

Getting Started

What's one of the first things you do every day?

Word

Read aloud Exodus 20:1-2

1. Notice how God identifies himself in v.1: *I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.* Think about other ways God might have identified himself, e.g., *I am the LORD your God, who created the heavens and the earth.* Why do you think God chose the exodus as his distinguishing mark?

2. The First Commandment is found in v.3: *you shall have no other gods before me.* In *The Message* it is phrased: *No other Gods, only me.* Why do you suppose this commandment is first?

3. These words by Bible scholar, Peter Enns, are helpful:

"We must keep in mind at the outset that the Decalogue [The Ten Commandments] is no mere list of laws given in the abstract. It is given by God to a people he has just redeemed. They reflect the manner in which his people are to be 'holy.' It is, therefore, safe to say that these laws are more than simply good rules to live by. They show us something of the nature of God, and for this they deserve our close attention. We see in them not simply 'what we must do' but what God is like."

What does the first commandment show us about what "God is like"?

4. In the first commandment, God asks for our loyalty. We are to have no loyalties above our loyalty to God. Compare this to the words of Jesus who said: "... 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." How are you loyal to God? How are you strengthening your loyalty to God? What in your daily life gets in the way of your loyalty to God?

Share

Invite the people in your group to share any blessings or concerns they have from the past week.

Prayer

Pray for each other in sentence prayers.

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April 22, 2018

God's Top Ten: No Other Gods

Exodus 20:1-2

Sermon Notes

1. Why does God identify himself in v.1 with the Exodus?

2. Why is the First Commandment first?

Events/reminders for the coming week:

People you want to pray for:

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