

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

## "HOW TO WORSHIP GOD" | EXODUS 20: 1-11 | PASTOR BRIAN

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is a common "rule" to live by or what is your personal favorite "rule" to live by?

### *"The Object and Limitations of Our Worship" - (Exodus 20: 1-6)*

The first 2 commandments reveal God is to be worshipped above all else, and not to use idols in His worship. Why would it make sense that God would ask to be first in people's lives?

### *"The Reverence of Our Worship" - (Exodus 20: 7)*

God tells people to not misuse His name, but to have high respect for His reputation and character. What are ways people misuse His name today?

### *"The Regularity of Our Worship" - (Exodus 20: 8-11)*

Everyone in the whole community was to rest and focus on God 1 day a week on the Sabbath, regardless of wealth or status, showing that they trusted God over their own work or desires to provide. What are ways to make sure to rest and focus on God? What gets in the way of doing that?

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

Pastor Brian emphasizes that these laws were never meant to save people, but to provide and protect them after they had been saved. The 10 commandments and the rest of the law reveal how much people need a saving and that they can't save themselves. In your own life, are still trying to save yourself through following the law? Or are you putting your faith and trust into Jesus?

## How To Worship God

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Lar: GS. FH. Moms. C@R. Men's Min. Men's Trailer.
- B. Slide8 Our Sanctuary bathroom renovation begins this week. Please note to use the bathrooms on the other hallway, starting next week.
- C. Slide9 Join me Wed Night we're in 1st Peter (2nd ½ of ch.1)

### II. Slide10 Intro:

- A. God is *not* a cosmic killjoy who wants to take the fun out of life by giving us Laws to live by.
  1. There is a story of a high school **guy** who wanted to go swimming with his **girlfriend** at midnight. The neighbors down the block had a pool, and he knew it. So they ran down there and scaled the fence even though there were **No Trespassing** and **Do Not Enter** signs. Just as he hit the diving board, the girl yelled, **but it was too late**. There was only a foot of water in the pool. He broke his neck, and he's in therapy to this day. He didn't realize that the signs on the fence, the **precepts**, would have **protected** him.<sup>1</sup>
  2. Remember, Laws are for **our protection** and **our provision**.
- B. Slide11a **The Bible** is about understanding the nature *and* activity of God. Though *overly simplistic* it is a How-to-book for **approaching God**.
  1. The Bible is **NOT** a *behavior manual*, **not** a list of what **to do** **and** **not to do** *to make God happy*.
  2. Slide11b The scroll of **Exodus** weaves together **stories** about divine actions **and** **conversations** around those actions.
  3. It opens with an **absent** God, who becomes **present** in *plague and destruction*. **But** we can quickly see *this plague-bringing deity* has **other**

<sup>1</sup> Josh McDowell, New Man, March/April 1995, p. 55

job descriptions. He makes covenants, and practices a radical commitment to mercy.

4. Let's remember also that Exodus doesn't provide all the answers of who God is, we have 65 other books!
5. And our attitude should **not** be as a **technician** holding God under a microscope, but more like a **poet** trying to find words for the **inexpressible**.

C. **Pray:**

D. **Slide12a Let's Catch Up.** ch.19 God made a **covenant** w/the entire nation of Israel, *making certain promises to them* & they would have certain **obligations** as His servants<sup>2</sup>

1. They need to know **how to conduct themselves, how they should live.**
2. As a people who had a **relationship** with the living God, they had to **act** a certain way, **God's way!**
3. **Slide12b** The nature of these **10 commands** are: *They originated from God. They express His will for His people. They are commands, not suggestions. They are clear, simple, and exact. There are only 10 of them. They establish a healthy fear of God.* **READ 20:1-11**

E. **Slide13** Our goal is to **Know & Worship God**. In this chapter we learn **God is Moral**. He shows us His Morality through the **10 Commandments/His Judicial law** (always existed but now codified). To understand this **Judicial Law** He gives us *examples & application* in His **Ceremony Law** (following ch's)

1. **One example:** when *your ox goes and kill someone*, **how will you be held accountable to that?** This is simply a **Civil application** of the 6th Com. against murder. **So, negligent homicide** is wrong because of the 6th Com.

F. **Slide14** Let's start with **Jesus!** Mark 12:28-31 (a rel teacher asked) *Which commandment is the most important of all* (1st, most imp, 1st in rank)? *29 Jesus answered, The most important is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And*

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Chuck Swindoll. Moses, pg.135.

*you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 31 The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.*

1. Slide15 Jesus in the NT, speaks to *the 10 commandments, 2 recognizable sections, 1-4 loving God, & 6-10 loving man.*
  - a) Side note: the 5th comm *to honor parents*, is *the bridge/link*, because it is a *reverence* for *those who give us life* which relates closely to the *reverence* for *The Ultimate Source of life.*
2. The *New Commandment of love* is the basic motivation for the Christian today. *The old nature knows* no law, *and the new nature needs* no law.

