 400 years in Egypt with a multitude of gods, what does God want to make clear to the Israelites? (see 20:3) What will be the consequences if the Israelites worship other gods?

What reasons does God give for prohibiting idolatry? (see 20:4)

It has been said that the law reveals the character and priorities of the lawgiver. What do these Ten Commandments tell us about God's character and priorities?

What is the focus of the first four commandments? How does the focus shift with the last six commandments?

In what way is coveting (20:17) a wrong against not only our neighbor but against God?

Living the Story:

What are the "other gods" or idols that compete for allegiance in our culture?

What are the greatest cultural impediments to keeping Sabbath? What are the consequences of our cultural maintenance of a 24/7, non-stop lifestyle? What is, for you, the greatest impediment to keeping Sabbath?

Positively restate each of the commandments..."thou shall" instead of "thou shalt." How does this restatement enhance your understanding of the intent of the commandments?

Pray:

Identify one personal prayer request prompted by this study of the Ten Commandments. Pray for one another.