

Small Group Material

God Speaks: Exodus 19. 1 - 25

Welcome Where were you when you first experienced the reality of God? What happened there? What feelings do you have for this place?

Worship (*Don't start by saying everything that you are going to do. Lead step by step.*)

- 1) Give everyone a copy of the words of the hymn 'Rock of Ages' (see below). Read it - then give a couple of minutes of silence for people to meditate on the words.
- 2) Have a time of worship and praise, picking up from what was shared in the Welcome time as well as from the hymn.
- 3) Sing or watch: Purify my heart
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6awdZ1cekk>

Word Read Exodus 19.1-25

v.4 - 6. What does God expect from his people? What does he promise will result?

What right does God have to dictate the terms of the covenant?

Compare this with Genesis 12.1-3? (*Leaders' note: notice the instruction to obey him, v5, comes after God's act of deliverance, v4. ie law follows grace. Behaviour follows believing.*)

v6,10-15. How do God's people become a 'kingdom of priests' and 'a holy nation'? (Compare with 1 Peter 2.9-10)

v12-13, 21-24. Why is there so much emphasis on barring people from the mountain? on washing their clothes? on abstaining from sex? on the dense cloud, thunder, lightening, trumpet blasts, smoke etc?

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;

Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,

Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labor of my hands

What do these images tell you about the importance of what is happening?

v9,19-20. As the covenant is with all the people, why does God only want Moses on the mountain with him?

What roles do Aaron and the elders play in this? cf v7,8,24.

For discussion. After all that was said and done, who met with God that day? Only Moses? Aaron and the priests too? The people as well?

Discuss how they each may have met God that day.

When did you last truly experience the presence of God? What impact did it have on you? Would you want to meet God face-to-face?

What has Jesus done so that we can approach Jesus with confidence? cf Hebrew 10.19-25

Witness

Pray for Teresa May and our government, esp Brexit negotiations.

Baptism by immersion on Nov 25th. Pray that many people will come forward and pray for them as they take this step. (See my separate email)

Samaritans Purse shoeboxes. Bless a child this Christmas and you could be blessing them for life! There are wonderful stories of how a shoebox was the start of a journey of coming to Christ. Here's a link to some. <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/god-uses-operation-christmas-child-to-change-a-disabled-boys-life-in-mongolia/>

Pack a box as a Small Group - or even more simply, you can do it on line (scroll to the bottom of this link to do that)

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>

Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyes shall close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown,
And behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

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