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Discussion Questions

Exodus 19 - 24

November 21, 2004

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Exodus 19-24 - Discussion Questions

1. Announcements

- a. **The Great Thanksgiving Outreach 2004 - WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!!!** - Here are some testimonies:

Testimony #1

My name is Alan. I was one of the group leaders for the one of the Special-Ops teams at the rescue mission. Although we didn't get to bring back anyone for the dinner or the program, I was blessed and am assuming that the others in our group were as well. The first blessing to me was seeing 95 people be faithful and go out to do God's work. One big blessing to me was that there was a married couple in my group who has never gone out and ministered to the homeless before, and at the beginning they were shy, quiet, and kind of just watching those of us whom have done this before. But by the end of the day they were talking with the homeless, sharing scripture with them, and just encouraging them. So that was encouraging to me.

Your brother in the Lord,
Alan

Testimony #2

Wow. Today was totally a blessing from God. I have a few group points, and then some personal ones. Our small group went, and it was really nice that the eight of us were able to go together. We had a few good sized guys, so Andre sent us to a supposedly pretty rough area -- between 10th and 16th, between C and Market. We talked to a ton of people.

It seemed like everyone asked us for socks, and we quickly ran out. We talked about trying to organize some sort of sock drive -- maybe putting some Bible verses and granola bars in them or something. We met a man on the street who said he was saved and didn't need our bags, but who pointed us to an area where a few people were sitting who did need our aid and our prayers.

We were praying for a group of men at one point, when another man drove up and started buying drugs from one of them. Definitely a new experience for us!

We ended up bringing three men back with us, and everyone from our group seemed to feel truly blessed by the day.

Now, once we got back to the Mission things became very interesting for me. I'm a doctor, and one of the guys we brought back said he didn't want to eat, just to see a doctor. I talked to him for a while (through an interpreter as he only spoke Spanish), and couldn't really figure out what was wrong with him. In any case, one of the ladies who worked at the Mission asked me to talk to another guy who was throwing up, and who had just walked out.

So, I caught him in the street and sat down with him across the street from the Mission. It turns out he had been drinking vodka all day after doing drugs all night, and his stomach just couldn't handle solid food. He was pretty hostile to me as I was asking him medical questions, so I finally asked if he'd like me to just leave him alone. He said no, and asked me to just sit with him for a while. He eventually started to feel a little better and started talking, and it turns out he had taken the Lord into his heart a long time ago, but had continually fallen prey to the flesh, and had done a lot of bad things. He said he'd been hearing Jesus a lot in his heart lately, and had been praying that morning for some fellowship and was really touched that I had stayed with him.

We prayed for a little bit, and then something really incredible happened. He sat up, looked me in the eye, and proceeded to tell me some things that I needed to change in my own life and ways to improve my prayer life and my walk with the Lord. I swear it was Jesus talking to me through this man, saying exactly what I needed to hear, and I was completely floored. Right after that one of his "friends" came by, and they started to head back downtown. I asked him if he was sure he really wanted to go, or if he wanted to stay for a while. He stopped, thought for a little bit, got a little choked up, and said he did want to stay. He said he never wanted to go back downtown to the drugs and other bad things he had been doing. He asked me if I'd take him back to his wife and kids in El Cajon so he could start straightening himself out. Some small group friends and I did



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drive him back, and he gave me his phone number and asked me to keep checking in with him to make sure he was doing OK.

So, I'll give him a call tomorrow and see how his first day was. Hopefully, with the Lord's help, he'll be all right. I truly thank Jesus for today and for touching my heart and my soul the way he did through Mike.

Thanks,
Chris

Testimony #3

Our team of 10 broke off into 2 carloads of 5 each. Our team was designated to go to Point Loma. At first our car got disappointed that we were not in a higher density area because we did not find one homeless person until 2:45. But we really felt that God had called us to Point Loma this day for a purpose.

