



**HOLY TRINITY**

Wentworth Falls Anglican Church

***A Distinctive People  
(Exodus 19-40)  
Term 1 2024***

**Bible Study Guides 5-10**

## Study 5 – “The Covenant”, Exodus 24:1-18

1. Pray
2. Conversation Starter: Share a story of when you have entered into an agreement or a contract with someone that became very beneficial to you.
3. Review what we have already heard about God’s covenant with his people before this chapter (see especially Exodus 19:4-8).
4. Read Exodus 24:1-18
5. Does anything, in particular, stand out to you in this passage?
6. Is there anything particularly unclear or confusing to you in this passage?
7. What are the elements of a covenant making ceremony, as described here?

8. What is the meaning and purpose of the people being sprinkled with 'blood of the covenant' (v. 8)?
9. What is the relationship between the law and the covenant?
10. What does God making a covenant with people tell us about his character?
11. What are the similarities and differences between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant that Jesus institutes? (Divide up into pairs or small groups and each read one of the following passages, and then come back to the bigger group and share what you've read: Jer. 31:31-34; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; 2 Cor. 3:1-11; Hebrews 8:1-13; Hebrews 9:1:22; Hebrews 12:18-24).
12. How does the new covenant shape both our identity and the way we live our lives?
13. How does the Holy Spirit help us live within the new covenant?
14. Pray

## Study 6 – “The Tabernacle”, Exodus 26:1-14, 30-35

1. Pray
2. Conversation Starter: If you had to design a tent, what features would you give it? Why?
3. Read Exodus 26:1-37
4. Draw a picture of what you think the Tabernacle looked like based on the passage?



5. List some of the materials that were to be used in constructing the Tabernacle. What does this tell us about the tent?
  
6. There were some objects made for and placed in the Tabernacle – the Ark (Ex 25:10-22) the Table (Ex 25:23-30) and the Lampstand (Ex 25:31-40). What was their significance?
  
7. Read Numbers 1:47-54 – What is the significance of where the Tabernacle was set up in relation to all the other people (cf Nu 2:17)?
  
8. Exodus 33:7-11 introduces the concept of the “tent of meeting” - what does this tell us about the Tabernacle?
  
9. Why were there so many hurdles between God and the people?
  
10. Read John 1:1-14
  
11. Why was the Word coming into the world?

12. In v14, the Greek word for “made his dwelling” is the same used for “Tabernacle” (σκηνοω - skēnoō). What is the significance of this?
  
13. If you want to meet with God, where do you need to go? Does Church have a part to play in that?
  
14. In what ways can you more effectively meet with God in Jesus?
  
15. How are you going at having regular times reading the Bible and praying? Is there anything you can do to improve?
  
16. How might we better point people to meet God in Jesus?
  
17. Pray

## Study 7 – “The Golden Calf”, Exodus 32:1-24

1. Pray
2. Conversation Starter: Share a story where you or someone else did completely the wrong thing almost immediately after being given clear instructions.
3. Read Exodus 32:1-24
4. What particularly stands out to you in this story?
5. Is anything particularly unclear or confusing to you in this story?
6. Do you think the people are attempting to worship the LORD God by means of the calf, or do you think they are worshipping a different god? (note: the Hebrew word for god, *elohim*, is a grammatically plural word but can have either a singular or plural meaning.)

7. After everything that God has done for them, after all they have seen and heard at Mount Sinai, why do you think they fail so quickly and spectacularly?
8. What do we learn about prayer from Moses' speech to God in vv. 11-14?
9. What do we learn about Christian leadership from this story?
10. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14
11. How does Paul apply the lesson of the Golden Calf incident (and other related incidents in the OT) to Christians?
12. What should we do when we face temptation?
13. What's one thing you want to do in response to study?
14. Pray



## **Study 8 – “The Glory of the Lord”, Exodus 33:12-23**

1. Pray
2. Conversation Starter: What is something on earth you have seen which you would describe as “glorious”? What was so glorious about it?
3. What does the word “glory” mean? How would you define it?
4. Read Exodus 33:12-23
5. What stands out to you in this passage?
6. Is there anything particularly unclear or confusing to you in this passage?
7. If God is omnipresent, then why is Moses so concerned that the ‘presence’ of God will go with them? (For God’s omnipresence,

see Psalm 139:7-12). In other words, what does the Presence of God mean here?

