

Road Trip Part 6 Exodus 19-20 *Do God's Rules Matter Now?*
Message to Conversation Guide

Discussion Questions – Read *Exodus 19-20*

1. Where does the opening of *Exodus 19:1-2* take place? How does this location correspond to a promise the Lord had earlier given to Moses?

Exodus 19:1-2

1 On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. 2 After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. NIV

Exodus 3:12

12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." NIV

2. The Lord's deliverance from Egypt is characterized by the image of an Eagle teaching its eaglets to fly. How does this image display God's patience and mercy and convey the purpose of the wilderness experience?

Exodus 19:4-6

4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." NIV (See *Matt. 13:44-45, 1 Peter 2:9*)

Deut. 32:9-11

*9 For the Lord's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted inheritance. 10 In a desert land he found him,
in a barren and howling waste.
He shielded him and cared for him;
he guarded him as the apple of his eye,
11 like an eagle that stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young,
that spreads its wings to catch them
and carries them aloft.*

3. According to the verse below, what is the law's real purpose? Discuss this phrase: "The law doesn't solve a problem but reveals we have a problem."

Romans 3:20

20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. NIV (see *Gal. 3:24*)

4. Read and discuss the statement below by Peter Ennis and what the keeping the law does not do:

"The Israelites are not to keep the law in order for God to save them. They have already been saved; God has brought them out of Egypt. The law he now gives is the subsequent stage in Israel's developing relationship with God. It is what is expected of a people already redeemed. It is law, but it is based on the prior establishment of the relationship between them by God's good pleasure. The people do not earn their salvation; but once saved, they are obligated to act in a manner worthy of their high calling. This is true in the New Testament as well (see Eph. 4: 1; 2 Thess. 1:11)."
Peter Ennis

5. Often, people view the Ten Commandments as a quiz. If we get most of them right, we will pass and be admitted into the family of God and be righteous. How does the verse below debunk this view?

James 2:10
10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. NIV

6. How does the sermon on the mount expand on the ten commandments?
(See **Matthew 5-7**)
7. In the New Covenant the law is written on our hearts not on tablets of stone. What is the significance of this and why is it better?

Jeremiah 31:33-34
33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord.
"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
34 No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"

(Also see Heb. 10:16, 2 Cor. 3:3, Ezek. 11:19)

8. What ten commandments did the Apostle Paul struggle to keep?