

Wednesday

Read Exodus 20:7; Phil 2:1-13

QUESTIONS

1. What is God's name that he should be so concerned about the way that it is used ?
2. At whose name will every knee bow? Who is the Lord?
3. What does this tell you about the importance of this person?
4. How does the third commandment apply to Christians today?

PONDER

What practical steps should you take to honour and glorify the name of the Lord in your day-to-day life?

PRAYER IDEAS

Ask God to help you to honour his Son so that his name might be glorified.

Thursday

Read Exodus 20:7-10; Hebrews 4:1-16; Colossians 2:16-18

QUESTIONS

1. God loves sabbath (Gen 2:2-3). Why do you think it is part of The Law?
2. What is the "Sabbath rest" spoken about in Hebrews 4?
3. Who makes it possible for you to enter this 'rest'?
4. What must you avoid or do in order to enter it?

PONDER

Does the fourth commandment apply to Christians today? If so, how?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank God for allowing you to enter his rest through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Friday

Read Exodus 20:12; Matthew 15:1-9; 10:32-39

QUESTIONS

1. What point is Jesus making in the Matthew 15 passage?
2. What point is Jesus making in the Matthew 10 passage?

PONDER

How does Jesus help you to understand how to put the fifth commandment into practice?

PRAYER IDEAS

Ask your heavenly Father to help you to love and honour him not only with your lips, but also with your life.



15 Steps through the Bible

Law

On their way to the Promised Land, Israel was given instructions on how to live in their new land. These instructions told Israel about what it meant to be in a special relationship with their God. The law told them how to live as God's saved people—how to live as the people through whom the whole world would ultimately be blessed. The most famous part of the Old Testament law is the Ten Commandments.

Deuteronomy 6:1–2

"These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life."

More detail

The Law given to Moses on the way to the Promised Land shows us:

Who God is

God is holy, because sin must be avoided, and paid for (with sacrifices). God is also loving, because he allows sinful people to relate to him in this way. God is also a ruler whose commandments reflect his own justice and holiness.

EXODUS 34:4-7

So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the Lord had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands.⁵ Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

What God does

He calls his people to respond to his act of rescue by living in right relationship with himself.

Deuteronomy 6:20-25

²¹ In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you?" ²¹ tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

²² Before our eyes the Lord sent miraculous signs and wonders—great and terrible—upon Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. ²³ But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land that he promised on oath to our forefathers.

²⁴ *The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.*

²⁵ *And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”*

How God works

God saves people in order that they should live his way under his rule.

EXODUS 19:3-6

⁴ *Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.*

⁵ *Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”*

The people of Israel repeatedly fell short of the law of God.

They sinned time and again. But Jesus is the ‘end’ of the law and the ‘fulfilment’ of the law (Rom 10:4; Matt 5:17; see below).

His righteousness—his complete obedience to God—can be shared by those who trust in him.

Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded, and we share in his righteousness if we have faith in him.

Related Passages:

ROMANS 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

MATTHEW 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

QUESTIONS

What reasons are given for obeying the law?

Read through the ‘More detail’ section. What’s something that strikes you about what God reveals here?

How well did Israel do at keeping the law?

PONDER

What chance did Israel have of obeying the law? What chance do you have?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank God for the way his law points out his complete goodness, holiness, and justice. Praise him for the fulfilment of the law in Jesus Christ, and the way we share in his righteousness by faith.

Further Readings

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Introduction

Everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments. But how many of them could you list? Do they even matter anyway?

In terms of our 15-step Bible Overview, this set of readings on the 10 commandments are centered on the *Law* given by God during the *Exodus* from Egypt.

Jesus also had a fair bit to say about these commandments throughout his *Life* in his teaching ministry.

This week’s reading helps us to see how the commandments provide a concise guide to how to live in proper relationship with God and with other people.

PRAYER

You might like to use this prayer (or your own variation of it) before each of these daily readings

*Dear Father,
Thank you for opening the door for me to relationship with you through Jesus.
Help me to relate to you and to everyone I meet properly. For the sake of your Son,
Amen.*

Monday

Read Exodus 19:1-6, 19:16 - 20:21

QUESTIONS

1. Who spoke the commandments?
2. Where were the Israelites when they heard these words? Where had they been previously?

3. Why couldn’t the people or priests go up the mountain on which God had descended?

PONDER

Why were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank God for speaking to you and for saving you from slavery to sin through Jesus Christ just like he saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

Tuesday

Read Exodus 20:4-6; John 1:18; 4:19-24; 14:6-10

QUESTIONS

1. Who is Jesus?
2. If you have ‘seen’ Jesus, who have you really ‘seen’?
3. What do these passages tell you about the way you are to relate to God today?

PONDER

If Christians don’t relate to God through the use of visible images or statues, how should you relate to God?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank God for revealing himself to you through his Son, Jesus. Ask him to help you to trust in him.