

New Commands and a New Covenant

The Story – Chapter 5; Exodus 19-20; 24-25; 32-34; 40

Personal Study Guide

October 4-10, 2021

Read the chapter from *The Story* in one sitting. Consider doing the reflection questions on three separate days to put space between your learning and allow for better and deeper retention. If three separate reflection times aren't practical, you may choose to read and answer all three days' questions in one extended personal devotional time.

Day One

1. Why do you think God went “over the top” with His frightening display of power at Mount Sinai (page 60)? One of the reasons God gave for showing such power was to help keep people from sinning. How much does experiencing God's tremendous power keep you from sinning? What else has God said or done that helps you resist sin?
2. How does each of the Ten Commandments (page 61-62) show something of who God is by what it prohibits? Which one seems especially appropriate for you to keep in mind as you head into this week?

Day Two

1. Most of us would not be tempted to melt down our possessions, like the Israelites did, into a god we would then worship (page 64). But do you ever let your possessions control you? How do you sometimes allow things you own to interfere with your supreme affection for, and obedience to, God?
2. Note that Aaron constructed an altar in front of the calf idol (page 64) and spoke of having a festival to the Lord—as if to justify the idea that as long as we include the true God, we can have other gods, too. What might be a modern parallel to this kind of spiritual dishonesty? How can you protect yourself from such self-deception?

Day Three

1. The text says God spoke to Moses “face to face, as one speaks to a friend” (page 67). Jesus once told His disciples they were His “friends” (John 15:15). Why do you suppose that what God wants most from us is friendship (even though we keep sinning)? What stands in the way of you becoming a better friend to God?
2. God expressed His commitment to Moses as leader of the Israelites in warm terms: He said His “presence will go with” Moses, He was “pleased” with him, and He knew Moses “by name” (page 67). Write a brief note as if from God expressing those same ideas with your name as the one He is addressing.