

## EXODUS: A PLACE OF BELONGING

### LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025

Sermon Passage: Exodus 20:1-7

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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...

- Dedicate time this week to memorize a verse of Scripture. If this is already a regular practice in your life, keep pursuing it. If not, focus on memorizing *Exodus 20:2* this week.

*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."*

## LEADER GUIDE

### This Week's Main Takeaway

Too often, we approach the Ten Commandments as if they are God's fence line – "rules that restrict and repress. But what if they're not rules to confine, but invitations to life? In Exodus 20, the Ten Commandments, literally called the "Ten Words," aren't just divine demands; they're loving invitations from a God who just freed His people from slavery.

### This Week's Memory Verse

*Exodus 20:2 (NIV), "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."*

### Five Inductive Questions

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

Exodus 20:1 – As reverence prepares us for revelation, in this passage, we see the revelation begin to unfold—God's very words. (v. 1 – "Then *God spoke all* these words.")

Exodus 20:1-6 gives us not rules to confine to, but an invitation to life (v. 2a – "*I am the Lord your God.*")

- God is not an option or an alternative; He is (v. 3 – "You shall have *no other gods* before me.")
- The invitation is to know Him and enter into a relationship. Within this is the reminder that He is near, and we were made in His image (vs. 4-6 – "You shall not make for yourself *an image in the form of anything...*" "...for *I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,*")

Exodus 20:7

- In this verse, we see that misusing the Lord's name misrepresents His character, purposes, and actions revealed to the people of Israel. This amounts to lying about who God is. (v. 7 – "Do not *misuse the name of the Lord your God...*") (CSB Study Bible Notes)

*What does it mean to "pray prayers within God's character?" How do you do this?*

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

Exodus 20:2 – An invitation to respond (v. 2 – "*I am the Lord your God.*")

Exodus 20:3 – The invitation to not misrepresent Him (v. 3 – "*You shall have no other gods before me.*")

- How often are others seeing Jesus in you?
- Worship is not just a Sunday activity; it is an allegiance to Him.

Exodus 20:4 – We are not to reduce God to an idol (v. 4 – “Do not make *an idol for yourself*.”)

- We tend to treasure self and status over God.
- It’s important to remember that all false gods will fail us.

Exodus 20:6 – God has a deep love for humanity, and He is a jealous God who wants us to love Him like nothing else in our lives. (v. 6 – “*but showing faithful love to a thousand generations* of those who love me and keep my commands.)

Exodus 20:7 – To misuse the Lord’s name is not only taking the Lord’s name in vain, but also to speak the name of Jesus and live a life that is entirely different from His way.

*Are you defaming His name with what you are pursuing? What might this do to our spiritual walk?*

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

In Exodus 20, the Ten Commandments, literally called the “Ten Words,” aren’t just divine demands; they’re loving invitations from a God. As the Israelites journeyed through the wilderness, God was constantly revealing Himself and freeing them from bondage. The gospel does the same for us—it frees us and invites us to know the heart of our Heavenly Father.

*How can we help others see The Ten Commandments as an invitation to know God and not just a set of rules to live by?*

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

Our lives should reflect the name that we worship.

In this passage, we are reminded that God alone deserves the worship (v. 2a – “*I am the Lord* your God.”) Yet, we have a responsibility for our thoughts, words, and actions to represent the Name we claim. When we say our allegiance belongs to God but then our actions say something else, we confuse an already confused world.

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

How are we treating Jesus? This week, consider what your life represents. *Do your thoughts, words, and actions reveal the heart of the Heavenly Father?*