

**SLAVES SET FREE****Israel—from Prosperity to Oppression. Exodus 1 and 2**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* Exodus 14:13–14

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1

**Day 1: Read Exodus 1 and 2.**

1. Who wrote the book of Exodus? (Ex. 17:14; 24:4; 34:27)
2. How large is Jacob’s family when they settle in Egypt?
  - A. How many years do God’s people stay in Egypt? (Ex. 12:40)
  - B. Approximately how many Israelites leave Egypt with Moses? (Ex. 12:37)
3. From Genesis 13:14–17 and 22:17–18, what are the three parts of the covenant that God makes with Abraham?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
4. What part of the covenant is being fulfilled in the beginning of Exodus? List four verses.

**Day 2: Read Exodus 1:1–7.**

5. Read Genesis 50:22–26 with Exodus 1:1–5. What is on Joseph’s mind as he lay dying?
6. Do you think that the Israelites of Ex. 1:6–7 feel the same way that Joseph did? Why or why not? (See also Deut. 6:10–12.)
7. What might God teach *us* through times of peace and prosperity?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 1:8–22.**

8. What effect did the increasing numbers of Israelites have on Egypt’s new king?

9. Why did Pharaoh oppress the Hebrews?
10. What four steps did Pharaoh take to stop the Hebrews from multiplying? Were they successful?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
11. Who does God use to thwart Pharaoh's plans?
12. What does the first chapter of Exodus teach us about God?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 2:1–22; Acts 7:20–29; Hebrews 11:23–27.**

13. God used Moses' parents, Pharaoh's court and the wilderness to shape Moses for his future work as Israel's deliverer. What, do we know about Moses' parents and what did Moses learn from them?
14. What did Moses learn during his years in Pharaoh's court?
  - A. What do the two incidents in Ex. 2:11–14 reveal about the influences of Pharaoh's court on Moses' character? (Ex. 2:11–12)
  - B. How do these incidents affect Moses' outlook on his future?
15. How did Moses spend his 40 years in the wilderness? (Ex. 3:1) In what way did this work prepare him to lead Israel?
16. How did his character change during his exile? (Ex. 3:11)

**Day 5: Read Exodus 2:23–25.**

17. If Moses had tried to lead the people out of Egypt as they were in Exodus 1:7, what would have been their response? (See also Gen. 47:5–6, 11.)
18. In oppressing the Israelites, did Pharaoh accomplish what he wanted? Why or why not?
19. What effect did the oppression have on Israel?
20. Why does God allow his people to suffer? (Rom. 5:3–5)

**SLAVES SET FREE****God, Moses and You****Exodus 3—4:17**

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 3—4:17.**

1. As you read through the passage, list at least three things it teaches about God.
2. In Hebrew thinking, character is revealed in name. By what two names does God describe himself in this week’s passage? (Ex. 3:6, 14)
  - A. How does the “old” name show that he is consistent and a promise-keeping God, “the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow”? (Ex. 2:24; Gen. 17:4–8)
  - B. How does the new name (Ex. 3:14) show that he is self-existent, uncreated, unlike all the false gods and idols of man’s hands and imaginations?
3. Considering God’s name in Exodus 3:14, why do you suppose the Jews tried to stone Jesus in John 8:58–59? What claim was Jesus making for himself?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 3—4:17.**

4. We are told (Lk. 24:25–27) that the Old Testament is actually a book all about Christ. Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, etc., all are pictures of Christ. How do you think Moses’ mission is similar to Christ’s? (Ex. 3:10)
  - A. How is Christ’s mission superior to Moses’? (Mt. 1:21)
  - B. How is Christ’s response superior to Moses’? (Ex. 4:10, 13; Jn. 12:27; Heb. 10:7)
5. What is a prophet? (Deut. 18:18–19; Jer. 1:5, 9)
  - A. How is Moses a prophet? (Ex. 4:12)
  - B. How is Jesus the supreme prophet? (Jn. 1:1, 14; Heb. 1:1–2)

**Day 3: Read Exodus 3:7–10.**

6. Why did God appear to Moses?
7. Moses was 40 when he fled to Egypt and 80 when he was assigned his life's work! (Acts 7:23; Ex. 7:7) Did you ever consider that your best years may be yet to come, that God may have some surprises for you, some important work in your sixties or seventies?
8. God often seems to stack the deck against himself—men past their prime as leaders, women too old to bear children, armies too small, a ragtag band of fishermen to launch a world revolution. Why do you think he does that? (Jdg. 7:2–3; Zec. 4:6) Is there any encouragement, any hope, in that for you?
9. The Israelites cried out to God for a *long* time for deliverance from Egypt before he finally acted! Is there anything or anyone you've been praying for for years and almost given up on? Does reading Exodus 3 make a difference in your attitude or patience in praying and waiting? (Lk. 18:1–8; 2 Pet. 3:8–9)

**Day 4: Read Exodus 3—4:17.**

10. List Moses' reservations about the job God gives him. (Ex. 3:11, 13; 4:1, 10, 13)
11. What reservations do you sometimes have for thinking you are not usable to God?
12. How does God deal with Moses' questions and objections? (3:12, 17, 21; 4:1–4, 12, 14)
13. How have you seen God deal with you?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 3:18–22.**

14. In this passage God reveals in detail exactly how events will unfold (read vss. 18–20). What encouragement do you find in your own problems to be reminded of God's control over the future?
15. What assurance does God give to a reluctant Moses? (Ex. 3:12)
16. This assurance happens to be the chief blessing of the covenant that God makes with his people of all ages. Find it in the following passages: Gen. 28:15; Jos. 1:5; Jer. 1:8; Mt. 28:20.
17. How does this encourage you in your own life?

**SLAVES SET FREE****God's Program****Exodus 4:18—6:12**

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 4:18–23.**

1. What action did Moses take in response to his experience with God at the burning bush? (vs. 18)
2. What fears must Moses have had about returning to Egypt?
3. How does God reassure Moses? (vss. 19, 21–23) What is reassuring to you when you have fears?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 4:24–26 and Genesis 17:1–14.**

4. What was the purpose of circumcision? (Gen. 17:10–11)
5. Commentators suggest that the phrase “the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him” means that Moses became very ill and was about to die. How did Zipporah save her husband from God’s wrath? (Ex. 4:25)
6. What does this incident show about God’s holiness?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 4:27—5:4.**

7. We relate in different ways to family members, our churches, and the outside world. Compare the ways Moses approached Aaron (4:28), the elders of Israel (4:29) and Pharaoh (5:1).

8. Characterize the responses of Aaron, the elders and Pharaoh.
  
9. How is Pharaoh a picture of a present day skeptic? In light of Romans 1:20, what do you think of Pharaoh's assertions?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 5:6–21.**

10. What were the immediate results of Moses' obedience to God? (vss. 7–9)
  
11. What was the response of the Israelite foremen when Moses' plan did not immediately succeed? (vss. 15–16)
  
12. Following God is not always easy. Can you share a memory of a time when obedience was similarly hard for you?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 5:22—6:12.**

13. Consider how candidly Moses prays in vss. 22–23. What strikes you about his honesty?
  
14. List several of God's responses to Moses' complaints and fears. (vss. 1–8)
  
15. What does this show you about God's character?
  
16. What weakness did Moses fall back on to excuse himself in a difficult circumstance? (vs. 12)
  
17. Do you have a similar obstacle in your life?

**SLAVES SET FREE****God's Unfolding Plan****Exodus 6:13—7:13**

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 6:13–25.**

1. What tribe did Moses and Aaron belong to? (Gen. 29:34)
2. Why was this significant? (Num. 3:11–13, 40–41, 44–51)
3. When you read the genealogy in chapter 6, think about your own heritage. If you had a family with a history of believers, what difference has it made for you? If you are the first in your family to be a Christian, what difference would you like to make in the lives of your immediate and extended family?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 6:26—7:5.**

4. Why did God remind Moses who He was before commanding Moses to go to Pharaoh again? (vss. 28–29)
5. How did Moses reply when God asked him to speak to Pharaoh again? (vs. 30) Was this a new thought for Moses?
6. As you read Ex. 7:1–5, try to describe God's attitude toward Moses. Why do you think God responded in this way to Moses?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 7:1–6.**

7. What does God mean when He tells Moses that he would be like God to Pharaoh? (See Jer. 15:19; Ps. 77:20; and Micah 6:4)

8. What does it mean for Aaron to be Moses' prophet? (Ex. 4:15a)
  
9. (Personal) Have you been like Moses and felt inadequate to do God's work? Were you obedient to God's call anyway? Why or why not?
  
