

# *Week Seven:* The God Who Sanctifies His People

## Exodus 29:1-32:35

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### Question

What does it mean to be God's holy people?

### Key Verse

*"And the Lord said to Moses, 'You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you.'"* — Exodus 31:12-13

### Session Introduction

The Lord has led his people out of the land of Egypt and out of the bondage of slavery. Now he must teach them how to live as his holy people. The Lord set his love upon the nation of Israel. As his chosen people, they are to live differently than the other nations.

As the Lord provides instructions for his tabernacle, the priests, and the sacrificial system, the people will see that there is a cost to holiness. Sin requires costly atonement. If the Lord will come and dwell among his people, they must be prepared. Throughout these chapters, we will learn about the specificity of that preparation and the intentionality of living a holy life.

A holy lifestyle must affect every aspect of their lives – their worship, their diet, their laws, their relationships. The Apostle Peter writes: *"You shall be holy, for I am holy"* (1 Peter 1:16). Just as the nation of Israel was called to live as the Lord's set apart nation, so we as followers of Christ today are called to live holy lives that reflect the glory of God to the world.

## Reading Plan: Week Seven

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Reading</i>	
43	Oct 4	Exodus 29:1-21	
44	Oct 5	Exodus 29:22-46	
45	Oct 6	Exodus 30:1-21	
46	Oct 7	Exodus 30:22-38	
47	Oct 8	Exodus 31:1-18	
48	Oct 9	Exodus 32:1-20	
49	Oct 10	Exodus 32:21-35	

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## Exodus: Leaving Egypt

### *Opening Prayer*

Only you, Lord, can cleanse us of our sins. You have called us to live as your set apart people, as people who are distinct from the world. Help us to embrace this call. Help us in our weakness. Create in us a desire for you, for your will, and for your way in our lives. Consecrate us today by your Holy Spirit. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

### *Getting Started*

1. What do you think it means to be holy? What about holiness is most challenging to you?
2. How would you characterize a holy person? Who is an example of a holy person for you?

## Sinai: Meeting at the Mountain

### *Watch the Video*

#### *Video Notes*

**Keep the Sabbath.** The Sabbath is God's covenant with the nation of Israel. They are to work for six days, but on the seventh day, they are to rest just as the Lord worked for six days in creation and on the seventh day rested. In keeping this covenant, the nation of Israel was reminded that they were the Lord's people. He was the one who rescued them out of the land of Egypt, and he is the one who will sanctify them as his people.

**Give a tithe to God.** Just as Yahweh is the one who rescued them from slavery, he is also the one who provides for them. We see the water from the rock and the daily provision of manna and quail. Since God is the giver of every good gift, the people are to learn the act of a tithe – the giving back to God from all that he has entrusted to them. All that the Israelites have is a gift from God.

**Israel is a holy people and a kingdom of priests.** While every other nation surrounding the Israelites served many gods, the nation of Israel was called to worship the one true God—and him alone. They were not to create for themselves any idols. The Lord understood their propensity to worship the work of their hands. He wanted full access to their hearts and to live in a special relationship with them. To do so, they needed to be cleansed of all other forms of worship. The entire nation was set apart as a holy people to mediate God's covenant to the world.

## Shema: Hearing God's Covenant Word

### *Read Exodus 29:38-46: Consecration*

3. If God were to dwell among his people, they must be consecrated and set apart. Why do you think it was required to offer animal sacrifices in order to meet with God?
4. The priests are instructed to make a daily offering of lambs, one lamb offered in the morning and another lamb offered at twilight. What is the significance of this continual offering? Compare these offerings with the offering of Jesus in Hebrews 9:24-26.

5. What do you think it means that the people will be sanctified by God's glory (29:43)? Read Hebrews 10:10. How does Jesus sanctify us today?

## Tabernacle: Journeying with Glory

6. What is the attitude towards sin in our society today? Do you think that we as a church take sin seriously?
  7. Discuss the commandment to keep the Sabbath holy. What did that look like for the nation of Israel, and what does that look like for you today? Why do you think the Sabbath holds such importance to God?
  8. The gift of the tithe demonstrates that we know that all good things come from the hand of God. Peter calls us to be cheerful givers. What is your heart towards the giving of the tithe (10% of your income)? What has been most challenging for you in tithing, and when have you seen blessings from tithing?
  9. In Romans 12, we are called to a new kind of sacrifice. Paul writes, *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship"* (Romans 12:1). What does it look like to offer yourself, your body as a living sacrifice to God?
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## Prayer Requests

You may want to share prayer requests with one another. There's a Prayer & Praise Journal found on p. 46 where you can keep track of your group's requests. Have someone close in prayer or pray together as a group.

## Closing Prayer