

EXODUS

לא תרצח	י	לא יהיה
לא תנאך	לא תשא	לא תענה
לא תנבב	לא תחמד	

Wandering

A resource of fellowship church plum creek

Exodus Weekly Schedule

Thank you for joining us for the journey through Exodus.

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Sermon Notes

Really, A Golden Calf

A golden calf sculpture, a symbol of idolatry, stands in a desert landscape. The sculpture is made of a golden material and is surrounded by a large, circular, textured base. The background is a vast, open desert with a clear sky and some distant hills. The entire image has a warm, golden-yellow color palette.

**WEEK 1 - REALLY,
A GOLDEN CALF**

Week 1 – Really, A Golden Calf



Getting Started

Welcome to Week 1 of the EXODUS: WANDERING study. We will start each week reading the Scripture passage together and making some notes and answering questions.

Exodus 32

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” [2] So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” [3] So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. [4] And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” [5] When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.” [6] And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

[7] And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. [8] They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” [9] And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. [10] Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.”

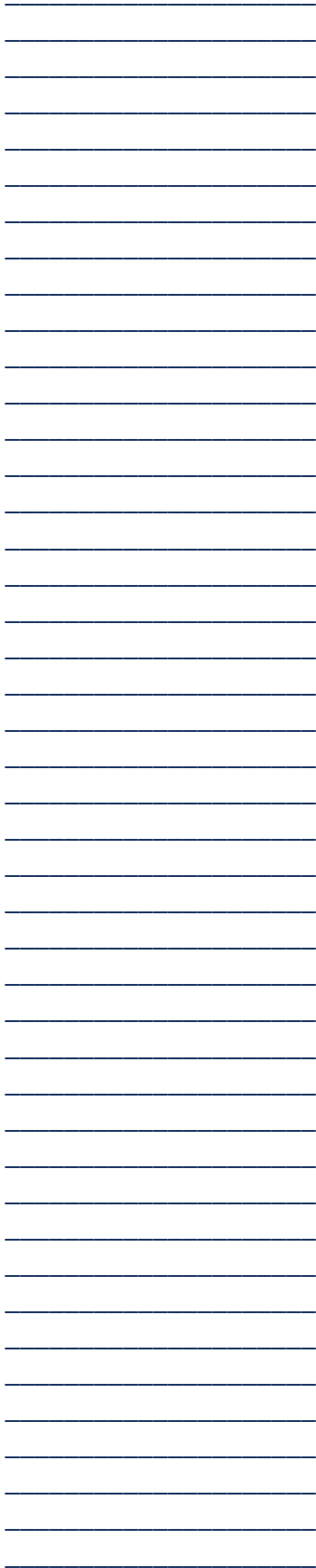
[11] But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? [12] Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. [13] Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'" [14] And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

[15] Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. [16] The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. [17] When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." [18] But he said, "It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear." [19] And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. [20] He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

[21] And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?"

[22] And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. [23] For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'

[24] So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."



[25] And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies), [26] then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, “Who is on the LORD’s side? Come to me.” And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. [27] And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.’” [28] And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell. [29] And Moses said, “Today you have been ordained for the service of the LORD, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day.”

[30] The next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” [31] So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. [32] But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” [33] But the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book. [34] But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them.”

[35] Then the LORD sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made.

What verse was most impactful for you this week?

Time to Study



Let's start with telling one thing we don't know about you.

Why do you think the Israelites wanted a "god" made from man to worship?

- **Exodus 32:1** When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

Have you ever felt like God was delaying in answering your prayers or being distant from you? When?

How were you tempted to react during the waiting?

How would you answer Moses' question to God in verse 11?

- **Exodus 32:11** But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"

Read the following verses and answer the question below.

- **Exodus 19:3–7** while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: [4] 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. [5] Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; [6] and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." [7] So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
- **Exodus 24:7** Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."

Why do you think God is wrathful towards the people?

The Israelites had seen God do miraculous things for them (the plagues, the escape from Egypt, the pillar of fire/cloud, feeding them in the desert, etc.). He had been their Deliverer, Protector, Sustainer, Guide and more. What do you think the Israelites lacked that would cause them to forget God and worship a golden calf?

Take some time now and pray, offering words of worship to our great God. Show your awe of Him together. Recall all the wonderful things He has done for you in the past.

