

## Before the Lesson

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your LIFE Group meets.**

Scripture passages: Exodus 19 & 20, Galatians 4:4-5

God graciously brought His people out of the bonds of slavery in Egypt, but much of Egypt was still a part of them. Knowing this, as they made their way to the Promised Land, God began taking the Israelites through a series of trials and events that would attempt to solidify their faith in Him. It was important for His people to know of His provision, His purpose, His plan, and His providence for them. After leading them out of Egypt and parting the Red Sea, God overcame several more obstacles the Israelites encountered: bitter water was turned sweet, bread rained down from Heaven, water gushed from a rock, and an enemy, Amalek, was defeated (Exodus 15-17). Finally when they arrived at Mount Sinai, the children of Israel encountered the test of waiting on their leader as he received the Law from God Himself. In all of these instances, God proved Himself faithful, revealed more of His character, and instituted more of His plan for His people.

But the law ... how does it apply to us today? The stories of provision make sense to us and bring us much comfort and security. This law, however – does it provide any type of comfort or security? Indeed it does. It reveals to us God’s character and His standard for moral living. It is also a tool used by God to usher in His abundant grace for us so that He could provide a remedy for our sinfulness. God’s grace is found in the law, but His grace was most magnificently displayed when His Son, Jesus, fulfilled the law for us. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” – Galatians 4:4-5

### Focus question:

How does the law enable us to see our need for grace provided by our Savior, Jesus?

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## Group Discussion

- Discuss briefly the timeline of events between the crossing of the Red Sea and camping at Mount Sinai (Exodus 14-19). How did God provide for His people along the way? How have you seen God provide for you this week?
- God gave the Israelites the moral law, the ceremonial law, and the civil law. Discuss the three different categories of the law given to the people and how each helps New Testament believers obey and worship God in a right way.
  - The Moral Law: Deals with personal conscience (The Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:1-17)
    - How do the Ten Commandments show the sovereignty of God (His ability to rule and reign)?
    - How do we see the grace of God in this portion of the law?

- The Ceremonial Law: Deals with religious practices (feasts, holy days, sacrifices, and acceptable worship – Exodus 29:43-46, Leviticus 17:11, 14)
  - How does the Ceremonial Law illustrate God’s desire to forgive and His need for sin to be punished (God’s grace versus payment for sin)? (Hebrews 10:1-10; see also Hebrews 9 and its description of the articles of the Tabernacle and Jesus as our High Priest.)
  - What is acceptable worship for the New Testament believer? (John 4:24, Romans 12:1)
- The Civil Law: Deals with social justice (established a constitution and national legislation – Exodus 21:23-24)
  - How does the Civil Law demonstrate God’s desire for justice?
- In Romans 10:1-4, how does the truth of Jesus’ work on the cross bring to completion all three categories of the law?
- Our world today is full of disillusionment, brokenness, and disappointment because of sin and lack of belief in absolute truth. Many think the way to fix our brokenness is by making Jesus an “add-on” or “religious repairman.” Jesus is not something you “add on.” God gave us the law to enable us to see our sins and understand our need for a Savior every day.
  - How does the law enable us to see our need for the grace provided by our Savior for our salvation? (See Romans 3:21-26 and Galatians 3:10-14, 21-22.)
  - If you’ve trusted Jesus for your salvation, have you also trusted Him to provide the grace needed for the everyday challenges of life? (John 15:4-5, Philippians 4:19, 1 Peter 5:7)
  - How can you share God’s grace with a neighbor, co-worker, or friend this week?

### Further Study (to be used in your personal Quiet Time)

Make it your goal this week to memorize the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20:1-17, along with this week’s memory verse below.

#### **Joshua Code memory verse:**

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.*  
— Matthew 7:7

### Family Time

Help your children understand the Ten Commandments by using these easy to understand statements.

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| 1. Put God first.          | 6. Don’t hurt anyone.                         |
| 2. Worship God only.       | 7. Don’t cheat.                               |
| 3. Don’t say bad words.    | 8. If it’s not yours, don’t take it.          |
| 4. Work for 6, rest for 1. | 9. Tell the truth.                            |
| 5. Obey your parents       | 10. Don’t be jealous of other people’s stuff. |



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