

Press to Re-Start
Leviticus 25:8-55
Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Question (get everyone involved in discussion): Share about a time when you wish you could have had a “re-boot”... either a particular circumstance, or a long-term set of circumstances.

Transition: We’re wrapping up our series called “Eavesdropping.” We’re trying to understand what the Jewish laws, written long before Christ, might have to do with us today. *And if you’re looking for a re-boot, you might just find it in Leviticus 25.* In Lev. 25, God is speaking to Moses at Mt. Sinai, right after the Hebrew people have come out of Egypt. These are the laws that they are to follow when they enter the Promised Land.

Read Leviticus 25:8-17, 23-24, 39-43, and 54-55.

- What did the “Year of Jubilee” (the law consecrating the 50th year) mean to the original listeners, the OT Israelites? How did it apply to their context?
- If you need help with the above question, what do each of the three statements below mean in relation to Year of the Jubilee back then?
 - Rest for land and laborers
 - Re-set for property ownership
 - Release for people.
- In updating this passage to today, Pastor Josh mentioned three timeless principles. First, how does **God value a rhythm of hard work and restorative rest**? Can you think of any other Bible passages or verses on this subject?
- By obeying God’s injunction to rest, what are we honoring about God? What are we recognizing about ourselves?
- Second, how might recognizing that **God is the owner and giver of everything that we have** influence our lives?
 - Back then, what would be your reaction to God if you had lost everything and got it back during the Year of Jubilee?
 - Back then, what would be a godly reaction if you owned many properties but had to return them during the Year of Jubilee?
 - What reaction do you have today, to the thought that God is the owner and giver of everything you have?
- Third, **God owns people, not us.**
 - In what ways do you tend to relate with people for what they can do for you? What might be a different way to relate with these people?
 - How much do you try to control people instead of letting them be free to make their own decisions?
 - To raise a past issue, how might pornography or lust be a way of trying to own someone?

When Jesus began his public ministry, according to the Gospel of Luke, he gives his “inaugural sermon.” **Read Luke 4:14-21.** (Jesus here quotes Isaiah 61:1-2, which refer to the Year of Jubilee.)

- In what ways do you see the “Jubilee” theme showing up in the words of Jesus?
- In what ways did Jesus fulfill the Year of Jubilee, in his first coming?
- Are there aspects of the Jubilee Year which remain unfulfilled until the second coming of Jesus?
- Since Jesus here is saying he has inaugurated a permanent Year of Jubilee – a permanent state of rest from justifying yourself by your work, of resetting our view of ownership over material things, and release for people – **how might his “Jubilee” affect you today? Does one of those themes touch you in a particular way?**
 - Do you need **rest** from the constant burden of having to prove yourself by your performance?
 - Do you need to **reset** your perspective on ownership, whether you own a lot or you own little?
 - Do you need **release** from a pattern of heartache because of your own propensity to sin, to make bad choices that are self-destructive? [Or do you just need **release** from a past sin or sinful pattern that you haven’t given to God?]
- How might our church community be a “Jubilee community?” What would that look like?
- In Sunday’s sermon, we once again used Lou’s “Interpretive Journey” approach to interpret and apply a concept from the Old Testament Law. How do you feel about your ability to use this approach with other passages that you come across in your Bible reading? Does the OT Law feel any less intimidating?

Let’s move into Prayer

- Among our prayer requests, let’s pray that God might show us where we need rest from striving, reset on ownership, and release from sin. Pray for any needs that surfaced in these areas.