

## **EXODUS: A PEOPLE BECOMING**

### *LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE*

Sermon Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025

Sermon Passage: Exodus 20:13-15

*Pastor Justin Lett*

### **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...**

- This week, honor someone this week by telling them how you are praying for them.

*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

When we read these commandments—do not murder, do not commit adultery, and do not steal—they may seem straightforward, foundational, and even common sense. However, Jesus always looked beyond the surface. He always pressed deeper—into the heart, the root, and the motive.

In these three short commandments, God isn't just setting up a legal system; He's building a moral ecosystem. One where life is sacred, relationships are protected, and honor is preserved. Violate any of these, and we rip at the very fabric of human dignity and divine order.

### This Week's Memory Verse

*Exodus 20:13-15 (NIV), "You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal."*

### Key Understandings

#### You Shall Not Murder: The Call to Cherish Life

- The act of murder goes way past killing. It begins in the heart (Matthew 5:21-22) with hatred, prejudice, and rage.
- In our world today, we "murder" people with our words and sometimes with our silence.
- We "murder" others' character and reputation with our gossip. We replace peace with division.

#### You Shall Not Commit Adultery: The Call to Honor Covenant

- Adultery is a betrayal of God and a breach of covenantal faithfulness (Ephesians 5:29-33). Like marriage, it is more about covenant than membership.
- The goal of marriage and the Church (the bride of Christ) is not to make you happy, but holy. In return, we display the fruits of the Spirit.
- When we are not submitted to our Lord, we are unfaithful and uncommitted to Him (adulterous). We tend to become attached to buildings, causes, and missions.

#### You Shall Not Steal: The Call to Respect Boundaries

- We must not "cheat" the system. We are to honor others and not withhold generosity.
- Ultimately, we are robbing God—we take the gifts God has given us and use them for our own benefit.
- Stealing often grows from a heart of discontent.

## Five Inductive Questions

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

In these three short commandments, God isn't just establishing a legal system; He's creating a moral ecosystem. One where life is sacred, relationships are protected, and honor is preserved. Violate any of these, and we rip at the very fabric of human dignity and divine order.

- You Shall Not Murder: God alone gives life, and people are made in His image.
- You Shall Not Commit Adultery: God is faithful and holy and demands this of His people.
- You Shall Not Steal: God provides everything we need and is our provider.

*Why does God want us to honor life? How do we do this?*

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

When we read these commandments—do not murder, do not commit adultery, and do not steal—they may seem straightforward, foundational, and even common sense. However, Jesus always looked beyond the surface. He always pressed deeper—into the heart, the root, and the motive.

By following these commands, they set minimum standards for Israel to be a just society and indicate the context in which the people will be called further to be holy and to love the Lord with their all their heart, soul, and might (Deut. 6:4–9), and their neighbors with goodwill and generosity (Lev. 19:18) (ESV Study Bible Notes).

*How does following God's commands lead to holiness?*

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

The promise of this passage is life and life more abundant that can only come from the Lord. God desires that we would be in covenant with Him, which transforms every aspect of our lives.

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

You Shall Not Murder: We must choose life and not simply avoid murder—it is actively giving life through our honor, words, and presence. We are called to value people over positions.

You Shall Not Commit Adultery: We must align ourselves with Jesus through His sacrifice on the cross for us, for we are members of His body. The goal of the Church is to make us look more like Him. One can't covenant with someone and "date" another.

You Shall Not Steal: This command is not just about “wallets,” but rather about honoring work and living content. We must practice radical generosity.

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

We are moving from law to love.

*Am I seeing others made in God’s image? Am I reflecting the Father’s heart to others?*

Sources:

*Exalting Jesus in Exodus (B&H Publishing)*

*CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)*

*ESV Study Bible Notes (Crossway)*