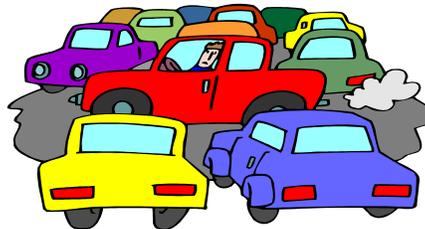
We met Gill, a homeless man living in the brush by a nearby park. If someone was not looking for Gill he would not have been found. His sleeping bag was tucked away into a corner of the park that no one would ever pass through. Gill had such a sweet gentle spirit about him. He told us that of all of his years being homeless we were the first people who had ever sought out **after** homeless instead of getting away homeless. His only interactions with people wishing to speak with him were police. (Gill was the only person that our group spoke with today.)

We had a great time listening to Gill's story and our group had a chance of sharing our personal testimonies. We also spent a great time praying and sharing God's Word. Gill did not want to come with us to the San Diego Rescue Mission. His viewpoint was that he has been independent his whole life and that if he wants to get his life back together, he can do it by his own means. According to him, agencies like the Mission are for people who cannot get it together by themselves. It was sad to see how little he settles for in life. His day consists of reading the paper and playing with his calculator. And he admits that everyday he is cold and hungry. As I have been reflecting about this experience, God calls to my attention how much humankind is like Gill. We settle for less. We settle for a comfortable life, we settle for understanding just enough of the Bible, we settle for impacting just a few people in our life, we settle for a good enough relationship with God, we settle for a small picture of the kingdom of God.

Our group thought, "Why would Gill settle for less when food, shelter, and a new life is at his fingertips?" It can be apparent to us that the homeless who choose to be homeless settle for less. But it is not as apparent to us when we settle for less of God's work in and through our lives. I hope that every person who participated in today's experience and with the Rock church would consider how little we settle for. Jesus offers us real life!

Caroline

b. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! TO SERVE IN THE PARKING LOT MINISTRY!!



To sign up or for more information
Contact Brian Rodgers

Email: brianr@therocksandiego.org

Phone: 619-226-7625 x 278

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- c. **Miles Ahead Toys for Joy: Friday, December 10, 5-10 PM at Iglesia Bethel.** Our goal is to collect 3,000 toys to benefit the less fortunate children in San Diego! For more information, contact Johnny Martinez at x243 or johnnym@milesahead.com.

i. Bring your toy donations on Sunday! We need 3000, but only have 500...!!!!1

- d. **Community Leaders/ Coaches** - Please take time to contact the people/groups you are shepherding this week. It is critical that we make connections, and find out how we can minister and provide assistance. If you are unsure of who you are coaching, or who your coach is, you can e-mail Melissa at melissak@therocksandiego.org, or Carolyn at carolyny@therocksandiego.org
- e. **New Series Starting Soon:** Do you want to make great friends? Is it time to take another step forward in your relationship with God? The second Life Together series, "Developing Your Shape to Serve Others," begins **November 14!** Get connected. For more information, contact Carolyn at x247 or carolyny@therocksandiego.org.
- f. **Men's Ministry Year End Breakfast:** Join us in the new Rock sanctuary on Saturday, **December 11**, 8-10 AM for food, fellowship, and a special message from guest speaker, Pastor Shawn Mitchell! Sign up at the Men of the Rock table in Ministry Alley. Cost is just \$3.
- g. **Dunamis:** Tuesday, **November 30**, an incredible, Spirit-filled time of worship and corporate prayer for the Rock church. Don't miss Dunamis! We meet from 7-9 PM at First Assembly of God, **8404 Phyllis Place**. For more information, contact **Suzanne Lederer** at the church office.
- h. **Prison Ministry:** Are you interested in ministering to the incarcerated? Attend a monthly orientation for Donovan State Prison on **December 6**. For details, contact Roger Ziegler at 619.475.7343 or 619.813.6188.

2. Memory Verse

Exodus 20:3 - "You shall have no other gods before me"

3. Discussion Questions

- 1) Read **Exodus 19:1-6**
 - a) How long had the Israelites been gone from Egypt? (**Ex 19:1**)
 - b) Who all at this point had direct access to God? Was it only Moses? (**Ex 33:9-11, Num 12**)
 - c) **Verse 5** states, "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine."
 - 1) What does it mean to "Obey Gods voice?"
 - 2) How do we know what it sounds like?