10. The phrase "did just as the Lord commanded" is repeated twice (vss. 6, 10). Why do you think Moses and Aaron were able to respond this way?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 7:8–13.**

11. How did God prepare Moses and Aaron to return to Pharaoh?
  
12. After Aaron performed the miracle, Pharaoh called in his wise men and sorcerers. What did this reveal about Pharaoh?
  
13. (Personal) Are there times when you have gone to other people or things for help rather than to God? Why?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 7:8–13.**

14. What is the symbolism of Aaron's staff swallowing up the Egyptian staffs? (vs. 12)
  
15. God states his purpose for the Egyptians in verses 4 and 5. What is it?
  - A. How does God state He will achieve His purpose?
  
  - B. What does this reveal about God's character?
  
16. Does the miracle performed in verse 13 cause Pharaoh to know that God is God? (see Ex. 7:3)

**SLAVES SET FREE****The Plagues****Exodus 7:14—11:10**

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**Days 1 and 2: Read Exodus 7:14—11:10.**

1. As you read this lengthy passage fill in the chart on the back of this page. Note: Not all the boxes will be filled in for each plague. We will study the last plague next week in depth.

**Day 3: Read Exodus 7:14—11:10.**

2. Why did God send the plagues? (see Ex. 5:1–2; 7:17; 8:10; 9:14–46)
3. Egyptians worshiped gods of nature. There was a god of the Nile, a frog god, an earth god, a beetle god, cattle gods, insect gods, and, of course, the sun god, Ra. What great fact about the Lord God of Israel did Egypt learn from the plagues?
4. What did God want his people to learn about him from the plagues? (Deut. 7:17–19)
5. In what ways has God revealed his power to you personally?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 7:14—11:10.**

6. What four compromises did Pharaoh offer? What were Moses’ replies and why do you think he replied as he did?

Pharaoh’s compromise	Moses’ response	Why?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

**Day 5: Read Exodus 7:14—11:10.**

7. List all the verses that mention the hardness of Pharaoh’s heart.
8. The plagues get more and more devastating. What is God’s purpose for Pharaoh in doing this?
9. Pharaoh knows that he is fighting God in refusing to let Israel go (see Ex. 9:27). What does he do with this knowledge? (see chart under “Pharaoh’s Final Responses”)
10. Meditate on Hebrews 3:7–19. What is God’s warning to us in these verses?

Plague	Verses	God's Instructions to Moses	What happened—		Response of magicians	Pharaoh's first reaction	Moses' response	Pharaoh's final response
			To Egypt	To God's People				
1 Blood	7:14–24							
2 Frogs	7:25–8:15							
3 Gnats	8:16–19							
4 Flies	8:20–32							
5 Livestock	9:1–7							
6 Boils	9:8–12							
7 Hail	9:13–35							
8 Locusts	10:1–20							
9 Darkness	10:21–29							
10 Firstborn	11:1–10							

**SLAVES SET FREE****The Passover****Exodus 12**

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 12.**

1. God’s judgment of Egypt is a preview of the final judgment of the whole world. (Rev. 6:12–17)
  - A. What means of escape did God provide from his wrath on Egypt?
  
  - B. What means of escape does God provide from his final wrath to come? (Rom. 5:9)
  
2. How is the fate of Pharaoh an illustration of Proverbs 29:1?
  
3. God’s long-suffering and multiple warnings to Pharaoh are an example of his dealing with the whole unbelieving world. How does God want us to respond to his merciful warnings and discipline? (Heb. 3:15; Prov. 1:23)
  
4. What should you do if you’ve ignored God’s repeated warnings, have totally blown it, and now are in big trouble? (Joel 2:12–14)

**Day 2: Read Exodus 12.**

5. See Deuteronomy 9:4–6; 7:8. God rescued Israel from the plagues he was sending on Egypt because they were (circle the correct answer):
 

a. a lot better than the Egyptians	b. slightly better	c. neither
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6. See Ephesians 2:1–5. God rescued you from his wrath to come and made you a Christian because you were (circle the correct answer):
 

a. a lot better than others	b. slightly better	c. neither
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7. How is God’s mercy to the Egyptians shown even while he is pouring out judgment on Pharaoh? (Ex. 7:5)
  - A. What do Exodus 12:38 and 48 imply?
  
  - B. What do Isaiah 19:21–25 and 49:6 reveal to be God’s intention all along in his plan of salvation?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 12:14, 17, 24–27; Psalm 78.**

8. Why do you think God was so adamant that the Israelites commemorate the Passover every year from that day on?
9. Psalm 78 tells about the next 500 years of Israel's history. How did Israel do in "remembering" God's deliverance? (See especially verses 11, 42–43, 51.)
10. What happens when we are not careful to remember God? (Ps. 78:32–33; Jer. 3:21)
11. What does God delight to do when we turn back to him? (Mic. 7:18)
12. How can we help one another to remember God's gracious acts in our lives? (Heb. 3:12–13)

**Day 4: Read Exodus 12.**

13. Which came first, the giving of the law (see Ex. 20) or God's redeeming his people from Egypt?
14. Why do you think it is important that God ordered things that way?
  - A. What does this suggest regarding whether we are saved by grace or by our own obedience to the law?
  - B. What might the Israelites have assumed if the law had been given before the Passover and their exodus from Egypt?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 12.**

15. What Jewish feast was Jesus celebrating the night before his crucifixion? (Jn. 13:1) Do you think that was just a coincidence?
16. What is Jesus called in 1 Corinthians 5:7, in John 1:29, and in Revelation 13:8? Why?
17. How is Jesus the fulfillment of the Passover animal sacrifices in the Old Testament? (Heb. 10:3–7, 11–14)

**SLAVES SET FREE****Free from Egypt Exodus 13—14**

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 13:1–10.**

1. What do “consecrate” and “commemorate” mean? (vss. 2 and 3) (Check a dictionary.)
2. Passover lays the foundation for our understanding of Jesus’ sacrificial death. What are the stipulations of this ceremony? If you ever attended a Seder—the ceremonial dinner at the start of Passover—recall and share what you remember about it.
3. Why did God tell the Israelites to remove the yeast from their homes? (Ex. 12:14–15, 39)
4. What is the ultimate goal of the Passover ceremony? (vs. 9)

**Day 2: Read Exodus 13:11–16.**

5. What was the response required of the Israelites when they got to Canaan? What does “redeem” mean in this context?
6. How do the “sign” and “symbol” of the Passover Feast mentioned in verses 9 and 16 differ from the sign of the covenant—circumcision? What symbols or metaphors are meaningful to you in your walk with God?
7. How does God ensure that his merciful acts will not be forgotten? (vss. 14–15) In what ways do we remember his merciful acts today?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 13:17—14:9.**

8. What did God know about the hearts of the Israelites? (vs. 17) What does he know about your heart?

9. What did Moses remember to bring with him? (vs. 19; see also Gen. 50:25.)

10. What do verses 1–4 reveal about God?

11. Describe Pharaoh's thoughts and feelings in verses 5–9.

**Day 4: Read Exodus 14:10–18.**

12. Characterize the tone of the Israelites' comments. (vss. 11–12)

A. How would you expect Moses to respond?

B. How does Moses respond?

13. What underlying issue does Moses recognize as the root of Israel's complaint? (vss. 13–14) Is this an issue in **your** life?

14. What further instructions does God give to Moses?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 14:19–31.**

15. What parts do God's angel and the pillar of cloud play in the drama of the Red Sea crossing? (vss. 19–20)

16. What is the effect of Moses' obedience (stretching out his hand) in verses 21–22 and again in verses 26–28?

17. What is the result of this miracle in the lives and hearts of the Israelites? (vss. 30–31) Can you recall a New Testament miracle that had a similar effect on those who saw it?

**SLAVES SET FREE****Israel's Response of Praise****Exodus 15:1–21**

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 15:1–21.**

1. Write a title for this song.
2. What events inspired this song of praise?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 15:1–21.**

3. List some of the images used to describe God in this song.
4. What does God teach you about himself through these images?
5. Compare these images of God with how the world views God today.

