



SDG Discussion Guide

Exodus 20:3-17; Matthew 5:17-48;
Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9

November 12, 2017

As time permits, read aloud the selected texts in your group, taking turns as you can. Make note of what points and questions are raised for you for your following discussion.

For starters:

In your growing up years did anyone "lay down the law?" How did you try to abide by the rules? Or bend them?

If you were entirely in charge of everything in your life for a day, what new rule would you put into place?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. What passed for an idol back then (see Dt 4:15-19)? And now? (What about money, things, celebrities, status symbols?)
2. How is the Lord's name misused in both deed and word?
3. What is the rationale for the Sabbath (see Ex 20:8-11; Ex 16:21-30; Dt 5:14-15)?
4. Behavior that honors parents -- what does it look like? Who then is blessed?
5. How does murder vary from killing? What does Jesus add to this at Mt 5:21-22?
6. What happens to a couple when one commits adultery? What does Jesus add to this at Mt 5:28?
7. What passes for stealing? What forms of stealing are worse than others?
8. Is lying okay if it doesn't injure another, as a false witness does? How about "little white lies?"
9. What passes for coveting (Ex 20:17) as Jesus defines sins of the heart (see Mt 5:21-30)?
10. Restate each of these Ten Commandments positively as the "Ten Freedoms."
11. From Ex 19:4-6, what does God expect from the people? What does he promise will result?
12. How do you respond to Peter's description of you, and other Christians, in 1 Pt 2:9?

How can your group pray for each other? Spend some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you to pray. Listen and pray as he leads you.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).