We are as easily tempted to forget God and his commands to obey Him, especially when we grow impatient and weary in life. The Apostle Paul also used this event as an example to the Christians in Corinth that they are no different than the Israelites. Nor are we today. The temptation to forget God is within each of us.

God showed His wrath to the Israelites against their sin when 23,000 of them died. However, Paul gives us hope in **1 Corinthians 10 with verse 13: “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”** List the absolutes and encouragement seen in this verse.

Are there current ways in which you are forgetting God? Now is an opportunity to confess and be forgiven.

How can we pray for you this week?



Sermon Notes

Understanding the Covenant

WEEK 2

**UNDERSTANDING THE
COVENANT**



Week 2 – Understanding the Covenant



Getting Started

It is time for Week 2 of the EXODUS: WANDERING study. We will start each week reading the Scripture passage and making some notes and answering questions.

Exodus 34:10–35

And he said, “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.

[11] “Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. [12] Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. [13] You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim [14] (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), [15] lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, [16] and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods.

[17] “You shall not make for yourself any gods of cast metal.

[18] “You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month Abib, for in the month Abib you came out from Egypt. [19] All that open the womb are mine, all your male livestock, the firstborn of cow and sheep.

[20] The firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. All the firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. And none shall appear before me empty-handed. [21] "Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest. [22] You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end. [23] Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the LORD God, the God of Israel. [24] For I will cast out nations before you and enlarge your borders; no one shall covet your land, when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year.

[25] "You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with anything leavened, or let the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover remain until the morning. [26] The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk." [27] And the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." [28] So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

[29] When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. [30] Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. [31] But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. [32] Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. [33] And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

What verse was most impactful for you this week?

Time to Study



How has God answered your prayers recently?

Read the verses below and answer the questions that follow.

- **Exodus 34:1–9** The LORD said to Moses, “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. [2] Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. [3] No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain.” [4] So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. [5] The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. [6] The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, [7] keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” [8] And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. [9] And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

This is “round 2” of God giving Moses the Ten Commandments (since Moses broke the 1st pair of tablets). With Moses standing on the mountain top, God passes before Him and declares His name as YHWH (LORD). Then God describes what His name means.

List those descriptions and share what each mean personally to you.

What are other names of God that encourage you from His word? Why?

God, in Exodus 34, declares that He is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 2:4 about God's character and how this character leads us.

- **Romans 2:4** Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

What exactly does Paul say God's character of kindness leads us toward?

Does this truth that God's kindness leads us to repentance differ from how you have thought of God in relation to your guilt? In other words, how do you typically think God feels about you when you're guilty? Angry? Fed up? Disgusted?

How does your thinking differ from what Paul writes about it?

One of those characteristics of God is translated in English as “steadfast love.” The Hebrew word is *hesed*. This is not an emotion or feeling. Rather, it describes a loyal love that results in action toward someone. Share with your group how God has shown you this “loyal love” at any time in your life.

Has anyone in your group shown you “loyal love”?

Within God’s grand character is also justice. Part of His covenant to the Israelites included punishment to those who kept an unrepentant heart. God expressed His seriousness toward unrepentant hearts by declaring that His punishment would spread through multiple generations.

- **Exodus 34:7** keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

While this was expressly part of the Mosaic Covenant, God is still just today. He forgives our sins so that we can be in right fellowship with Him (1 John 1:9).

- **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

But our works, whether good or bad, will be evident. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 to learn how God’s justice applies to believers today. What are your thoughts on this verse?

- **2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

What are your thoughts on the verses below?

- **1 Corinthians 3:10–15** According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. [11] For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—[13] each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. [14] If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. [15] If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (ESV)
- **Romans 14:10** Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;

What was Moses’ response to God’s revealed character?

How is your response to God’s revealed character similar or different from Moses?

How can we pray for you this week?



Sermon Notes

Craft Time with the Oholiab



WEEK 3
CRAFT TIME WITH
OHOLIAB

Week 3 – Craft Time with Oholiab



Getting Started

Welcome back to Week 3 of the EXODUS: WANDERING study. We will start each week reading the Scripture passage and making some notes and answering questions.