**Day 3: Read Exodus 15:1–21.**

6. What did the Egyptians boast in?
7. What was the end result of their boast?
8. Who are we to boast (have confidence) in? (Jer. 9:23–24; Gal. 6:14)

9. Give some phrases from the song which demonstrated who was in control.

10. How does this truth affect your life?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 15:1–21.**

11. In verse 2 Israel sings of God being their salvation. What were the Israelites saved from?

12. How do you see your salvation similar to the Egyptian salvation? (Gal. 5:1)

13. What impact does that have on your everyday life?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 15:11–18.**

14. As the song comes to a close, it changes from remembering the past to looking forward to the future. List at least three things which Moses prophesied about the future.

15. Why do the Israelites view their future with such hope?

16. Think of times in your past where you could clearly see God's hand in your life. What hope does that give you for your future?

**SLAVES SET FREE****God Is Sufficient****Exodus 15:22—17:15**

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 15:22—17:15.**

1. How do the people end up in the desert? Did they take a wrong turn? (Ex. 13:21–22)
2. What is God’s purpose in leading Israel into the desert? (Deut. 8:2–5, 15–16)
3. What is the difference between temptation and testing? Who tempts us, and why? (Jas. 1:13–15; 1 Cor. 7:5) Who tests us, and why? (Ex. 20:20; Deut. 8:2)
4. One month has passed since God delivered Israel from Egypt. What is Israel’s first reaction to the testings in this passage? (15:24; 16:2–3; 17:2–3)
5. How does God respond to the people?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 15:22–27.**

6. What is the cure for the bitter waters of Marah?
7. What name does God give himself and how does it apply to Israel here?
8. Who put the diseases on whom? Why do you think he did?
9. Who does the healing? How does this compare with Deuteronomy 32:39 and Isaiah 45:6–7?
10. What kind of disease does the Lord always heal if you ask? (1 Pet. 2:24–25) Who do you trust for healing—whether physical, spiritual or emotional? Are there any exceptions?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 16; John 6:25–59.**

11. Manna means “What is it?” Describe it. (See also Num. 11:7–9.)

12. What does Exodus 16 reveal about God?
13. What is the Lord's name in Genesis 22:14 and how does it apply in Exodus 16?
14. From John 6:31–35; 48–51 tell how manna is a picture of Christ.
15. (Personal) Share a time when “The Lord Will Provide” met your need.

**Day 4: Read Exodus 17:1–7.**

16. Based on their experience with God's faithfulness, what should have been the Israelites' reaction in their “no water” situation?
17. What does striking the rock represent? (1 Cor. 10:4; Jn. 7:37–39)
18. How does the name of God in question 13 apply here?
19. How can you apply this “no water” situation to your own life?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 17:8–16; Deuteronomy 25:17–19.**

20. What is the difference between what Israel was to do in Ex. 14:13 and Ex. 17:9?
21. Fighting in the valley, what does Israel see when they look up to the top of the hill? How is Moses here a picture of Christ? (Heb. 7:25; Eph. 6:10; 2 Cor. 2:14)
22. What name does God give himself and how does it apply to Israel here?
23. Who are your real enemies? (Jas. 1:13–15; 4:1–10; 1 Pet. 2:11; 5:8; 1 Jn. 3:13; 5:4–5)
24. Meditate on Philippians 4:19. How do the three names of God in this week's passage (“The Lord Who Heals You,” “The Lord Who Provides” and “The Lord Is My Banner”) comfort you as you travel through **your** desert?

**SLAVES SET FREE****God Brings Order****Exodus 18**

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 18:1–4.**

1. Who is Jethro? What nationality is he? (vs. 1) How is he an example of Genesis 22:18 and Jeremiah 33:9?
2. What are the names of Moses’ two sons, and what does each name mean? (vss. 3–4) Is there a sense in which believers of all times experience being strangers? (Read Heb. 11:8–10; 13–16; Ps. 84:5.)

**Day 2: Read Exodus 18:5–8.**

3. What do Moses and Jethro talk about in the tent at their reunion...
  - a. local politics?
  - b. the market price of sheep?
  - c. other (vss. 7–8)
4. What do you talk about when you meet your friends and relatives after a separation? Is it ever “what God has done”?
5. What two things can you expect to find coupled in your own life that Moses experienced in his? (vs. 8)

**Day 3: Read Exodus 18:9–12.**

6. What does Jethro “know” after Moses tells him all that God has done? (vs. 11)
7. When verse 11 says the Lord is greater than all other gods, is the Bible teaching polytheism? Are there really other gods? (Is. 37:18–20, 45:5–7; Jer. 2:11, 16:20)

**Day 4: Read Exodus 18:13–16.**

8. In verses 15 and 16, what word is used synonymously (or interchangeably) with God’s “will”?
  
9. Compare Psalm 18:30 and Psalm 19:7 to find another synonym for God’s “law”.
  
10. Considering how God’s “law” and “word” and “will” are spoken of interchangeably, how do you think you can find out God’s will for your life?
  
11. In verse 20, find a clause that shows how practical God’s Word is. (See also Ps. 119:93, 97–100.)

**Day 5: Read Exodus 18:17–27.**

12. What is Jethro’s criticism of Moses? What is his advice? (vss. 17–23)
  
13. How does Moses take the criticism? (vs. 24; see also Num. 12:3)
  
14. How is Jethro’s insight still helpful today?
  
15. What kind of men does Jethro advise Moses to choose? (vs. 21)
  
16. What does this chapter teach us about the importance of every Christian to every other Christian? (See also Rom. 12:3–8.)

**SLAVES SET FREE****The Holiness of God      Exodus 19—20**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* Exodus 14:13–14

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1

**Day 1: Read Exodus 19:1–8.**

1. In verse 4, God reminds Moses and the Israelites that he carried them out of Egypt “on eagles’ wings” and brought them to himself. What, if anything, did God require of the Israelites in order to be rescued?
2. How is this a picture of God’s dealing with us? (See also Eph. 2:8–9.)
3. What does he require of them now? (vss. 5–6)

**Day 2: Read Exodus 19:9–25.**

4. Remember how Moses felt and responded when God spoke to him at the burning bush (Ex. 3:5–6)...
  - A. What would happen to the Israelites if they touched the mountain while God was there? (19:12)
  - B. Why do you think there was such a penalty? (See also Hab. 1:13 and Ex. 33:20.)
5. What does God require of his people to prepare for his arrival on Mt. Sinai? (vss. 10–15)
6. Describe the scene of God’s arrival on Mt. Sinai. (vss. 16–19; see also Deut. 5:22–27 and Heb. 12:18–20) What image does it bring to your mind?
7. What does Exodus 19 show us about God?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 20:1–17; Matthew 22:34–40; Galatians 3:23–25.**

8. God’s commandments reveal his holiness. Read through the commandments and list any characteristics of God that you find mentioned or implied.

9. How does Jesus sum up the commandments? (Matt. 22:34–40)
10. According to the Galatians passage, what was the real purpose of the commandments?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 20:1–17; Matthew 19:16–26.**

11. Look over each commandment and write down any questions you may have to discuss with your group.
12. Which commandments have to do with honoring God? Which concentrate on relations with other people?
13. Which commandments are *not* phrased as prohibitions? (i.e., “You shall not...”) Do you find it easier to obey a prohibition or an exhortation to do something positive? Give a reason for your answer.
14. Read the story of the rich young man in Matt. 19:16–26. Is it possible to keep all the commandments as he claimed to do? Why or why not? (See also Rom. 3:23.)
15. (Personal) Studying the commandments shows us our own sin as well as God’s holiness. What promises of God can we look to when we are overwhelmed by our own sinfulness? (For example, 1 Jn. 1:9 or Zep. 3:17; share *your* favorite with your group.)

**Day 5: Read Exodus 20:18–25.**

16. Why do the people remain at a distance from the mountain in verse 18? (See also 19:12.)
  - A. What do the people want Moses to do for them? (20:19)
  - B. How is this a picture of what Jesus does for his people? (1 Tim. 2:5)
17. What reason does Moses give for God’s terrifying appearance in clouds, darkness, thunder and lightening? (vs. 20)
18. Do you think that fear of the Lord is enough to keep us from sinning? (See also Rom. 7:21–25; 1 Cor. 10:13.)

**SLAVES SET FREE****The Law****Exodus 21—23:19**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* Exodus 14:13–14

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1

**Day 1: Read Exodus 21—23:19.**

1. These chapters deal with the various laws that God gave to the Israelites. The laws can be divided into specific areas of life. Please fill in the areas with the corresponding Scriptures given below.