8. Why is it not possible for man to see God's face and live (v. 20)?
9. Is God glorious to you?
10. How might having an accurate picture of the glory of the Lord help us to resist temptation?
11. How does this episode about the presence and the glory of God point toward Jesus?
12. Read John 1:14-18
13. How does Jesus amplify the presence and the glory of God?
14. Do you feel the presence of God with you through Jesus, or does he seem distant?

15. If he feels distant, what could be the reasons for your feelings?

16. If you experience his presence, what is that like for you?

17. Pray

## **Study 9 – “The Renewal of the Covenant”, Exodus 34:1-17, 27-35**

1. Pray
2. Conversation Starter: What's one thing we can affirm about mainstream Australian culture? What's one thing we should challenge about mainstream Australian culture?
3. Recap: what has happened in Exodus so far, and why would they need a covenant renewal ceremony?
4. Read Exodus 34:1-17
5. What is the significance of the name of the LORD, and of his 'subtitle' in vv. 6-7?
6. How do we reconcile the fact that God forgives sin and yet also does not leave the guilty unpunished? (v. 7)

7. How can God be a God of compassion if he instructs the Israelites to drive out the Canaanite tribes and not make a treaty with them?
8. Why must the Israelites be radically separate from the Canaanites?
9. Read Mark 2:14-17
10. What's your reaction to Jesus' behaviour here?
11. Is Jesus doing something contradictory to the spirit of Exodus 34:12-16? Why or why not?
12. One of the great debates in the church over the past few centuries, is what kind of posture we should adopt toward the surrounding culture. In your own words, how would you describe the posture the church should take?

13. In 1956, H. Richard Niebuhr wrote a now classic book, *Christ and Culture*, in which he identified five ways of relating Christ to culture:<sup>1</sup>
- a. **Christ against culture:** a *withdrawal* model of removing oneself from the culture into the community of the church.
  - b. **Christ of culture:** an *accommodationist* model that recognises God at work in the culture and looks for ways to affirm this.
  - c. **Christ above culture:** a *synthetic* model that advocates supplementing and building on the good in the culture with Christ
  - d. **Christ and culture in paradox:** a *dualistic* model that views Christians as citizens of two different realms, one sacred and one secular.
  - e. **Christ transforming culture:** a *conversionist* model that seeks to transform every part of culture with Christ.
14. Which of these models most closely resembles your own view?
15. What are the positives and negatives of each model?

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<sup>1</sup> You can read more about this in *Center Church*, by Tim Keller (part 5: cultural engagement)

16. What do you think of your non-believing friends or neighbours?  
Or if you are new to Christian faith, what did you think  
Christians thought of you before you became one?
  
17. How can we be like Jesus to the world around us, without  
somehow being compromised?
  
18. Pray

## **Study 10 – “Skilled Workers”, Exodus 35:30-36:7**

1. Pray
2. Conversation Starter: When has been a time when you have been greatly blessed by someone’s skilled work?
3. Read Exodus 35:30-36:7.
4. What stands out to you in this passage?
5. Is there anything unclear or confusing to you in this passage?
6. What is the relationship between the Spirit of God, wisdom, knowledge, and skill?
7. What lessons can we draw from this episode for our own work and career?



8. What would you say to someone who viewed work as essentially a bad thing to be avoided?
  
9. In his book, *Every Good Endeavour*, Tim Keller writes: “Caring for and cultivating this material world has worth, even if it means cutting the grass. This also means that “secular” work has no less dignity and nobility than the “sacred” work of ministry. We are both body and soul, and the biblical ideal of shalom includes both physical thriving as well as spiritual.” Do you agree with this statement?
  
10. Why, despite the goodness of work, should we be unsurprised that it sometimes becomes frustrating?
  
11. Does this passage have any implications for how we should design, and utilise, church buildings?
  
12. Does this passage have any implications for the wealth we might generate through our skilled work?
  
13. Read Romans 12:3-7 (see also 1 Corinthians 12:1-14)

14. What do you think is the connection between 'spiritual gifts' and so-called 'natural talents'?
  
15. What is a skill you have that you can use to the glory of God:
  - a. What is a "secular" skill/gift you can use to the glory of God?
  
  - b. What is a "ministry" skill/gift you can use to the glory of God?
  
16. Is anything stopping you from developing your skills or using your skills to the glory of God?
  
17. Pray