SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN

EXODUS 19 & 20

RELATIONAL CONNECT & CHECK-IN

When you hear the phrase "Ten Commandments," what comes to mind first: rules, restrictions, guidance, relationship, something else? Why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Exodus 19:3–6 and **Exodus 20:1–17**.

1. God calls Israel His "treasured possession" and a "holy nation." The sermons described ***holy*** as being set apart for a special purpose. Where do you feel that you're doing well in this area? What area of your life is naturally a struggle?

2. **"These are God's Ten Commandments, not God's Ten Suggestions."** How does that statement resonate with you?

Read Exodus 20:1-6 again.

3. The first commandment establishes that God alone deserves first place in our life. Most of us aren't tempted to make a golden calf, but we still allow "good" things to take God's place. How can we tell when a good thing has become an idol?

Read Exodus 20:7 and **1 Corinthians 10:31**

4. The challenge isn't to simply avoid misusing God's name with our words, but to live in a way that glorifies God's name. Think about your work, family, friendships, social media, finances, and private life. How can we determine whether or not our life is bringing God glory in each of those areas?

Read Matthew 22:36-40

5. Jesus summarized the heart of God's commands in two directions...what are they? How do we do that?

Read Matthew 5:21-22 and **5:27-28.**

6. Jesus takes the commandments deeper than simply avoiding murder or adultery. He addresses anger, contempt and lust in the heart. Why is outward rule-keeping easier than allow God to deal with what's happening inside us?

7. "Moral failure rarely happens overnight and almost always begins in the mind." Where have you seen that principle play out in life. Are there tell tale signs that someone is sliding?

Read Exodus 20:15-16

8. A powerful point in the sermon was when Roger asked, "Where have you stolen something from your loved ones?" He was talking about stealing time and affection from his spouse, kids, grandkids, etc. How does that resonate with you?

Read Exodus 20:17

9. The final commandment is different because it deals with something happening inside of us: coveting (aka the quest for contentment). What practices help us become grateful for what God has given us, no matter the circumstance?

ACTION STEP

Take ten quiet minutes this week and slowly read Exodus 20:1–17. After each commandment, stop and ask: **"God, is there anything in this area of my life that You want to change?"** **Lastly:** How can we pray as a group for you as a group? Be honest...