21:1–11 \_\_\_\_\_

21:12–36 \_\_\_\_\_

21:12–27 \_\_\_\_\_

21:28–32 \_\_\_\_\_

21:33–36 \_\_\_\_\_

22:1–15 \_\_\_\_\_

22:1–4 \_\_\_\_\_

22:5–6 \_\_\_\_\_

22:7–15 \_\_\_\_\_

22:16–31 \_\_\_\_\_

22:16–17 \_\_\_\_\_

22:18–20 \_\_\_\_\_

22:28–31 \_\_\_\_\_

23:1–9 \_\_\_\_\_

23:10–12 \_\_\_\_\_

23:13–19 \_\_\_\_\_

**Day 2: Read Exodus 21.**

2. In the Near Eastern culture, slaves were the property of their owner. Their service was for life without any reprieves. In contrast, what provision did God give for the servants/slaves of the Israelites? (21:1–11, 20–21, 26–27)
3. What reasons does God give for the Hebrew servant to be set free? (Deut. 15:12–18)

4. What would be the benefit of obeying God?
5. Read 21:12–32. How does God view human life?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 21—23:9.**

6. Many of the laws concern a person's property. As you look at these laws, what attitude does God have towards the individual's property and his neighbor's property?
7. Exodus 22:16—23:9 contains various laws dealing with transgressions against people. List five of these laws and their consequences.
8. Why did God make the penalty for disobedience so severe? (Deut. 17:7; 21:21)
9. What do these laws reveal about God? (Lev. 19:2)
10. What do these laws reveal about man?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 23:10–12.**

11. What was the purpose of allowing the field to be unplowed in the seventh year?
12. What was the purpose of working six days and not the seventh?
13. Read Exodus 20:8–11, Deut. 5:12–15 and Exodus 31:12–17. Why did God establish the Sabbath? How do you view the Sabbath?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 23:13–19; Deuteronomy 6:1–9.**

14. What was God's purpose in establishing the laws? (Deut. 6:2)
  - A. What command does God give to Israel concerning the law and future generations? (Deut. 6:6–9)
  - B. Is this part of your experience? Why or why not?
15. These chapters speak about the law. Jesus also teaches about the law. Compare Exodus 21:23–25 with Matthew 5:38–42. Do the words of Jesus make the law easier or more difficult to obey? Then what hope do we have? (Gal. 3:24–25)

**SLAVES SET FREE****God Seals His Covenant with Israel      Exodus 23:20—24:18**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* Exodus 14:13–14

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1

**Day 1: Read Exodus 23:20–33.**

1. What is God’s plan for Israel? (vs. 20)
  
2. How are God’s words in verse 20 similar to Jesus’ in John 14:2–3?
  
3. What is Israel’s job in the fulfillment of God’s plan (give verses)?
  
4. What does this passage teach us about God?
  - A. Verse 20?
  
  - B. Verses 24, 32–33?
  
  - C. Verses 29–30?
  
  - D. Other?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 24:1–8.**

5. What is the difference between how God’s people worship him in 24:1–2 and how God’s people worship him after Christ’s death and resurrection? (See Heb. 10:19–22)
  
6. What is God’s part in the covenant? (Recall Ex. 19:5–6.) What is Israel’s part in the covenant?
  
7. What are the steps in the sealing of the covenant?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 24:4–8.**

8. Why does God require a sacrifice? (See also Heb. 9:22)

9. In what two places is the blood sprinkled?
10. What does the altar represent? (Deut. 27:6–7) Whose blood is symbolically sprinkled on the altar? (Lev. 1:1–5)
11. Moses' sprinkling of animal blood on the people in verse 8 finds an echo in the "sprinkling" of our hearts today in Hebrews 10:19–22. Whose blood is sprinkled here?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 19:12–13, 21–24; 24:9–18.**

12. Review and summarize what happens in Exodus 19:12–13, 21–24.
13. Summarize what happens in chapter 24, verses 9–11.
14. What happened that would explain this contrast?
15. What New Testament meal does this remind you of? What light do the events of Exodus 24 shed on Jesus' words in Matthew 26:26–28?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 24.**

16. Who was the mediator of the covenant God made with Israel? (vs. 8) Who is the mediator of the covenant God has made with us? (Heb. 8:6–9)
17. With whose blood was God's covenant with Israel sealed? (Ex. 24:5; Heb. 9:19–20) With whose blood is God's covenant with us sealed? (Matt. 26:28; Heb. 10:10)
18. In Ex. 24:8, Israel *symbolically* receives God's Spirit when Moses sprinkles them with the blood of the sacrifice. How is this different from what we receive under the covenant that Christ sealed with his own blood? Meditate on Jn. 1:12, 3:36, 14:26; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 6:19; Gal. 2:20.

**SLAVES SET FREE****The Tabernacle****Exodus 25—27**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* Exodus 14:13–14

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1

**Day 1: Read Exodus 25:1–22.**

1. From what kind of person does God want an offering for the building of his tabernacle? (Ex. 25:2; 35:5, 21–22, 26, 29) What kind of gifts does he want from us today? (2 Cor. 8:12)
2. Why do you think God is adamant that the tabernacle be made exactly according to the pattern he gives? (Ex. 25:9, 40; Num. 8:1–4; Heb. 8:5–6) What is the tabernacle a copy or shadow of? (Heb. 8:5–6)
3. What is to be placed inside the chest of acacia wood (the “ark”) when it is finished? (Ex. 25:21; 31:18) What is to be placed on top of the ark? (25:17, 21)
4. What do you think is the significance of placing a mercy seat on top of (or covering) the tablets of the law?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 25:23–30.**

5. What piece of furniture is commissioned in verses 23–30?
6. What is to be kept on it at all times? (Ex. 25:30; Num. 4:7)
7. What do you think the bread symbolizes in this tabernacle?
8. How is Jesus a better “bread” than the one on the table of the tabernacle? (Jn. 6:48–51)

**Day 3: Read Exodus 25:31–40.**

9. What other object is placed in the room with the table? (vs. 31)

10. What are the lamps there to do? (vs. 37)
11. Who is the true lamp or light (of whom this man-made one is just a symbol) who “lights the space in front of” us? (Ps. 27:1; 36:9; Jn. 8:12)
12. The lights are to be kept burning day and night. (27:20–21) What is God saying by this for our encouragement?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 26:1–37.**

13. Describe the curtains of the tabernacle. What does their beauty tell you about God?
14. Do you think they are functional too? How? (vs. 33)
15. What do the curtains separate the people from? (Ex. 26:33; Heb. 9:3–4)
16. What is signified by the fact that the curtains separate the people from the ark and mercy seat? (Heb. 9:8)
17. What happened the moment that Christ died? (Matt. 27:51; Mk. 15:38; Lk. 23:45) Why do you think this detail is important enough for three gospel writers to mention it?
18. What did Jesus do to the curtain, and what does it mean to you? (Heb. 10:19–22)

**Day 5: Read Exodus 27:1–21.**

19. Which section of the tabernacle is described in this chapter?
20. What is the altar to be used for? (Lev. 1)
21. Why do you think this altar is placed in the tabernacle courtyard, so that one must go there before proceeding into the tabernacle itself?
22. Who is the ultimate sacrifice to be offered on the altar? (Heb. 10:5–7)
23. How is Christ the only true and perfect offering, and what does this mean for you? (Rom. 8:1–4)

**SLAVES SET FREE****The Priesthood****Exodus 28—29**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* Exodus 14:13–14

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1

**Day 1: Read Exodus 28:1–5; Hebrews 5:1–4; Leviticus 21:5–8.**

1. What job did God call Aaron and his sons to in Ex. 28:1?
  
2. Review the job description of a priest:
  - A. Was a priest chosen by God, elected or a volunteer? (Heb. 5:4)
  
  - B. Was he able to marry? (Lev. 21:7)
  
  - C. Was priesthood temporary or permanent? (Ex. 29:9)
  
  - D. What were the priest’s main responsibilities? (Heb. 5:1–3)
  
  - E. How else did the priest serve the people he represented? (Ex. 28:2)
  
3. Why was Aaron to wear special clothes? (Ex. 28:30)

**Day 2: Read Exodus 28:6–43.**

4. As you read today’s passage, label the garments of the priest in the drawing. Use colored pencils or crayons to approximate the jewels, stones and embroidery.