G. Slide16a **The Law.** *In 3000 years no one has ever come up with a better system than the God based 10 Commandments for making a better world, and no one ever will.* Dennis Pragger

1. **A.K.A. The Law of Moses** (the Mosaic system), **the Law or the Law of God** (Torah). *We speak of ...*
2. **The Moral Law** (referring to the 10 Com.).  
**The Ceremonial Law** (the types & symbols found in **sacrificial system**).  
**The Civil Law** (meaning the **everyday laws** that governed the lives of the people)
  - a) Slide16b Why 10 laws, well actually 613. All of the OT Law is but **an amplification and application** of the 10 Comm.
3. The 613 fit into 4 basic categories: **holiness** (to set them apart from the other nations), **justice** (treat everyone well, imago dei, all worthy of dignity), **sacrifice** (ritual symbols that connect them to God) **sacred time** (#7 like keeping the Sabbath. Feasts, etc.).
  - a) **The Law does not** save sinners, it reveals **God's holiness**, **and** man's need for salvation.
  - b) **The Law** is a **mirror** that shows us how **dirty** we are, **but** it does not provide the **cleansing** we need. [the 1st divine command in the bible was **not** kept, *do not eat from the tree*]

- c) The Law was written on tables of stone, but under the new covenant, God writes His word on our hearts.
- d) To me the best definition of the law is that *it is an invitation to trust God's wisdom.*

### III. Slide17 HOW TO WORSHIP GOD (1-11)<sup>3</sup>

#### A. THE OBJECT OF OUR WORSHIP (1-3) 1st Commandment

B. *1 And God spoke all these words, saying, 2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 You shall have no other gods before me.*

C. (vs.1) These are God's words, *God spoke all these words.*

D. (vs.2) This is who He is, *I am the Lord your God.*

1. 10 commandments are *predicated* on the belief that they were given on an authority higher than any man, in a king, any government. *They came from God.*
2. This speaks of *monotheism*. In **Egypt** God could've just went straight to #10 plague, but he wanted to *obliterate the Egyptian gods*. Because it wasn't just about getting the Hebrews out of Egypt, but getting Egypt out of the Hebrews.

E. The 10 Commandments *root worship* in the nature of who God is.

#### F. Slide18 THE LIMITATIONS OF OUR WORSHIP (4-6) 2nd Commandment

G. *4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

H. He prescribes how we can honor God. He says how He wants to be worshiped.

<sup>3</sup> From Voddie Bauchman's Outline of Ex.20.

1. This prohibits idolatry. The core idea behind **idolatry** was to *provide a tangible representative of the deity on earth and to maintain the favor of that deity through caring for its idol.*
  - a) Paul rightly described the heart of **idolatry** as, *the worship of the things God created instead of the **Creator Himself*** (Rom 1:25).
  - b) *We do not offer our worship to anyone or anything but God.*
2. This commandment **did not prohibit** the use of **any symbols of God's presence**. We will later see that **the Ark of the Covenant** is one such object. [Apparently, the commandment does not forbid *objects that represent* God's presence, **but** the worship of *these objects as if* they were **God himself**].
3. **3rd and 4th generation** - This passage does not suggest that **future innocents** will be held morally accountable for the sins of **ancestors**, **but** refers to *the mutual consequences of sins.*
  - a) The OT contains *no examples* of people being **vicariously punished** for the **sins of others**. [Deut 24:16 explicitly rejects vicarious punishment]. **Yet** others would ultimately experience the **consequences** of sin.

I. **Slide19a THE REVERENCE OF OUR WORSHIP (7) 3rd Commandment**

J. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.*

K. **Reverencing the name of God leads to a culture of respect.**

1. We are not to take his name lightly. **In vain** = *worthlessness, valueless.*
2. Do not misuse his name. (it is **not specified** on how we might misuse it)

L. **We should not presume** that God will endorse what we do. (don't just tack His name to it)

M. This is not just about what we **do not say**, it is more about what we **do say**.

1. **Slide19b** The primary place for the use of God's name is **in worship**, make sure you use it there. *Use God's name in honoring, world-creating*

ways *rather than* dishonoring, life-destroying ones. William Brown

N. Slide20 THE REGULARITY OF OUR WORSHIP (8-11) 4th Commandment

O. 8 *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.* 9 *Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,* 10 *but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.* 11 *For in six days the Lord **made** heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and **rested** on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the **Sabbath day** and made it **holy**.* (set apart)

P. The 7th day is **holy time**. It's why we worship **weekly**, **and** not every 40 days.

1. The law of the Sabbath rests on the assumption that **we can trust God enough** to lay aside our habits of **greed and covetousness**, **and** our desires to reduce others to the level of things.

2. It also creates a community of **respect** and **dignity** involving ALL its members (all humanity). **No one could be treated as a tool** for the use of **others** (think HT). Everyone gets to rest, regardless of social status. **And** this provides **a rhythm to life**.

a) How do you find a **religious rhythm** to your life? What helps you to do that? What hinders you from doing that?

3. **See** unlike their lives in Egypt, in which **every day** offered **the same drudgery and utter vulnerability**, their **new life with God** will be one in which they can afford to **rest from their labors** in the confidence that **they will be provided for**. They can **cease being animals** and become **human beings**, just as God originally intended them to be. The lesson of **trust** could hardly be **clearer**.

Q. **John Newton** (the former slave trader, **that** was converted & wrote *Amazing Grace*) wrote about **a kite** that was **soaring high** ... **but** so wanted to be **set free**. He felt so **confined** from his string that kept him **bound** to the earth. Till one day he broke free. **But** it couldn't soar away, **but instead plunged to the ground**.

1. We need these **Laws** are for **our protection** and **our provision**.

R. **The End:**

S. **The Law** persuades everyone they are sinners. Everyone falls short. All are guilty. And everyone needs a savior.

1. Gal.3:24 *therefore the law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.*
2. This morning where do you stand regarding the law? Are you condemned by it or freed from it?
  - a) If you have not yet trusted in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, a guilty verdict stands against you. **However**, you can receive a ***pardon*** from God, by placing your **faith** in **His Son**.
3. *If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Through the heart one believes into righteousness, with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* Rom.10:9,10.