



EXODUS

YHWH GOES TO WAR!

Small Group Guide: Approaching a Holy God

Based on Exodus 19 - Israel at Mount Sinai

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to help you understand His holiness and the amazing grace He offers through Jesus Christ.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you felt genuinely scared or in awe of something powerful in nature (a storm, the ocean, mountains, etc.). What made it so overwhelming?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- 1. God's Holiness is Terrifying - God's transcendence and otherness should inspire reverence and holy fear**
 - 2. Israel's Purpose - Called to be a "kingdom of priests" to show God's glory to all nations**
 - 3. The Law Reveals Our Need - The Ten Commandments expose our inability to meet God's standard**
 - 4. Jesus Fulfilled the Law - Christ perfectly kept all the commandments we cannot keep**
 - 5. Grace Through Christ - We approach God not in our own righteousness, but covered in Jesus' righteousness**
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Discussion Questions

Understanding God's Holiness

1. How has your view of God changed over time? Have you developed a "softened view" of God as the pastor mentioned? Why do you think that happens?
2. Read Exodus 19:16-19. What details stand out to you about God's appearance on Mount Sinai? Why do you think God revealed Himself this way?
3. The pastor said, "Sometimes when I read the Bible and see how God's mind works, I get scared." Have you ever experienced this? Share an example.

Israel's Calling

4. What does it mean that Israel was called to be a "kingdom of priests" (Exodus 19:6)? How does this apply to the church today?
5. God said, "If you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession." What was God's purpose in setting Israel apart? How does that shape our understanding of obedience?

The Ten Commandments

6. Review the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). Which commandment challenges you the most personally? Why?
7. The first four commandments focus on loving God; the last six on loving others. How does Jesus' summary of the law (Matthew 22:37-40) help us understand this division?
8. The pastor emphasized that the last commandment—"do not covet"—is about the heart, not just actions. Why is this significant? How does it connect to Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount?

Jesus Fulfills the Law

9. Jesus said He came to "fulfill the law, not abolish it" (Matthew 5:17). What's the difference? How does this change how we read the Old Testament law?
10. The pastor said, "These commandments for us convict us. For Jesus, they describe Him." Discuss this statement. How does viewing the law this way change your perspective?
11. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does being "covered in Christ's righteousness" enable us to approach a holy God?

Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for individual reflection:

- Where am I falling short of God's standard?
- Am I truly resting in Christ's righteousness, or am I trying to earn God's favor?
- How can I better reflect God's glory to those around me this week?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose One or More):

1. **Worship Audit:** Examine your life for "other gods"—anything that competes with God for your worship, time, or affection. Confess and surrender one specific area to God.
 2. **Sabbath Practice:** Dedicate one full day this week to rest and worship. Plan ahead to eliminate work and focus entirely on God and refreshment.
 3. **Heart Check:** Journal about areas where you struggle with coveting. What desires are driving your thoughts and actions? Pray for contentment in Christ.
 4. **Priestly Living:** Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus. Pray for them daily and look for one opportunity to "intercede" for them or share God's story.
 5. **Name of God Study:** Throughout the week, whenever you pray or worship, intentionally use the name "Yahweh" and reflect on what it means that God has revealed Himself to you.
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Group Prayer Time

Prayer Prompts:

- Thank God for His holiness and for revealing Himself to us
 - Confess areas where we've fallen short of His standard
 - Thank Jesus for fulfilling the law on our behalf
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live as "a kingdom of priests" in our daily lives
 - Pray for specific needs within the group
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Memory Verse

Exodus 19:5-6 *"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; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."*

Looking Ahead

Next week we'll likely explore the Ten Commandments in greater detail or move into the case laws that follow. Come prepared to discuss how God's law shapes a community that reflects His character.

Closing Thought

"We are staring at Yahweh who is like a tornado on top of a mountain exploding with lava, ready to consume us. But, for the grace of God in Jesus Christ, who has fulfilled this covenant relationship... I'm going to bring you to myself through Jesus."

The question is: Do you believe?