

Bible Stories for Adults

Israel Comes to Mount Sinai

Exodus 15 - 33

Opening

- Gathering: Share something that happened to you that led you to Trust in the Lord.
- Today's Focus: God works actively in the lives of those He loves to enable them to become all He intends.
- Key Verses: *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.* John 14:1
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Trust in the Lord <=== Write this on the board (see page 4)

- Why did God go through the plague process to get His people out of Egypt?
Deuteronomy 29:2-3 = To display his power to Israel so they would Trust in the Lord
- Did the Israelites recognize God's almighty power and put their trust in Him?
Deuteronomy 29:4 = No, God had not helped them see, hear or understand
- Why did they need God's help? It looks pretty obvious to us.
1 Corinthians 2:7-10 (1-16) = They needed God to reveal it to them by His Spirit

- How would God use Israel's events and experiences in the wilderness to teach them to trust in Him?
Deuteronomy 29:5-6 = *I did this so you might know I am the Lord your God*
- Did the miraculous Red Sea crossing have any affect on teaching the Israelites to Trust in the Lord?
Exodus 14:30-31 = *the people feared the Lord and put their trust in Him*
- How long did this faithful trust last?
Exodus 15:22-24 = They grumbled against Moses within 3 days, *Marah* means *bitter*

Crisis & Trials (*Exodus 14-17*) = Thru crises & trials God taught His people to Trust in Him <-- Add to board

CRISIS

GOD'S RESPONSE

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| = | Exodus 14:10-12 | Exodus 14:13-14, 28-29 (14:13-15:21) |
| = | Afraid of Egyptians chasing | God saved Israel, they trusted Him |
| = | Exodus 15:22-24 | Exodus 15:25-27 |
| = | Only bitter water | God made water sweet, brought them to an oasis (Elim) |
| = | Exodus 16:2-3 (1-3) | Exodus 16:11-15 (4-36) |
| = | No food | Quail in evening, manna in morning - manna = "what is it" |
| = | Exodus 17:3 (1-4) | Exodus 17:6 (5-7) |
| = | No water | Water from the rock |
| = | Exodus 17:8 | Exodus 17:10-13 (9-16) |
| = | Amalekites attack Israel | Israel defeats Amalek |

- Did God's intervention always achieve the desired results?
Numbers 14:11 = How long will they refuse to believe, in spite of miracles
- What was God's intention when He intervened in a crisis?
Exodus 14:31-15:2 = He is my strength & salvation <= To build TRUST

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Bread of Heaven (*Exodus 16*)

How did God remind the Israelites every day to Trust in the Lord?

Exodus 16:17-21 = Provided manna every day, only lasted one day

Why were the people instructed to gather a double supply on the sixth day?

Exodus 16:23-27 = Seventh day is Sabbath (day of rest)

What miraculous sign did God give for our crises and trials?

John 6:30-35 = Jesus is the true bread from heaven, bread of life

Organization (*Exodus 18*) = Was critical in the beginning years of this new nation <-- Add to board

What kind of leadership did the Israelites have at first?

Exodus 18:13-16 (18:1-16) = Only Moses; everyone came to Moses to judge disputes

What was Jethro's concern about this approach?

Exodus 18:17-18 = Too many people; You will wear yourselves out

What was Jethro's recommendation?

Exodus 18:19-22 (18:19-27) = Teach God's laws, Appoint leaders of 10s, 50s, 100s, 1000s

What other organizational steps did this new kingdom take?

Numbers 1 = Tribal leaders appointed, Census taken of all tribes - Why book is *Numbers*

Numbers 2 = Systematic encampment and breaking of camp by tribe

Numbers 3-4 = Specific religious duties for Levite clans

Numbers 10:1-10 = Orderly communications system with trumpets

Law & Legislation (*Exodus 19-31*) = A basic set of rules to start the nation on the right foot <-- Add to board

How long had Israel traveled when they reached Mount Sinai?

Exodus 19:1-3 = Three months, God gave instructions to Moses for Israel

How did Moses know that God would speak to him on Mount Sinai?

Exodus 3:12 = God called Moses at Sinai, said he'd return with Israel to worship

What is the basic message God had for the Israelites on Sinai?

Exodus 19:4-6 = Obey me & keep covenant, you'll be my kingdom of priests & holy nation

How did Israel respond?

Exodus 19:7-8 = *We will do everything the Lord has said*

Three types of Law in the Old Testament:

Civil - Exodus 21:33-34 (*Exodus 21-23*) = Political law of Jews, evolves with government

Ceremonial - Leviticus 23:26-27 (*Leviticus*) = Religious practices of the OT Jews, evolves

Moral - Exodus 20:1-3 (*Exodus 20*) = 10 Commandments, never changes, written into heart

Laws were made for a *people*, not a *person*

The Ten Commandments - *Exodus 20*

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Exodus 20:3-6 | You shall have no other gods before Me. |
| 2. Exodus 20:7 | You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. |
| 3. Exodus 20:8-11 | Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. |
| 4. Exodus 20:12 | Honor your father and your mother. |
| 5. Exodus 20:13 | You shall not murder. |
| 6. Exodus 20:14 | You shall not commit adultery. |
| 7. Exodus 20:15 | You shall not steal. |
| 8. Exodus 20:16 | You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. |
| 9. Exodus 20:17a | You shall not covet your neighbor's house. |
| 10. Exodus 20:17b | You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. |

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Luther's Explanation

What is the summary of the first tablet of the Law (Commandments 1-3)?

