

EXODUS: A PEOPLE BECOMING

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025

Sermon Passage: Exodus 20:17

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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...

- This week, find one way to encourage someone by telling them how you are seeing God work in their lives.

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

Coveting is rooted in distrust. When we crave what others have, we reveal a belief that God is holding out on us. The cure for coveting is not getting more but trusting more. Trusting that God is enough and that His timing, provision, and plan for us are good.

This Week's Memory Verse

Exodus 20:17 (NIV), "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Overview of the Tenth Commandment from the *Exalting Jesus in Exodus Commentary*:

"This commandment highlights the twisted desires of mankind and the sin of discontentment. Instead of having a thankful heart, the coveter desires what others have. Notice also that this commandment is about the inward nature of the law. Covetousness is about the heart. It is about desire. It may or may not lead to an act, but even if there is no act, it is still wrong because our desire should be on the God who made us and redeemed us. Covetousness, then, involves breaking the first commandment."

Five Inductive Questions

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

God is generous and intentional. He provides all we need, but He goes a step further and projects us from what we do not need.

God knows what unchecked desires can do in our hearts. This tenth commandment implies that we see the birth of all sin begins in a heart that lies and says God is "holding out" on me. In God's holy sovereignty and providence, He protects us from what we do not need. A picture of this can be found in the Garden of Eden narrative, as we see that God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17). God gives us what we need for our good and His glory.

What does it tell you about God's nature and character that He knows what is best for us?

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

Coveting happens in our sinful hearts.

Our hearts easily drift toward discontentment when our trust in God weakens. We tend to believe the “more” lie, when God has already provided everything we need. Left unchecked, our desires can shape our worship and shift our focus away from the Giver to the gifts. The cure for craving what we do not need is conformity to His image that already completes us. Coveting not only breaks our covenant with God but also breaks our covenant with others we are in community with. In this tenth commandment, we see the word *neighbor* appears three times.

Comparison is the thief of joy (President Theodore Roosevelt) and can consume us. We see this in the story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4) as Cain wanted to outshine his brother instead of pleasing God. Comparison lies and says, “God has been *good* to you, but *better* to them.”

How do sinful craving and comparison affect our relationships with others?

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

When we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our hearts.

This does not mean God gives us everything we want, but transforms what we want to match His will, bringing true fulfillment. We can trust that God is not withholding from us; He knows what is best for us and that His timing is always perfect.

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

“Do not covet” is a call to guard our hearts from envy and comparison. Instead of looking sideways at what others have, we are invited to look upward, rest in God’s character, and practice gratitude for what He’s already given. Contentment comes from realizing we don’t need more because we have enough in Him. This passage that tells us to “not covet” is more about *perspective* than *possession*.

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

We are called to repent of the ways we have compared ourselves to others and believed the lie that God’s provision was not enough.

Have you pursued things more than His presence? How can you turn from discontentment and return to delight?

Sources:

Exalting Jesus in Exodus (B&H Publishing)

CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)