



SDG Discussion Guide

Exodus 32:1-14, 31-35;
33:1-6, 12-17

November 19, 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:

What do you have a hard time waiting for? Why?

If you could have it answered this side of heaven, what question would you ask God?

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.)

Questions 1, 2 and 3 come from 32:1-14.

1. How long has Moses been away on the mountain (32:1 and see Ex 24:18)? How do you think the people felt about being in the middle of the desert with no leader and direction?
2. How do the people's subsequent actions violate the Ten Commandments they had heard earlier?
3. How do God and Moses feel about the golden calf? On what basis is each justified in taking a stand? Why does God relent? What about God does not change (see Numbers 23:19)?
4. What is Moses' role in setting things right again? What exemplary qualities are evident in his bargaining with God? (32:31-35)?
5. At 33:12-17, what concerns does Moses bring to God? What do these concerns have in common with the people (see 32:1)?
6. What does the presence of God (or lack of it) mean to Moses? What ensures Israel's continuing existence? (33:12-17)
7. What do you do when you feel God has stopped speaking to you: a) Keep trying to gain his attention? b) Try to "break away" from the situation? c) Take your "gold" (other resources) and make another "god"? d) Fall back on old coping methods? e) Wait for God to break the silence?
8. When someone "lets you off the hook" (forgives a debt, withholds a penalty, gives a second chance), how do you feel towards that person? Likewise, how does God want you to feel about his forgiveness?
9. Describe a time when, while doing something for God, you were absolutely confident that his presence was with you. What can you learn now about your relationship with God from recalling that time?

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).