Matthew 22:37-38 (Deut 6:5) = Love Yahweh, your God, with all your heart, soul & mind

What is the summary of the second tablet of the Law (Commandments 4-10)?

Matthew 22:39-40 (Leviticus 19:18) = *You shall love your neighbor as yourself*

What is the summary of all the Commandments?

Romans 13:8-10 = *Love is the fulfillment of the Law*

How well does God want us to keep His Commandments?

Matthew 5:48 = *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect*

James 2:10-11 = Whoever keeps the whole Law but breaks one point is guilty of all

Can man keep God's Commandments as He wants us to keep them?

1 John 1:8 = If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves & truth is not in us

How, then, can anyone be saved by the Law?

Galatians 3:11 = No man is justified by the Law in the sight of God

Where alone can we find salvation from sin?

Romans 10:4 = Christ is the end of the Law to give righteousness to all who believe

What, then, is the purpose of the Law?

A curb = Defines the limits, Stops outbursts of sin & keeps order in the world

1 Timothy 1:8-9 = Law not for righteous, but for sinners

A mirror = Shows us our sin. Shows us we are unable to be perfect.

Romans 7:7 = *I would not have known what sin was except through the Law*

A rule = Teaches us how to live a God-pleasing and blessed life

Psalms 119:1, 9 (Psalm 119) = Live according to God's Word to keep way pure

The Golden Calf (Exodus 32-33)

How faithful were the Israelites while Moses receiving God's Law on Sinai?

Exodus 32:1, 4 (1-6) = Impatient for Moses to return, had Aaron make a god for them

Which tablet had Israel broken?

Exodus 20 = First Tablet (Commandments 1-3) - Love the Lord your God

How did Moses react when he returned and how was his reaction appropriate? = Anger burned

Exodus 32:19-20 (15-20, 25-29) = Need to love God in order to truly love your neighbor

How did Aaron explain what he had done? = Blamed it on the people, Didn't take responsibility

Exodus 32:21-24 = *I threw the gold into the fire and out came this calf*

What was God's initial response to this idolatry?

Exodus 32:9-10 = Destroy them and turn Moses into a great nation, actually a test for Moses

How well did Moses pass this test?

Exodus 32:12, 14 (11-14) = He passed – Recognized it was about Israel, not him

How did Moses try to offer himself as atonement?

Exodus 32:30-32 = Forgive their sin, or else blot me out of Your Book

What did God say that especially turned the Israelites to repentance?

Exodus 33:3-4 (32:30-33:6) = *I will not go with you, because I might destroy you on the way*

How did God respond when Moses asked God to stay with Israel?

Exodus 33:15-17 (7-23) = He would go with Israel for Moses' sake

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Rigid Discipline = To be God's Chosen People & *be a blessing*, must be strictly disciplined

How were the Israelites punished for the Golden Calf?

Exodus 32:20 = Burned & ground calf to powder, made Israel drink it

Exodus 32:26-28 = Levites killed those not for the Lord - 3000 people

Exodus 32:35 = Struck people with a plague

<u>SIN</u>	<u>GOD'S DISCIPLINE</u>
= Idolatry (Golden Calf) Exodus 32:1-6 Leviticus 10:1	Exodus 32:28, 35 Executions & Plague Leviticus 10:2
= Abusing religious duties Leviticus 24:11	Burned in God's fire Leviticus 24:13-14
= Blasphemed (cursed) God Numbers 12:1-2	Stoned by assembly (Jesus accused of blaspheme) Numbers 12:9-10
= Jealousy (Miriam of Moses) Numbers 16:3	Leprosy Numbers 16:31-33
= Disrespect for authority	Swallowed by earthquake

Summary - God formed His new nation through these things to teach them to

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Closing Prayer

Response

1. Do I trust in the Lord when I encounter crises and trials?
(Exodus 14:10-12; 15:22-24; 16:2-3; 17:1-3; Psalm 27:1-5; 46:1-3; 56:3-4; 2 Peter 2:4-9)
2. Do I recognize the mighty acts and wonders God does in my life?
(Exodus 14:21-31; 15:25; 16:4-36; 17:5-7; 17:9-13; Deuteronomy 4:32-40)
3. In what ways has God called me to lead in His kingdom and how have I responded?
(Exodus 18:19-23; 28:1; 32:21-25; Numbers 3:5-10; 12:1-8; 16; Romans 12:4-8; Eph 4:11-16)
4. How do I view God's Law and apply it to my life? (Deuteronomy 5-6; Psalm 119)
5. When has God disciplined me as a loving father? What effect has it had?
(Exodus 32:25-35; Psalm 94:12; 119:67, 71; Hebrews 12:4-11; Revelation 13:19)