Exodus 35:30–35

[30] Then Moses said to the people of Israel, “See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; [31] and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, [32] to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, [33] in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. [34] And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. [35] He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer.

Exodus 36:1–9

[1] “Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.”

[2] And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. [3] And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning,

[4] so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, [5] and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do." [6] So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, [7] for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

[8] And all the craftsmen among the workmen made the tabernacle with ten curtains. They were made of fine twined linen and blue and purple and scarlet yarns, with cherubim skillfully worked. [9] The length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. All the curtains were the same size.

What verse was most important to you this week?

Time to Study

Have you ever wished you could do something great but felt incapable physically or mentally?

Perhaps fear kept you back? Maybe you didn't think you were good enough? Or others would ridicule you? Share your story with your group.

YHWH commanded for all who were willing to bring to Him certain types of priceless articles and materials. And to their credit, many men and women did. If God were to ask us to bring our priceless articles, what do you think us He would ask us to bring? (Think beyond money.)

God called individuals, such as Bezalel and Oholiab, for the specific task of constructing the tabernacle. He equipped them with abilities and wisdom to perform according to His instruction. **This was no easy task!** God calls us to obey His instructions, and they, too, are not easy. In fact, most times they seem almost impossible. However, God equips the called.

- **Hebrews 13:20–21** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, [21] equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

How have you seen this evident in your life or someone you know?

How do you wish or hope to see this evident in your life? Do you have a dream of doing something for God but you feel inadequate to make it happen?

If so, share that with your group.

In 36:4-5, the people were bringing more than enough material for the workers to use.

- **Exodus 36:4–5** so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, [5] and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do.”

Remember, this wasn't ordinary material. It was expensive stuff. Why do you think they were bringing too much?

What previous events would cause the people to provide more than what was needed for the job?

What could this mean for Christians today? For Fellowship Church at Plum Creek? For our PATH Group? (Think beyond expensive articles, but expensive talents, skills, giftedness, etc.)

How can we pray for you this week?



Sermon Notes

The Glory of the Lord



WEEK 4

THE GLORY OF THE LORD

Week 4 – The Glory of the Lord



Getting Started

Welcome to Week 4 of the EXODUS: WANDERING study. We will start each week reading the Scripture passage and making some notes and answering questions.

Exodus 40

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, [2] “On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. [3] And you shall put in it the ark of the testimony, and you shall screen the ark with the veil. [4] And you shall bring in the table and arrange it, and you shall bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. [5] And you shall put the golden altar for incense before the ark of the testimony, and set up the screen for the door of the tabernacle. [6] You shall set the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, [7] and place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. [8] And you shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen for the gate of the court.

[9] “Then you shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its furniture, so that it may become holy. [10] You shall also anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar, so that the altar may become most holy. [11] You shall also anoint the basin and its stand, and consecrate it. [12] Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall wash them with water [13] and put on Aaron the holy garments. And you shall anoint him and consecrate him, that he may serve me as priest. [14] You shall bring his sons also and put coats on them,

The Glory of the LORD

[34] Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. [35] And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. [36] Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. [37] But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. [38] For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

What verse was most impactful for you this week?

Time to Study



Is there a special place where you go to talk with God? What is that place like? Why is that your particular spot?

- **Exodus 33:4** When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments.

According to 33:4, the people mourned when they heard what the LORD had said through Moses. What were they mourning over?

Stiff-necked is another way of saying “stubborn.” The Israelites were quite stubborn by rejecting God’s commandments.

It’s easy to see that as we read through Exodus. However, it may be more difficult to see how we can be stubborn ourselves. Here’s a time to be a little vulnerable with one another in your group.

How are you currently being stubborn when it comes to obeying God’s commandments?

How can the members of your group pray for you and hold you accountable?

Exodus 33:11 describes the scene of YHWH and Moses talking. It specifically says “**the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.**”

In John 15:12-15, Jesus says that we are His friends if we do what He commands (specifically to love one another).

- **John 15:12–15** “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command you. [15] No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

As His friends, we should talk to God like friends. Are your prayers like that? Could your prayer life be described as one who talks with a friend? Or have your prayers settled into something of a chore?

God desires to communicate with us on a personal level.

Have you ever forgotten someone's name when you see them at church?

