

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, April 23rd – Exodus 19 (1 Peter 2:9-10)

We start this week by moving again to the base of Mount Sinai, where God calls Moses up the mountain to have a conversation. What is on God's mind (vss. 1-6)? What is the plan for the Israelites (vs. 6)? Now read the 1 Peter passage. Is there any change? Based on these two passages, who are you in Christ? Are you living this out? What is the response of the Israelites to God's proposal (vss. 19:7-9)? Before one meets God in person, one must be prepared. What needs to happen to be ready for this big reveal (vss. 10-14)? Why do you think there are boundaries to getting closer to God? The day arrives, the ram horn blows, and trembling the people go out to meet God. How is God's presence described (vss. 18-20)? Once Moses is before God, what is God's concern, and what is Moses supposed to do to in obedience to God to keep all the people obedient (vss. 21-25)? Imagine having been there that morning. What would it have been like to be in the presence of God? What does this reveal to you about who God really is? Who are you in relation to God? How do these descriptions tie together the concept of almighty and powerful with gentle and loving God traits? If God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, what will it be like when we see God? How might it be terrifying? How might we be awestruck? How does the work of Jesus on the cross and in the tomb blend the two in a way that leads to pure worship in our hearts and minds? Spend the day pondering this God. Let Him be who He says He is, not what you created Him to be in your own mind.

Tuesday, April 24th – Exodus 20:1-17

Today, the rules for living as God's people are laid out before the Israelites. On what authority does God have the right to make such rules (vs. 2)? Everything that flows from this point forward is based on the fact that God saved them (besides having created them) and is fulfilling His promises. Therefore, God has some expectations of those whom He saves. Read verses 3-11. These laws all pertain to our relationship with God. This is how you lovingly fulfill the command to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength (Deut. 6:5). How do these laws help you do that? Now read verses 12-17. These laws all pertain to our relationships with each other – how we are to treat each other. This is how we lovingly live into the command to love our neighbors as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18). These laws are large brush strokes that cover every aspect of our human relationships. If these cover all the basics, why do you think there were 613 laws in the Old Testament? 603 of the additional laws, many of which we will read later, address details of these 10 commandments or the top two overarching commandments of Jesus. Why do we need so much detail? Because we are forever looking for the loopholes, the exceptions to the rule. Now go back and read verses 3-17 again. What do these rules reveal about God? Who is He and how do these reflect how creation was set originally? What do these rules reveal about us? And how did Jesus fulfill these laws completely?

Wednesday, April 25th – Exodus 20:18 – 21:10

We continue today with the great reveal! We start with the Israelites' response to all they have seen and heard. What happens (vss. 18-21)? How often is that still the situation today. Send Pastor Shirley up the mountain to talk with God and the rest of us will just sit here and listen to what God said. (For the record, I don't want to go up the mountain on your behalf. I want to take you up there with me!) Yesterday, we talked about some additional laws (a deeper explanation of what has been said). The first has to do with the worship practices of God. Read verses 22-26. What is the first thing they should not do and why (vss. 22-23)? God is not silver or gold. Continuing on, how should the altars be made (vss. 24-25)? What does this say about God's creation as it is found? Does it need our help to be beautiful? What are the uses of the altars they build (HINT: there are three)? Finally, why should the altar not have stairs (vs. 26)? What does that say about us? Sexual immorality (lust) seems to be a continuing problem. We finish today with rules on how to treat slaves. Read 21:1-10. Notice the difference between the treatment of men and women. This is a culture where men were the main decision-makers and protectors. Women were possessions and completely dependent upon men for their survival. Yet God does put hedges of protection around them. What protections do see in this text? As you consider this answer, pay attention to verses 7-11. What do these passages reveal about God? What do they reveal about us? Can you think of any examples where Jesus treated women fairly with protection?

Thursday, April 26th – Exodus 21:12-36

Today we look at personal injury law, be it property or physical injury. Now as we read these verses, keep in mind the value and necessity of the animals involved. One's livelihood depends on these animals. Loss of an ox could lead to disaster and end up with selling yourself as a slave. Verses 12-17 deal with capital punishment cases. What do they have in common? Why do you think God requires the punishment of death? Now read verses 18-27. These are physical, personal injury matters. What are the punishments for this group? Notice very few require the punishment of death. Now read 28-36. These are physical, personal injuries by animal. I have always wondered how often bulls gored people to make it into the Bible. When is the owner of the bull responsible? When does a bull's actions cause death to the owner? Notice that the laws are more about the recourse available to those who have been wronged. It is about punishment of the owners, not so much about not doing these things. Where did you see God's grace in these items? What does this reveal about us and our needs?

Friday, April 27th – Exodus 22:1-15

We close this week with property laws and the required punishments. Many of these are tied to the "Do Not Steal" command. Read verses 2-3. How do these verses tie into the laws today in the U.S.? As you read verses 8, 9 and 11, who gets final say in some cases? Now read the whole text. What is the overarching lesson you take from this? Would it not be simpler to just not steal, borrow, or covet? And when we do borrow, should we not be as concerned and care about the property as though it were our own? How does this appear loving towards others? How does this demonstrate our love and respect for God? What does this reveal about God and His ways in our world today? What does this reveal about us? Do these apply only to animals or do these rules apply to us as well? Why or why not? Spend time in prayer today, asking God to place the desire in your heart to love others in such a way that you will care about their property, as well as their physical well-being.

Saturday, April 28th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Exodus 24:4-8.