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- 3) Is Gods voice ever going to tell you something contrary to the Bible?
 - 4) What is His Covenant? (The Lords solemn arrangements with the Israelites on Mt Sinai, sometimes called the Mosaic covenant.)
 - 5) What happens when they obey Gods voice, and keep His covenant? What benefit would this be to the Israelites?
 - d) **Verse 6** talks about them doing this and being a “Kingdom of priests, and a Holy nation.”
 - 1) Did God know what was going to happen when He said these things?
 - a) If He did, why would He say these things?
- 2) Read the account of God visiting the Israelites, and their experience (**Ex 19:16-20**)
 - a) Why did God choose to reveal himself only in a cloud? (**Judges 13:21-23**)
 - b) We read that the sound of the trumpet was very loud, and all the Israelites heard it in the camp. Read about some other times we learn of a trumpet blast...(**Is 27:13, 1 Cor. 15:52, 1 Thess. 4:16**)
 - 3) Discuss the significance of the commandments being written in stone.
 - a) *Hint:* If they are written in stone, they cannot be changed, both sides means they are complete, etc.
 - 4) So, let’s look at the ten commandments. (**Ex 20**)
 - a) Commandment #1 (**Ex 20:3**) - God is one! He is the Lord!
 - 1) What are some other gods we can put before God?
 - a) Careers? Children?
 - b) Commandment #2 (**Ex 20:4-6**) - God is spirit.
 - 1) What are some examples of carved images we may try to put before Him?
 - a) Ourselves? Statues?
 - b) Discuss the following statement, “The moment you try to define God, you will limit Him!”
 - 2) God is a Jealous God (**verse 5**). Why is he jealous?
 - c) Commandment #3 (**Ex 20:7**) - Gods name must be respected!
 - 1) What are some ways we might take Gods name in vain?
 - a) By trivializing it, or regarding it as insignificant.
 - b) Using it to try to coax God to do something that would violate his Character and purpose.
 - c) Using it to worship thoughtlessly.
 - d) Commandment #4 (**Ex 20:8**) - God must be worshipped regularly.
 - 1) We are called to remember the Sabbath, and keep it holy.
 - a) What is a Sabbath? (**Dt 5:15**)
 - b) Why are we different from the rest of the world by remembering it?



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- c) How would you explain to your neighbor why you are remembering the Sabbath?
 - e) Commandment #5 (**Ex 20:12**) - Honor your parents.
 - 1) Honor means, "Treat with great significance."
 - a) What does this look like today?
 - b) How does our society treat our parents?
 - f) Commandment #6 (**Ex 20:13**) - Honor human life.
 - 1) Do not murder. Discuss the various provisions to this commandment. (**Ex 21:15-17, 23, Ex 17:8-16**)
 - a) What happened to Officers of the state when they murdered, Naboth (**1 Kings 21**)
 - g) Commandment #7 (**Ex 20:14**) - Honor your marriage covenant
 - 1) You shall not commit adultery.
 - a) What is adultery? We all know marital infidelity, how about pornography, lust, etc?
 - h) Commandment #8 (**Ex 20:15**) - Honor the property of others.
 - 1) You shall not steal.
 - a) Why would this be a commandment?
 - b) What are the things you can steal?
 - i. Did you consider stealing credit form something?
 - ii. Did you consider stealing compliments?
 - i) Commandment #9 (**Ex 20:16**) - Honor the character of others.
 - 1) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
 - a) You should never say anything derogatory about someone else...what about your life should you change as a result of this?
 - b) How would you describe this to a friend?
 - j) Commandment #10 (**Ex 20:17**) - Honor your emotional boundaries.
 - 1) Do not covet things your neighbor has.
 - a) The word, covet, means to "have a strong desire for."
 - i. What happens to us when we covet something, meaning when we have an uncontrolled, inordinate, selfish desire for it?
 - ii. What would happen if we did not control these urges?
- 5) Considering the law, the 10 commandments, do you know anyone who is able to keep all ten of them?
- a) What was the purpose of the law if we cannot keep these rules?
 - b) Discuss the following statement, "The purpose of the law is to lead us to repentance."
 - 1) The commandments cannot change our hearts.
- 6) Read **Matthew 22:34-40**



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a) What can we learn from this passage?