**Vocabulary:**

*Ephod*—a sleeveless, tunic-like garment

*Breastpiece*—rectangular pouch hanging around neck

*Urim and Thummin*—two stones, possibly used for drawing lots

**Day 3: Read Exodus 28:31–43.**

5. What do the 12 precious stones on both the ephod and the breastpiece represent?(Ex. 28:9–11; 17–21; 29)
6. Why does Aaron have bells on the hem of his robe? (vss. 33–35)
7. What sign does Aaron wear on his forehead? What does “holy” refer to? (vss. 36–38)
8. Now that you have studied the details of God’s design for the High Priest, choose one or two words to sum up the total effect of his garments.

**Day 4: Read Exodus 29:1–28.**

9. Read over the instructions for the consecration of the priests, and note the role(s) and verse(s) for each of the following elements:
  - A. bread
  - B. oil
  - C. water
  - D. fire
  - E. blood
10. Think and write about what each of these elements means to you as a Christian. What connections can be drawn between this passage and the good news of Jesus Christ?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 29:29–46.**

11. Who was to succeed Aaron as High Priest and inherit his garments? What did his other sons wear? (29:8)
12. What daily practice was instituted in this passage? Where was it held and who were the parties involved?
13. Verses 44–46 sum up God’s purpose and work at this point in history. Using the same sentence structure, sum up what God might say about his purpose and work in your life.
14. What is God’s chief purpose, both then and now?

**SLAVES SET FREE****The Altar of Incense and the Sabbath****Exodus 30—31**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read Exodus 30:1–10; 34–38.**

1. What was to be burned on the incense altar?
  
2. Hebrews 8:5 explains that the tabernacle was a copy and a shadow of what is in heaven. Read Psalm 141:2, Revelation 5:8, 8:3–4. What is incense a shadow of?
  
3. Exodus 30:34–38 describes the incense to be used. What are some of the descriptive words used for the incense? If incense is a picture of prayer, how does God view our prayers? (Remember that God desires to have an intimate relationship with us.)
  
4. How often was Aaron to offer incense? How often are we to pray? (Col. 4:2; Lk. 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17)
  
5. Included in his office as high priest, Aaron brought incense and prayers before God for the nation of Israel. Who brings our prayers before God today? (Heb. 7:25)

**Day 2: Read Exodus 30:11–16.**

6. Verse 12 speaks of paying a ransom. What is the purpose of this ransom?
  
7. Was the ransom a large sum? Who paid more, the rich or the poor?
  
8. Who ultimately became the ransom? (Matt. 20:28; 1 Tim. 2:5–6; Heb. 9:15) How was the ransom in Exodus a shadow of Christ?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 30:17–33.**

9. What did Aaron and his sons have to do before entering the Tent of Meeting?
10. What was the purpose of this act?
11. Who cleanses us? (1 Jn. 1:7; Heb. 10:19–22)
12. What was the purpose of the anointing oil? (vs. 29) Read Luke 4:18–22; how does this idea of anointing deepen our understanding of Christ?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 31:1–11.**

13. Who did God choose to be the craftsmen for his work? Do you remember reading these names before this?
14. How were these men able to do the work that was given them?
15. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–26. How is Exodus a living picture of this portion of Scripture?
16. What gifts, abilities and talents has God given you to do his work within the body of Christ—the church?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 31:12–18.**

17. Give several reasons for the Sabbath.
18. What was the penalty for not keeping the Sabbath?
19. The Sabbath foreshadows heaven because heaven is the eternal Sabbath rest. God designed the Sabbath to be the one day of the week set apart for both worship and rest, so heaven will be a place of worship and rest. Hebrews 3:16—4:11 speaks of God's rest. What does this passage urge us to do?

***SLAVES SET FREE*****The Golden Calf****Exodus 32—33**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* Exodus 14:13–14

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1

**Day 1: Read Exodus 32—33.**

1. Read the entire passage several times getting a sense of the flow of events, jotting down things that impress you.
  
2. Recalling the Ten Commandments of Exodus 20, which command does Israel violate?
  
3. Remembering that the action in chapter 32 picks up where chapter 24 left off; what makes this sin of Israel so abominable?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 32:1–29; Deuteronomy 9:7–29.**

4. What do you think God feels as he looks down from the mountain top on the activities in Israel’s camp? (See also 20:4–6 and 34:14.) Compare 32:7 with 33:13.
  
5. What light do the events of chapter 32 throw on the character of the people? of Aaron?
  
6. Why does God call Israel stiff-necked? (see Deut. 9:27) What is the danger in being this way? (Prov. 29:1)

**Day 3: Read Exodus 32—33.**

7. Why does God seem so reluctant to forgive this sin?
  
8. Try to describe Moses' feelings as he enters the camp after being in God's presence.
  
9. When Moses breaks the stone tablets of the testimony (see 31:18); what does that signify?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 32:20—33:17.**

10. What are the four parts of God's judgment on Israel for their sin?
  
11. Which part of the judgment do the people react most strongly to?
  
12. What moves God finally to forgive Israel (33:15–17)? What do God's mercy and justice mean to you?
  
13. What does God give Moses in answer to his prayer?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 32—33.**

14. What do Moses' prayers in 32:31–32 and 33:12–16 show us about the extent of his love for his people?
  
15. How is Moses a picture of Christ? (32:30–32; 33:11–17)
  
16. What can we learn from Moses about prayer (33:12–23)? What does Moses want most from God?
  
17. Think about your own prayers. Do you want God's blessings more than God himself?

**SLAVES SET FREE****God's Mercy and Justice****Exodus 34—35:3**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* Exodus 14:13–14

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 34:1–4.**

1. How does verse 1 show that our God is not a God who holds grudges?
2. Why is a second set of stone tablets necessary? (32:15–19)
3. Today, since God has put into effect a new covenant, where does he write his laws? (Heb. 8:10) What do you think that means?
4. Moses is told to prepare himself to meet God in the morning (vs. 2). How might we sometimes rush into God's presence unprepared on Sunday mornings?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 34:5–7; Numbers 14.**

5. What request of Moses in Ex. 33:18 does God grant in Ex. 34:5–7?
6. In Exodus 3:14 God revealed the glory of his self-existence (“I Am Who I Am”). What aspect of his glory does he reveal now in verses 6 and 7?
7. Considering what had just happened in the golden calf incident (Ex. 32), why would these words in verses 6 and 7 be music to Moses' ears?
8. Part of God's character is that he cannot clear the guilty without satisfying his justice (vs. 7). How is this a corrective to much of today's popular conception of God as benign, tolerant and pandering to sin?
  - A. In Num. 14, we see an incident of God's forgiving and yet not leaving the guilty unpunished but punishing the children for the sins of the fathers. Describe what happens here. (vss. 20–23, 33).
  - B. How is God able to be merciful and forgiving—and at the same time to satisfy his justice? (Col. 2:13–14; Gal. 3:13; Rom. 8:1–4)

**Day 3: Read Exodus 34:7–9; Numbers 14.**

9. Moses acknowledges that the people are “stiff-necked.” How does he have the nerve, in verse 9, to ask God to forgive Israel yet again? (See vss. 6–7 and Num. 14:12–16, 19.)
10. Moses quotes God’s words back to him verbatim in Numbers 14:18 in an attempt to stay God’s hand from destroying recalcitrant Israel. Why is this effective? What does it teach us about how to pray? (See Num. 14:12–16, 19 and Josh. 7:8–9 for similar “argumentative” prayers.)
11. After God’s declaration of his merciful stance towards man, what three specific things is Moses emboldened to ask God for? (vs. 9)

**Day 4: Read Exodus 34:10–28; 35:1–3.**

12. Who is responsible for breaking the covenant? (Ex. 32:1ff) Who is responsible for renewing it afterwards? (Ex. 34:10)
13. When Israel made the golden calf, they held a feast in honor of it (32:5–6). What feasts once given to Israel does God now remind them to observe? Find them in verses 18–28. (Note: the laws about leaven and first-fruits and milk here relate to those three feasts respectively.)
14. Why is it a bad idea to marry an unbeliever? (vs. 16; 2 Cor. 6:14–16) Describe the “slippery slope” to disaster traced in Ex. 34:15–16.
15. Read Ex. 34:14. Why is jealousy unsavory in a man but not in God? What is the difference between human jealousy and divine jealousy? (When might jealousy be appropriate in a human relationship?)