Yes, All the time

Sometimes

Not Often

Never Ever

What are you most concerned about when this happens?

Hallelujah! God knew Moses by name.

This indicated a strong, intimate fellowship—that Moses belonged to God. Jesus said in [John 10:14](#), "I am the Good Shepherd, I know my own and My own know me."

What feelings do you have when you consider that fact that God knows you by name?

God will never forget your name because you belong to Him.

How can we pray for you this week?



Sermon Notes

The 10 Spies

A grid of 20 surveillance cameras mounted on a brick wall. The cameras are arranged in 5 rows and 4 columns. The central camera in each row is silver, while the others are black. The text 'WEEK 5 - THE SPIES' is overlaid in the center of the grid.

WEEK 5 - THE SPIES

Week 5 – The Spies



Getting Started

Welcome to Week 5 of the EXODUS: WANDERING study. We will start each week reading the Scripture passage and making some notes and answering questions.

Numbers 13

[1] The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, [2] “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them.” [3] So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel. [4] And these were their names: From the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur; [5] from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori; [6] from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; [7] from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph; [8] from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun; [9] from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu; [10] from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi; [11] from the tribe of Joseph (that is, from the tribe of Manasseh), Gaddi the son of Susi; [12] from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli; [13] from the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael; [14] from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi; [15] from the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi. [16] These were the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua.

[17] Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, “Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country, [18] and see what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, [19] and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds,

[20] and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

[21] So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. [22] They went up into the Negeb and came to Hebron. Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) [23] And they came to the Valley of Eshcol and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs. [24] That place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster that the people of Israel cut down from there.

Report of the Spies

[25] At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. [26] And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. [27] And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. [28] However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. [29] The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan."

[30] But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." [31] Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." [32] So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height.

Moses Intercedes for the People

[13] But Moses said to the LORD, “Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, [14] and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O LORD, are in the midst of this people. For you, O LORD, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. [15] Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, [16] ‘It is because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.’ [17] And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, [18] ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.’ [19] Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now.”

God Promises Judgment

[20] Then the LORD said, “I have pardoned, according to your word. [21] But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, [22] none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, [23] shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it. [24] But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it. [25] Now, since the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valleys, turn tomorrow and set out for the wilderness by the way to the Red Sea.”

Time to Study



According to Deuteronomy 1:22, the Israelites had asked God to let them send in spies.

- **Deuteronomy 1:22** Then all of you came near me and said, ‘Let us send men before us, that they may explore the land for us and bring us word again of the way by which we must go up and the cities into which we shall come.’

Do you find it interesting that God allowed this?

God understands our concerns and fears. While He wants us to trust Him, He’s gentle with our weaknesses. How has God been gentle with your weakness in exercising faith?

Do you think God is more interested in our comfort or our trust in Him? Explain your answer.

This is an important topic, because there is a theology in many churches today that if we have enough faith, we’ll have more comfort. What are your thoughts on this theology?

Caleb was ready to trust God and obey by taking the land God had promised them. When have you acted on pure faith/trust in God and moved forward in obedience despite the future being unknown. How did that turn out for you?

What do you think was the reason 10 out of the 12 spies pushed to reject God's command to take the land?

We can all relate to the doubt and fear that led these spies to turn away. What are some things God commands us to do yet we fail due to fear? In other words, what commands of God are you most afraid of obeying? Why?

How should we respond when the majority of people push for a decision that is clearly against God's will?

What great things has the Lord done in your life that you'd like to share with your group?

Whether recent or a long time ago, share a story or two of when God did the amazing thing in your life.

Numbers 14:22 says why God was angry with the Israelites.

- **Numbers 14:22** none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice,

State the reason in your own words.

Remember what the Lord God has done for you and trust Him with the unknown future of tomorrow!

How can we pray for you this week?



Sermon Notes

The Bronze Serpent



WEEK 6
THE BRONZE SERPENT

Week 6 – The Bronze Serpent



Getting Started

Welcome to Week 6, the final week of the EXODUS: WANDERING study. We will start each week reading the Scripture passage and making some notes and answering questions.

Numbers 21:4–9

The Bronze Serpent

[4] From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. [5] And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” [6] Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. [7] And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. [8] And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” [9] So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

What verse was most impactful for you this week?

