

EXODUS: A PLACE OF BELONGING

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025

Sermon Passage: Exodus 19

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FACILITATING COMMUNITY

At New Hope Hermitage, we strive for people to come to Jesus, become more like Jesus, and be who Jesus intended them to be. While biblical worship and teaching are of the utmost importance, we know that biblical community is where life transformation occurs mostly. A true community isn't just a place to talk about faith—it's a place to live it out together as we seek for Hermitage to look more like Heaven.

As a leader, your role is to model care and consistency and facilitate discussion. You don't need to be perfect; you just need to be present and willing to go first to build something deeper.

What patterns should I incorporate into my life to help foster a sense of community?

- **Pray.** Pray for the Spirit to move during your group time and in the lives of the people in your group.
- **Prepare.** Listen to the sermon and allow the Spirit to work in and through you. Afterward, take the time to answer the five questions on your own.
- **Presence.** Reach out with a quick text or call to check on someone or their family. Acknowledge important events such as birthdays, anniversaries, new jobs, or answered prayers. Even a group text or card can make a significant impact.
- **Pursue.** Most importantly, walk with Jesus. Nothing can replace your personal relationship with Him.

One idea for this week...

- Take time this week to hear from God. You cannot lead people deeper than you have gone yourself. Seek the Lord, ask for forgiveness, and worship intentionally, for the Lord is good and worthy of all praise.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV), "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

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This Week's Main Takeaway

Exodus 19 is the hinge between redemption and covenant. Israel has seen divine miracle after miracle. They've seen it in Egypt, and now, having been delivered from Egypt and provided for repeatedly in the desert. In this chapter, we now see them standing at the foot of Mount Sinai. For the first time since the garden, an entire people are being invited not just to believe in God, but to draw near to Him. But as God descends and shows His people, His presence and power are not to be taken lightly.

This Week's Memory Verse

Exodus 19:5 (NIV), "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,"

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about God?

God's rescue comes before His rules. (vs. 1-8)

In this passage, we see the reminder that God is *holy* (v. 11 – "the Lord will come down..."), *sovereign* (v. 5b – "Although the whole world is mine..."), and *worthy of reverence* (v. 18a – "Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire..." and v. 23 – "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai").

What is incredible to see in this passage is that before any of the commands were given (beginning in verse five), we see *rescue* (v. 4 – God "brought His people to Himself") and *relationship* (v. 5 – "then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession..."). This is incredible as God is establishing a covenant with His people (v.6a – "you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation").

In this passage, we see rescue and relationship before commands (or rules) are given. What does this tell you about how God relates to His children?

Think about this: Rules without relationship lead to rebellion.

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

Reverence prepares us for revelation. (vs. 9-15)

In verses 10-11, God gives Moses the instruction to “consecrate the people.” They were to “wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.”

How we approach God matters. This passage highlights both the holiness of God and the reverence of man towards God. Even the command in verse 15 to “abstain from sexual relations” tells us that the sole focus was to be on God. He alone deserves our respect and worship. What is incredible in this passage, as it relates to His children, is that this is where God initiates a new covenant with the Israelites, showing special favor to them.

Why does how we approach God matter? What does it look like to approach God today?

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

God Himself is better than His gifts. (vs. 16-19)

Verses 16-19 tell us that on the third day (this is significant as it is a precursor to Jesus' rising on the third day), there was “thunder and lightning,” and the people of God were led by Moses to “meet with God...at the foot of the mountain.”

When Moses spoke, God answered. More than anything He can do for us or enable us to do, is the gift of Himself. We get God, and He is more than enough. Is God holy and powerful (v. 18)? Absolutely. Does God reveal Himself? Yes!

Are we pursuing Him, or only what He can do for us? What happens if we only attempt to seek God based on what He can do for us?

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

Amid experiencing God's presence and power, we have to choose what we will do. (vs. 14-15)

People respond to God in many ways. Some accept Him as Lord. At the same time, others deny His very existence. In this passage, the presence and power of God were evident and on display, but the people still had to make a choice. Would they listen to what God was telling them through Moses? Would they turn away? Verse 14 tells us the people did as Moses instructed. Like the Israelites, we will never be perfect in our pursuit of God, but we should make Him our main priority.

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God's Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

In this passage, the Israelites washing garments and abstaining from sexual relations were outward actions that represented the desire to meet with God fully.

We are not much different from the Israelites. According to Pastor Kyle Worley, “God renews His covenant with His people to prepare them to dwell with Him—the Holy God—in a land filled with pagan nations, in a way that will shine the glorious character of Yahweh out to the broken, sin-sick world.”

Have you come to the mountain of God but missed Him and His message? How can this happen?