**Day 5: Read Exodus 34:29–35.**

16. What does Moses’ face look like after spending 40 days with God? (vs. 29)
17. Do you know any other people who have a certain radiance from their relationship with God?
18. What does 2 Corinthians 3:18 say is happening now to all Christians?
19. In 2 Corinthians 3:7–11, Paul gives an allegorical interpretation to the veil Moses used to hide his face—that it covered the fading glory of the old covenant. How does the new covenant in Christ far surpass the glory of the old one? (Heb. 8:6–10)

**SLAVES SET FREE****God with Us****Exodus 35:4—37:29**

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**Day 1: Read Exodus 35:1–29.**

1. Review God’s purpose for having the tabernacle built. (Ex. 25:8–9)
  - A. Why was it important for his instructions to be followed precisely? (Heb. 8:5)
  - B. Why might instructions for keeping the Sabbath have been included before the “work order?”
2. How did Moses obtain the materials for the tabernacle? (vss. 4–9)
3. Who provided the labor to build the tabernacle and its fittings? (vss. 10–19)
4. What was the motivation behind the offerings and labor? (see vs. 29 for example.)
  - A. What does a “freewill offering” tell you about the person making it?
  - B. Why might God have specified freewill offerings?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 35:30—36:7.**

5. What men did God choose to become foremen of this job? What gifts did he give them?
6. (Personal) What gifts has God given you? How can you use them to serve God?
7. Why did Moses tell the people to stop bringing their offerings?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 36:8–38.**

8. This section reports on the successful completion of the tabernacle described in chapter 26. Why might it be important to have this somewhat repetitive information included?

9. What were the differences in use of the linen and goat hair curtains? (vs. 14) Where would the wood walls set in frames have been placed in relation to the curtains? (Make a sketch, if desired.)
  
10. “Cherubim” (vss. 8, 35) are defined as “living heavenly creatures in winged human-animal form.” (Note: *-im is a plural ending.*)
  - A. What role did cherubim play in the Garden of Eden? (Gen. 3:24)
  
  - B. What role will cherubim play in heaven? (Rev. 6:9)
  
  - C. In light of these passages, why might cherubim have been depicted on the curtain in the tabernacle?

**Day 4: Read Exodus 37:1–16; Hebrews 9:1–5.**

11. Using the Hebrews passage, list the items in each of the following “rooms” of the tabernacle:

COURTYARD	HOLY PLACE	MOST HOLY PLACE
1. Altar of Burnt Offerings	1.	4.
2. Bronze Basin	2.	5.
	3.	a.
		b.
		c.
		6.

12. Why did the Ark, the Table and the Altar of Incense have gold rings attached to their corners?
  
13. The Hebrew word for lampstand is a familiar one to us: *menorah*. Unlike the one used for Hanukkah, however, this one has only seven lamps. From Ex. 27:17–22, use words or a picture to describe what it may have looked like.
  
14. The branching of the lampstand brings to mind John 15:1–5, where Jesus talks about himself as the vine and his people as the branches. Is there anything else about the lampstand that reminds you of Jesus?

**Day 5: Read Hebrews 7:23—8:2; Ephesians 2:19–22; Revelation 21:1–4.**

15. Why do we no longer have a tabernacle?
  
16. Where does God dwell today?
  
17. Where is God’s ultimate dwelling place (“tabernacle”) in heaven?

**SLAVES SET FREE****God with Us****Exodus 38—40**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read Exodus 38—39.**

1. Exodus 38 and 39 are again describing the tabernacle and articles of the tabernacle. As you read through these chapters pick one or two items and explain *why* they have new significance to you after studying Exodus.
2. Exodus 38 and 39 appear to be a repetition of what has already been described in previous chapters. Why do you think they are repeated?
3. Is there anything new or different in chapters 38 and 39?
4. Review the intricate details given for worship. What does this reveal about God’s character?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 39.**

5. What happens in Exodus 39:32?
6. What do the people do in Exodus 39:33?
7. Moses’ response is to bless the people. (vss. 42–43) What does it mean that he blessed the people?
8. Did you ever receive a blessing or give a blessing? What was the effect of the giving or receiving?

**Day 3: Read Exodus 40.**

9. What phrase is repeated several times in this chapter?
  
10. Remember Moses at the beginning of Exodus. How did Moses think he would rescue his people? (Ex. 2:11–13) Does this chapter give an indication that Moses has changed? If yes, how has he changed?
  
11. Although many people helped build the tabernacle, why was Moses the one to set it up?
  
12. How long did it take for God’s presence to fill the tabernacle? What does this reveal about God in relationship to his people? To you?

**Day 4: Reflection.**

13. Where were the Israelites living at the beginning of the book of Exodus? What were their lives like at that time?
  
14. At the close of the book, where are the Israelites living, and what are their lives like?
  
15. Remember why Moses and Aaron were sent to Pharaoh to request the release of God’s people (Ex. 3:8; 5:1; 8:1). Were the reasons fulfilled?
  
16. “So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them” (Ex. 2:25). How is God’s concern for his people shown throughout the book of Exodus? How has God shown his concern for you in your life?

**Day 5: Reflection (think about at least three of these questions).**

17. What are some images you will carry away from your study of Exodus?
  
18. If you were to write a book for children about Exodus what images would you give to them?
  
19. How has studying Exodus deepened your understanding of God?
  
20. Exodus contains many pictures of Christ and his redeeming work (e.g., Passover lamb, manna, Moses, etc.). How has this study helped you to a fuller understanding of this?
  
21. Share any way in which God has changed both your heart and mind during this study.

**SLAVES SET FREE****No Other Gospel****Galatians 1:1–10**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read the book of Galatians.**

1. To get a sense of the themes of Galatians, skim the book and jot down one or two key words or phrases for each chapter.
2. Make a second read-through and note any ideas, words or phrases that you remember from the Old Testament in general or the book of Exodus in particular.

**Day 2: Read Galatians 1:1–10.**

3. Who is this letter from? Who is it written to? (This next question is optional.) If you were to visit ancient Galatia, what country would you go to today? (Your Bible may have a map at the back.)
4. Skim the book one more time—what words and phrases reveal the writer’s emotions? Why did he write this letter?
5. How does Paul start this letter? Why might Paul have changed his usual greeting? (For his usual greeting see 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1 and 2 Timothy 1:1.)

**Day 3: Read Galatians 1:1–5.**

6. Define the word “apostle” (use a dictionary if necessary).
7. In verse 3 what does Paul mean by “grace” and “peace”?

8. From these verses, what is Paul's view of Jesus Christ?

9. Rewrite verses 1 through 5 in your own words.

**Day 4: Read Galatians 1:1–10.**

10. What word or phrase describes the theme of these verses?

11. Summarize the “gospel” that Paul talks about.

12. What is the “different gospel” that Paul refers to? (See also Gal. 3:1–5.) Today, in late 20th century America, is there a “different gospel” to which we ascribe?

13. What do the Galatian Christians need to be reminded of? (Gal. 3:3) Do you need to be reminded of the same thing?

**Day 5: Read Galatians 1:1–10.**

14. Notice all the places where Paul uses negative words like not, nor and no. What does this tell us about Paul's letter and person?

15. What connection do you see between all the negative words—the nots, nors and nos—and verse 10?

16. Recall Aaron's sin in Exodus 32:1–24. How could an attitude more like Paul's have affected Aaron's actions?

17. (Personal) Can you think of a time when trying to “win the approval of” people rather than God led you into sin? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you need to repent.

**SLAVES SET FREE****Paul's Story and Ours      Galatians 1:11—2:10**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read Galatians 1:11—2:10.**

1. Reading between the lines, we see that Paul's apostleship is being challenged in some quarters. (Gal. 1:7–10, 4:17; Phil. 1:15, 17; 2 Cor. 11:3–4) How is an attack on his apostleship indirectly an attack on the gospel?
2. Since questioning Paul's apostleship is tantamount to questioning the gospel he preaches, what does Paul set out to do first in his letter?

**Day 2: Read Galatians 1:11–17.**

3. Verses 1:13—2:10 are a parenthesis in Paul's train of thought, all to support his point in 1:11–12. So what is this point?
4. Remembering that Paul was a lawyer, look at his arguments in verses 13–17. How do they anticipate and refute, point by point, his enemies' allegations that...
  - A. ...Paul's gospel is merely a natural evolution of his pre-Christian thinking (vss. 13–14)?
  - B. ...Paul's gospel is something he picked up from contact with other people (vss. 15–17)?
5. In his youth, Paul had worked harder than most to attain righteousness by doing all the right things—and had achieved much, humanly speaking! (1:13–14; Phil. 3:4–6) Why might it take nothing less than grace to bring someone like this to faith in Christ?
6. If you also were a pretty moral and “righteous” person before you came to know Christ, what must you make up your mind to think now about those old achievements? (Phil. 3:7–9)

**Day 3: Read Galatians 1:18—2:3.**

7. We are not told what Paul did for the three years alone in Arabia immediately following his conversion. Do you think he may have pondered his new experience in the light of all the Old Testament teachings on the Messiah? Why?