Time to Study



What kind of circumstance tempts you to become the most impatient?

How did the LORD respond to His people when they grew impatient with Him?

Read Proverbs 27:14.

- **Psalm 27:14** Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Why do you think it's difficult to wait (be patient with) on the Lord?

Jesus referred to the serpent hung on a pole in the wilderness in John 3:14-15.

- **John 3:14–15** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

What was the correlation between Moses' bronze serpent and Jesus?

According to Jesus in John 3:14-16, what is the only condition for a person to be saved from the penalty of sin?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 and see if you can state the gospel in 10 words.

- **1 Corinthians 15:1–5** Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

The Apostle Paul stated clearly the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15. And Jesus clearly stated what one must do to be saved. In fact, the Gospel of John uses only 1 word 98 times as the condition for salvation. Can you guess what that word is?

The Greek word translated as “believe” comes from the same root word translated as “faith.” It means to trust in or rely upon. Many people try to tie in works to the gospel, believing they had to do something to add to their belief in Jesus. Others look to a particular experience or feeling they had at an event as their confidence in being saved. Perhaps you may have believed this.

However, the Bible clearly states that works have absolutely nothing to do with being saved from the penalty of sin. Only by believing that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead, thus trusting in Him alone to save us—this is the only way to salvation.

What are you trusting in to be saved from the penalty of sin?

When did you trust Christ? Share your story with your group.

Only those Israelites who believed God and looked at the bronze serpent lived. And only those who believe God's word and trust in His Son, Jesus, will be saved. Who could you share this good with this week?

How can we pray for you this week?

**Thank you for traveling
through the book of Exodus
with us!**

Appendix A

The Covenants of God

Types of Covenant

Conditional – God’s promise is based on the covenant bearer’s meeting of certain conditions

Unconditional – God’s promise to man based upon His character, not on any action by covenant bearers

List of Covenants from the Old Testament

Edenic Covenant **Genesis 1-3** **World: Very good**
Consequence: Birth of Good and evil

Conditional Covenant:

- If you eat of the tree of good and evil you will die, if you remain faithful you will live

Covenant Verse:

- **Genesis 2:16–17** *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*
- **Hosea 6:7** *But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.*

Covenant Failed:

- The Fall - therefore Jesus must fulfill this covenant by living without the fall to restore the fullness of the covenant promise

First Gospel:

- **Genesis 3:15** *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

Noahic Covenant **Genesis 6-9** **World: Good and evil**
Result: God will limit evil before destruction

Unconditional Covenant:

- I will not destroy the earth with water / promise to let you live even with evil

Covenant Verse:

- **Genesis 9:11** *I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”*

* Note: Most scholars do not recognize the Babelic covenant but we will for our study.

Babelic Covenant Genesis 11

**World: Good and limited evil
Consequence: Good / more limited evil /
diversity of language and thought / nations**

Unconditional Covenant:

- I will confuse languages / promise to create more limits on the evil intentions of man

Covenant Verse:

- *Genesis 11:7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."*

Abrahamic Covenant Genesis 12-15

**World: Good, limited evil, diversity
Result: God chooses a people**

Unconditional Covenant:

- I will make a great nation from you

Covenant Verse:

- *Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

Mosaic Covenant

**World: Set free from slavery
Result: Rules to live by / sacrificial system**

Conditional Covenant:

- Covenant of the Law, sacrificial system

Covenant Verse:

- Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;

Covenant Failed:

- The Israelite turned to idols and broke the commandments of God.

Gospel Message:

Hebrews 8:6-13 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. [7] For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. [8] For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, [9] not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. [10] For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [11] And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. [12] For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." [13] In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Davidic Covenant

World: nation turned to human ruler / king

Result: God will establish His rule forever

Unconditional Covenant:

- one of your descendants will reign forever

Covenant Verse:

- **1 Chronicles 17:11–14** *When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. [12] He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. [13] I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, [14] but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.”*

Covenant of Redemption

World: nation looking to the Messiah

Result: God in the flesh / Jesus!

Unconditional Covenant:

- covenant of grace through Jesus Christ ... the Gospel message

Covenant Verse:

- **Jeremiah 31:31–34** *“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, [32] not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. [33] For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [34] And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”*
- **Ezekiel 36:26–27** *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*



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