



Lesson 6

Read Deuteronomy 6: 1-12

1. The “shema” (V.4-5) is a word that means “hear” and is a fundamental truth regarding Israel’s understanding of God. It is a central commandment of the Old Testament and is repeated daily in the life of Jewish communities. Why do you think Jesus quotes the “shema” in Matthew 22: 37-40?
2. List the ways the Israelites are intended to follow the commandments of God (v. 6-15.) Why do you think God asks the Israelites to follow Him in these ways?

Read Deuteronomy 6:10–12

3. How should the words of the Lord in verses 10 and 11 create a people filled with humility? What is the warning he gives in verse 12, and what is its basis? Why is it so dangerous to forget about God?
4. What is it about the fulfilled promises of the Lord to the people of Israel that would cause them to forget the Lord? Do you feel closest to Christ when times are good, or when times are bad? What can we do to ensure that we remember the promises of the Lord in all situations?

Read Joshua 1: 1-9

5. The phrase “Be strong and courageous” occurs three times as God commissions Joshua to go into the promised land. Why do you think the emphasis is on this phrase?

Read Exodus 32-34

6. Do you find it easy or difficult to read long sections of Scripture? What are some advantages and disadvantages of reading this way? How might you make this a practice?

Read Exodus 32:1–6

7. Israel falls into sin before the Ten Commandments get written down! The people saw that Moses hadn’t returned, they desired gods to lead them, and Aaron took their gold jewelry to make the golden calf. What surprises you about this passage? What do the people say in verse 1 that demonstrates such a callous disregard for Moses?

8. Why do the Israelites give credit to the golden calf for bringing them out of Egypt when it was clearly the Lord who delivered them from the Egyptians? What are ways in which you are tempted to give credit to something or someone else (or yourself) rather than to God?

Read Exodus 32:7–14

9. How would you respond if you were Moses receiving the commandments of God on the mountain only to descend and see the people of God worshipping a calf made from gold jewelry? How does your reaction compare with God's (v. 9-10)
10. The Lord tells Moses about the golden calf while he is still up on the mountain, and that he will destroy the people and start over with Moses as he did with Abraham to make a great nation of him. What is Moses' response? To what promises does he appeal, and what is the Lord's response?
11. The Lord relents of his decision to consume the people from the face of the earth after Moses intercedes for them (verse 14) We have seen descriptions of the Lord in our other studies so far, how do you wrestle with this one?

Read Exodus 32:15–35

12. Who does Moses first blame for the fall (again!) of the people? See verse 21. How is Aaron's response like Adam in the garden when the Lord called him out of hiding? See Genesis 3:9–12.
13. Moses called people to declare their allegiance and come to his side. The sons of Levi were the ones to respond, and when ordered to kill their brother rebels in their midst they did so—three thousand died that day. Why is it important that God judges sin?

Read Exodus 34:1–28, highlight 34:6–7

14. In the midst of a rebellious people and his faithful servant Moses, the Lord reveals his character in a way that illuminates the entirety of Scripture. A merciful, kind, overflowing loving God forgives sin, but he will in no way leave sin unpunished. How is this seeming contradiction reconciled in the work of Jesus Christ?

Read Exodus 34:29–35 and Luke 9:28–36

15. Why was Moses' face shining when he came down from Sinai? How was Peter's reaction to the transfigured Christ like that of the people of Israel to Moses? What is the significance that Moses is present in both stories?