8. What was the attitude of the churches in Syria and Cilicia upon hearing of this persecutor-turned-evangelist? (vs. 24) Can we regard any man or woman as unsavable?
9. In 2:2, what bit of information does Paul supply that emphasizes again the authenticity of the gospel he preaches? Who sent Paul to Jerusalem?

**Day 4: Read Galatians 2:3–6.**

10. Gal. 2:3 is the first mention of “circumcision” in this letter—and the first hint as to the specific trouble that precipitated this letter. What do you surmise is going on here? (See Acts 15:5.)
11. According to Paul, what or who is the source of the trouble that has threatened the church? (2:4)
  - A. What are the motives of these “false brothers”? (2:4; 4:17; 6:12–13; 2 Cor. 11:12)
  - B. What do the believers stand to lose if this false teaching is not nipped in the bud? (2:4)
12. From verse 6, what do you surmise to be Paul’s general attitude about heroes and fame and the stature of some church leaders—including himself! (2:6, 11; 1 Cor. 1:11–13)
13. Do we today also have a tendency to make idols of pastors or preachers or well-known evangelists? Why is that wrong and dangerous? (Consider the verses in question 12.)

**Day 5: Read Galatians 2:6–10.**

14. What did the other apostles add to Paul’s gospel, according to verse 6? Why does Paul say this?
15. To which people in particular is Paul sent to preach the gospel? (2:8–9; 1:16)
  - A. Was the inclusion of the Gentiles into God’s family totally unforeseen, or was it always part of God’s plan? (Is. 49:6)
  - B. What is the great “mystery” of all times that is only hinted at in the Old Testament but fully spelled out by Paul? (Eph. 3:6)
16. What was the other apostles’ only request to Paul regarding his ministry? (2:10) What can we learn from that about how we also should bring the gospel to people today?

**SLAVES SET FREE****Justified by Faith****Galatians 2:11–21**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read Galatians 2:11–16; Acts 10:44—11:18.**

1. In this segment Paul refers to a public confrontation he had with Peter. (vs. 11) What was Peter doing wrong? (vss. 12, 14)
2. Read about what Peter had learned previously in Acts 10:44—11:18. In what way was Peter acting hypocritically in Antioch? (Gal. 2:12) What caused him to act this way? Who else was influenced by Peter’s example? (vs. 13)
3. Why was circumcision so important to the Jews? (Acts 15:1) Was it merely a cultural preference? (Gen. 17:9–14)

**Day 2: Read Galatians 2:14–21.**

4. Paul refers to the “truth of the gospel” in verse 14. What is the gospel (or “good news”) of Jesus Christ? Write a short summary; (Consult Jn. 3:16 and Eph. 2:8–9.)
5. What does “justified by faith” mean in verse 16? Why is Paul so adamant that circumcision is not necessary to be justified?
6. If not through circumcision (an example of obeying the law), how *are* sinners reconciled with God? (Rom. 3:22–24)
7. Think of some other ways people try to be reconciled with God apart from (or in addition to) faith. Are they any more effective than circumcision? (Is. 64:6)
8. How should Peter have behaved in order to live out the “truth of the gospel”?

**Day 3: Read Galatians 2:17–21.**

9. Compare verse 17 with Romans 6:1 and 6:15. What objection is Paul addressing here?
10. “Rebuild” in verse 18 refers to trying to “build” our own righteousness based on the law. How would requiring Gentile Christians to be circumcised be an example of this?
11. When confronted with your own sin, do you sometimes fall into the practice of justifying or defending yourself? What should your response be instead? (Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10)

**Day 4: Read Galatians 2:19–21; Romans 6:1–14.**

12. In what way has a Christian died to the law? How is he or she now free from the law? What is the goal of this “death” or freedom?
13. In what way is coming to faith in Christ like a crucifixion? How do Christians live now that they believe? Give some examples of how verse 20 can influence your life every day.
14. Read verse 21 and think back to the purpose of the high priest and the tabernacle. Why was it necessary for Christ to die? (Heb. 9:15, 27–28)

**Day 5: Read Acts 15:1–21.**

*The Council of Jerusalem may have taken place in response to Paul’s confrontation with Peter (remember question 1?).*

15. What role did Peter play in these proceedings? (vs. 15:7ff)
16. What did Peter show he believed about circumcision and the Gentiles? (vs. 15:11) How must he have responded to Paul’s correction at Antioch?
17. Was God glorified through this dispute? How or how not?
18. We all fall into sin as Peter did. Where can we go for correction and instruction? (2 Tim. 3:16–17)

**SLAVES SET FREE****The Law and the Gospel****Galatians 3:1–25**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read Galatians 3:1–5.**

1. How would you describe Paul’s attitude and heart toward the Galatians?
  - A. Why is Paul describing the Galatians as foolish?
  - B. How would Proverbs 27:6 apply to the Galatians?
2. How do we begin salvation or as Paul puts it “receive the Spirit”? (Eph. 1:13–14)
3. How do we continue in our salvation? (Gal. 2:6–7, 20) Are there areas in your life where you have gone back to living under the law rather than living by the Spirit? (Rom. 4:13–14)

**Day 2: Read Galatians 3:6–9.**

4. How was righteousness credited to Abraham (how was Abraham “saved”)? (Gal. 3:6 and Rom. 4:2–3)
5. How did he continue in his salvation? (Heb. 11:8–13)
6. Do you have to be a biological descendent of Abraham to be considered his child? Why or why not? (Rom. 4:11, 16–25)
7. How did God prepare the Jews for the fact that Gentiles would be justified by faith? (Rom. 4:9–12)

**Day 3: Read Galatians 3:10–14.**

8. In this passage Paul describes two different ways to attain righteousness. What are they?
9. What is wrong with the law? (Gal. 3:21–22)
10. Why are those who rely on the law under a curse? (Rom. 3:23; Jam. 2:10) Who does this include?
11. Who redeemed us from the curse of the law?
12. Why was his work acceptable to God? (Rom. 8:3–4)

**Day 4: Read Galatians 3:15–18.**

13. Did God give the promise to Abraham before or after He gave the law to Moses?
14. Did the law displace the promise? Why or why not?

**Day 5: Read Galatians 3:19–25.**

15. Since God knew that no one would be able to be righteous by the law, what was the purpose of the law? (Gal. 3:19, 24; Rom. 3:19–20)
16. What does verse 25 mean when it says we are no longer under the supervision of the law? (Rom. 8:1–4; Col. 2:6–15)
17. This passage tells us that the Holy Spirit gives life and the law does not. Why then do we keep going back to the law as if it can give life?

**SLAVES SET FREE****Sons of God****Galatians 3:26—4:20**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read Galatians 3:26–29.**

1. Whose name appears repeatedly in these verses?
2. List the phrases that start with the words “you are.” Whom do these phrases describe?
3. What does it mean to be “baptized into Christ Jesus”? (vs. 27; see also Rom. 6:3–11; 1 Cor. 12:13)
4. What are three results of being united with Christ?
  1. (vss. 26–27)
  2. (vs. 28)
  3. (vs. 29)

**Day 2: Read Galatians 4:1–7.**

5. What is the one and only way to become a son or daughter of God? (vs. 26; Jn. 1:12–13; Eph. 2:8–9)
6. Describe the life of a slave. Describe the life of an heir.
7. What is our condition when we are under the law? (vss. 1–3) Contrast it with our condition when we are in Christ. (vss. 4–7)

**Day 3: Read Galatians 4:1–7.**

8. “When the time had fully come,” what two things did God do? (vss. 4, 6)

9. For what two purposes did God send his Son?
10. What qualified God's Son to be our redeemer—the Lamb of God and the ultimate sacrifice for our sin?
11. On what basis does God give us the Holy Spirit? (vs. 6)
12. What does the Holy Spirit do for us? (see also Rom. 8:15–16) Who else called God, “Abba, Father”? (Mk. 14:32–36)

**Day 4: Read Galatians 4:8–11.**

13. What is Paul's tone in these verses?
14. Put verses 8–11 into your own words. (For help, refer to Gal. 3:1–3; Jer. 16:19–21; and Gal. 2:16–17, 20–23.) What “weak and miserable” principles do you, tend to turn back to?
15. How can we avoid the folly of the Galatians?

