

God's People

5 Steps for Studying Lesson 9

Exodus 18:1-20:21

Step 1:

Pray! Pray before, during, and after your study time!
Ask God to help you understand His Word!

Memory Verse

And God spoke all of these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

– Exodus 20:1-3

Step 2:

Observe the text.

One tool for observing a text is to mark words and phrases as you read and reread the text. As part of your study materials, you were provided a 'Marking Key' - a sheet with all of the words and phrases that you will be marking for this study in Exodus. Locate this Marking Key in your study materials. If you have not already, take a moment to decide how you are going to mark each item on the list and mark it on your Marking Key. Reference your key often so that you are using the same method for marking each word and phrase throughout the study.

After reading through Exodus 18:1-20:21 once, reread it and mark the specified words/phrases:

- ◇ Time phrases
- ◇ Geographical locations (Egypt, Wilderness, Red Sea)
 - ◇ Mt Horeb, Mt Sinai, Mt of God
 - ◇ The land (references to the Promised Land)
- ◇ God / LORD
- ◇ Moses
- ◇ Pharaoh, King of Egypt
- ◇ Delivered
- ◇ Slavery, affliction, oppress/oppression
- ◇ Consecrate
- ◇ Commandments of God, laws, statutes

Lesson 9, Exodus 18:1-20:21

Step 3:

Observe, interpret, and apply as you answer the study questions.

1. When Moses' father-in-law arrives with Moses' wife and sons, Moses describes to him all that the LORD had done for Israel. What was Jethro's response?
2. What did Jethro see Moses doing on the day after he ate before the LORD with Moses, Aaron and the elders of Israel?
3. Why was it "not good" and what did Jethro suggest as a solution?
4. Does Moses take Jethro's advice? After all of Moses' success in leading the people out of slavery in Egypt, how could Moses have been tempted to respond to Jethro?

What character quality do we see in Moses based on his response and his willingness to allow other men to serve Israel in judging smaller matters?

Chapter 19 begins with describing that Israel has arrived in the wilderness of Sinai and there they encamped before the mountain.

5. Why would the mountain of Sinai have been significant to Moses?
6. What does it mean when God said of Israel, "I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself"?
7. In Exodus 19:5-6 God says that Israel will be His "treasured possession... a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." What is God communicating to Israel by these statements in Exodus?
8. As you consider God's powerful salvation and abundant provision for Israel as He brought them out of Egypt to Himself at Mt. Sinai, how is it encouraging to you to consider that Peter describes Christians in the same terms in 1 Peter 2:9 as God does Israel in Exodus 19:5-6?

Lesson 9, Exodus 18:1-20:21

9. What purpose does God give in Exodus 19:9 for coming to the people of Israel?

10. According to Exodus 19:10-15, how were the people to prepare for God to visit them?

11. When the giving of the 'Ten Commandments' is taught, the tendency is to skip directly from "And God spoke all these words" to the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me." However, there is declaration in verse 2 that should not be skipped over. What is that declaration?

What difference might it make to the people of Israel to hear those words before the commandments are given?

12. The people of Israel were brought out from the camp by Moses to 'meet' God at Mount Sinai. (19:17) God met with them there. Using the account in Exodus 19-20 and Deuteronomy 5:22-27, how did God make His presence known to them?

13. Why is the form of God's presence important as you consider the commandment given in Exodus 20:4-5 and reiterated in Deuteronomy 4:15-19?

14. How did they respond to God's presence according to Exodus 20:18-20 and Deuteronomy 5:24-29?

15. What did the people of Israel ask Moses to do for them and how did God respond to their request? (Exodus 20:18-19, Deuteronomy 5:27-30)

Lesson 9, Exodus 18:1-20:21

16. Hebrews 12:28-29 says (speaking to Christians), "...let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." God has not changed from the Old Testament to today. What words are used in this verse for how should we approach God?
17. How does this compare with how the world thinks of God today? (What might be lacking in the world's understanding of God?)
18. We do not have Moses as an intermediary between us and God as Israel did. Who is our intermediary under the new covenant according to Hebrews 12:24?

19. The law shows God's holy standard and, relative to that, man's sinfulness. The law did not cause Israel—or us—to sin but rather brings to light the sin that already exists in each person's life (Romans 3:19-20, 7:7-13).

Under the law, death is the due penalty for all sin (Ezekiel 18:20, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:22). Praise the Lord we are no longer under the law!

Read Hebrews 9:14-15 and Romans 3:21-22. If we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ, why are we no longer under the law?

20. Read Romans 6:15-19 and Romans 7:4-6. If you are a Christian, you are free from the law because, by faith, you have died to the law with Christ. If this is true for you, what should characterize your life now? (See especially 6:19 and 7:4)

No we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe..."

- Romans 3:19-22

Lesson 9, Exodus 18:1-20:21

Step 4:

Review and learn together—notes from class

Step 5:

Reflect, Pray and Apply

Before moving on, look back over your notes from the lesson. Pray through it. Ask God to show you where and how you need to apply this to your life. Ask God to help you!

Take a moment to make a note for yourself about personal application.

Final Reflections

Take a moment to review your study of the book of Exodus chapters 1–20.

Write down a few things that stood out to you from the study.

How has your understanding of who God is changed?

How has God grown you during the course of the study of Exodus?

How has this study impacted your understanding of your salvation or of your need for salvation?

If you are in Christ, spend some time in prayer worshiping God for all that He has revealed Himself to be and for the redemption you have in Jesus Christ!

If you are not a Christian but you understand your need to be reconciled to God, turn to God in prayer and in faith that God will do all that He says He will in His Word; ask Him to cover your sin by the blood of Jesus Christ. Confess to God that you are a sinner, that you have violated His holiness by your sin, that you understand you deserve death because of your sin, but that you want to give your life to Him in return for receiving the righteousness of Jesus Christ on your account and eternal life with Him!