**Day 5: Read Galatians 4:12–20.**

16. What does Paul call the Galatians in these verses? What do these terms show about the tone of this passage?
17. In verse 12, what does Paul mean when he says...
  - A. “Become like me”?
  - B. “I became like you”? (1 Cor. 9:19–22)
18. How does Paul describe the attitude of the Galatians toward him while he was with them? (vss. 14–15) How has the attitude of the Galatians changed? (vss. 16–17)
19. Are you ever guilty of rejecting godly counsel because you don't like it?
20. What is the difference between the attitude of the false teachers toward the Galatians and the attitude of Paul himself toward them?
21. The Galatians, who are believers, have Christ in their hearts. What then is the sense of Paul's desire that Christ be formed in them? (See also Rom. 8:29; Eph. 4:13.)

**SLAVES SET FREE****The Slave and the Free****Galatians 4:21–31**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read Galatians 4:21–31.**

1. In good lawyerly fashion, Paul now takes a different tact in pursuing his case against relying on the law and self-effort for attaining God’s promise of salvation.
  - A. Review some of his arguments from previous passages.
  - B. Skim this week’s passage for key recurring words or phrases.
2. To Paul’s astonishment, some people actually “want to be under the law” (vs. 21)...
  - A. What do such people fail to realize about the law/Sinai covenant? (vs. 24b)
  - B. Do you ever want to go back to the “good old days” of trying to achieve righteousness on your own?
3. What does it mean to be a slave? (Rom. 7:15) What does it mean to be free? (Rom. 6:11–14, 8:1–2)

**Day 2: Read Genesis 15:2–4; 16:1–16; 17:15–16; 21:1–2.**

4. Since Paul’s discussion in this week’s passage is based on a story in Genesis, read these passages today.

**Day 3: Read Galatians 4:21–31; Genesis passages (see Day 2).**

5. Which of Abraham’s two sons (Hagar’s son Ishmael or Sarah’s son Isaac) was born as a result of human effort and trying to “help” God’s promises along? (Gen. 16:1–2) Which was born as a result of God’s promise and faith in that promise? (Gen. 21:1–2)
6. Which one of these became the heir? (Gal. 4:28, 30)

7. What does that tell you? Will you become heir to God's kingdom by your striving or by faith in God's promises?
8. Does it make you feel better or worse that your salvation and inheritance, like Isaac's, were determined by God before the world began, and did not depend on your initiation and exertion?

**Day 4: Read Galatians 4:21–31.**

9. Paul relates these Genesis events to the Galatian crisis.
  - A. How are the Galatians like Abraham in his moment of weakness (Gen. 16:1–2) when they strive to attain God's promises through their own efforts?
  
  - B. On what (or on whom) should the Galatians rely for rightness with God, rather than on their own efforts? (Gal. 3:3; 2:15)
10. What is the end of all who attempt to attain God's promises and righteousness by lawkeeping? (Gal. 4:24b–25) Is that because the law is bad, or is there another reason? (Rom. 7:14)
11. Following on question 10, what will be the end condition of all "slaves"? (Gal. 4:30)

**Day 5: Read Galatians 4:28–31.**

12. Read Romans 9:6–8 as a commentary on this week's passage. Who are the true people of God?
  - (a) Abraham's biological descendants who are born "in the ordinary way" (Gal. 4:29); or (b) "the children of the promise" who exercise the same faith as Abraham (Heb. 11:11; Jn. 1:12–13)?
13. For now, who are being persecuted—the sons born of the Spirit or the sons born in the ordinary way? (4:29)
  - A. When will the persecution of believers be over? (2 Thess. 1:5–7)
  
  - B. Who will inherit the kingdom of God? (4:29)
14. A little yeast and the whole loaf rises (5:9); a little false teaching and the whole church goes bad. What does Paul counsel the Galatians to do with the Judaizers and their "gospel"? (4:10)

**SLAVES SET FREE****Freedom in Christ****Galatians 5**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read Galatians 5:1–12.**

1. As Paul moves toward concluding his letter, many verses in this section summarize his previous points, choose a verse that you think sums up the whole letter and explain your choice.
  
2. Paul lays down a principle in verse 6 that relegates circumcision to a matter of individual choice that has no bearing on salvation. But verses 2 and 3 imply that circumcision would actually interfere with the process of grace. How would you explain this seeming discrepancy? (Hint: Read verse 4 carefully.)
  
3. The Galatians thought that circumcision was necessary for holiness. Pick one thing that you think you need to do to be holy. Reread verse 6 substituting that word for “circumcision.” Share what this means for you.
  
4. How do each of the following metaphors that Paul uses relate to the issue of justification by faith versus justification by works?
  - A. yoke
  
  - B. race
  
  - C. yeast (See also 1 Cor. 5:6–8.)

**Day 2: Read Galatians 5:1–12.**

5. How well does Paul know the people who are misleading the Galatians? (vs. 10)
  
6. What may have provoked Paul’s passionate statement in verse 12? (See vs. 11.)

7. How does Paul describe faith in verse 6? How is this faith recognized?

**Day 3: Read Galatians 5:13–26.**

8. How is this passage related to verse 6? What relational problems seem to accompany not acting in line with the truth of the gospel? (vss. 15, 20, 26)

9. In verse 1, Paul is concerned about the Galatians losing their freedom. In contrast, what is he concerned about in verse 13?

10. From a reading of this passage, do you conclude that the sinful nature disappears when a person comes to Christ? How do we resist the desires of the sinful nature? (vs. 16) Therefore, what do we know God equips us with to cope with/resist/avoid the snares of sin?

**Day 4: Read Galatians 5:16–21.**

11. List what can be discerned about the sinful nature from this passage.

12. In what ways are the acts of the sinful nature like fruit on a tree? (See Jas. 3:9–12)

13. Notice in the list in verses 19–21 that emotions (such as hatred, envy and jealousy) are included as well as outward actions such as drunkenness. Why is this significant?

**Day 5: Read Galatians 5:22–26.**

14. Read about fruit elsewhere in the Bible: Mt. 3:7–10 (John the Baptist); Mt. 7:15–23 (Jesus in Sermon on the Mount); Mt. 12:33–37 (Jesus to Pharisees); Jn. 15:1–8 (Jesus to disciples).

A. What physical factors influence a tree's ability to produce abundant fruit?

B. What spiritual factors can you find in Galatians 5 and in John 15 that enable us to produce the fruit listed in verses 22 and 23?

15. When is fulfilling the Law (demonstrating a virtue) a fruit of the Spirit? When is it not?

16. Choose a verse from this chapter to memorize and share your reasons for choosing it with your group.

**SLAVES SET FREE****A New Creation****Galatians 6**

*“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

**Day 1: Read Galatians 6.**

1. As you read Galatians 6, list ways in which Paul exhorts Christians to love.
2. How are you able to fulfill these exhortations? (The theme of Galatians)

**Day 2: Read Galatians 6:1–5.**

3. Explain the phrase, “if someone is caught in a sin.”
4. Who is encouraged to go to the person caught in sin?
5. What does it mean to restore the person?
6. Is this your natural response to a person caught in sin? Why or why not? What attitude does Paul encourage us to have toward the person? (Eph. 4:32)
7. What warning does Paul give to those who would go to a person caught in sin? Why?
8. In his approach to the Galatians how does Paul exemplify verse 1? Explain.

**Day 3: Read Galatians 6:2–10.**

9. What does it mean to carry each other’s burdens?

10. What does it take to fulfill the law of Christ? (Rom. 13:8–10; Jn. 13:34)
11. Write verses 3–5 in your own words. You might want to use Romans 12:3–8 for reference.
12. Read Psalm 73 in light of verses 7–8. What truth did Paul and the psalmist share?
13. Why should we continue in doing good?

**Day 4: Read Galatians 6:11–17.**

14. What wrong reasons are given for circumcision?
15. What is the definition of boasting? What should you boast in? Why?
16. What are the marks of Christ on Paul's body? (Ac. 14:19; 2 Cor. 11:24–28)

**Day 5: Reflection.**

17. Did the study of Galatians cause you to look at the way in which you choose to live? (Your heart motives) Explain.
18. How were Moses and the nation of Israel a picture of living by faith?
19. What was your view of the apostle Paul before you read Galatians? Has your view changed? Explain.
20. Is the theme of Galatians, living by faith, a natural part of your life? Explain.
21. How can we pray for you?