

Video Link:

https://youtu.be/G_OIRWGLdnw

Read:

[Hebrews 10:9-25](#)

For the Israelites, animal sacrifice was a symbol to demonstrate the cost of [sin](#), but it showed how God could cleanse and remove their sin. Animal sacrifices pointed ahead to Jesus, the “lamb of God,” who would come to take away sin once and for all. When we remember Jesus’ death on the cross, we recognize the devastating effects of our sin and see his power to forgive. And in Jesus’ resurrection, we can experience God’s power to remove the deadly effects of our sin. His sacrifice brings life to all who trust in him.

Let’s reflect on this. Feel free to engage with all the questions or just a few right now. You can also reflect throughout the week by focusing on one question per day.

Question 1:

As you review today’s passage, pay attention to the details. What word, phrase, or idea stands out to you?

Question 2:

Ponder the meaning of verse 14. What do you think it means to be made complete in Jesus while still in the process of being made holy and complete?

Question 3:

How did Jesus complete his work on our behalf (see vv. 9-10)? How is he still completing his work in and through us? (see vv. 15-25)?

Question 4:

1 John 1:9 says that when we admit our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us. What comes to mind when you think about how you’ve sinned against God and others? Why is it hard to be honest about our failings? What is needed for a community to be a safe place where people can be honest with one another? What step can you take this week to build this kind of community?

Question 5:

Take time now to receive and rely on God’s forgiveness. He’s listening and he cares for you. Ask him to remove your sin from your record and wash away your guilt and shame. What feelings, images, or thoughts come to mind as you invite Jesus to take away your sin?

Question 6:

When God removes our sin, he makes us pure and commits to help us live in his love. Who in your life needs encouragement today? What can you sacrifice to show them the love of Jesus?

Question 7:

Turn your reflections into a prayer. Express your amazement to God for the sacrifice he made to make you completely clean. Admit where you struggle to rely on him. Choose to receive his forgiveness and then forgive others who have wronged you too and ask for his help to share his love and encouragement to others this week.

Video Link:

<https://youtu.be/b0GhR-2kPKI>

Read:

[Exodus 19:1-6](#)

God rescued Israel from slavery for a specific purpose. He wanted to transform them into a kingdom of priests who would represent his presence and character to all nations around them. God rescues us for the same purpose. As we rely on Jesus and live by his [Spirit](#) of [wisdom](#), [justice](#), and [love](#), we become reflections of who he is to the world around us.

Feel free to reflect on all the questions or simply a few right now. You can also reflect throughout the week by focusing on one question per day.

Question 1:

As you review today's passage, pay attention to the details. What is something that stood out to you as you read?

Question 2:

Notice the figure of speech God uses in Exodus 19:4. This is the first time "eagles' wings" are mentioned in the Bible, but it won't be the last. Consider some of the ways later biblical authors hyperlink to this Exodus passage to describe God's rescuing love for his people. Compare today's passage with Deuteronomy 32:10-12, Isaiah 40:29-31, and Revelation 12:13-14. What do you notice?

Question 3:

God rescued Israel for a purpose. Study Exodus 19:4-6 and take note of the specific ways God describes the identity he wants his people to receive. According to this passage, what does God want his people to be? How are they to receive this identity?

Question 4:

Centuries later, the apostle Peter references these verses in Exodus. Read 1 Peter 2:4-9 and take note of the relationship between trust and obedience. What do you notice?

Question 5:

When God's people trust and obey God's wise, just, and loving commands, how do they impact the communities around them? What happens to these communities when God's people neglect to trust and obey him? Consider specific examples from the Bible as well as your own experiences.

Question 6:

Let's invite God's Spirit of wisdom to empower us to trust, obey, and reflect his character. Ask God how he wants to show his wisdom, justice, and love through you today. Listen for what he may bring to your mind.

Question 7:

Turn your reflections into a prayer. Admire God for his rescuing love and agree with his plan to show his love to many through you. Ask for his help to trust and obey him, admit where you have doubted and disobeyed, and thank him for a fresh start today.

2/21/2021 Why God Gave Choice

Video Link:

<https://youtu.be/KOUV7mWDI34>

Read:

[Genesis 1:26-28](#)[Genesis 2:16-18](#)[Genesis 3:1-15](#)

God created humanity in the [image of God](#) and called them to partner with him in expanding his creation. But partnership requires trust, so God gave humanity the freedom to make their own choices. Sadly, the first humans made the choice to trust their own [wisdom](#) over God's. This began a downward spiral of selfishness, violence, and pain for humanity. But God intervened with a plan to restore humans to their place of true partnership.

Note: Feel free to reflect on all the questions or just a few. You can also return to this study throughout the week and focus on one question per day.

Question 1:

Knowing good and evil seems like a good thing, but in this story we see humans choose their own definition of good and evil over God's. How does the story help us understand what is not good about eating from the tree of knowing good and evil?

Question 2:

Consider the irony and deception in the snake's words when he says, "When you eat from the tree, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). Review Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:15-17. How are the humans already made like God? And what do they already know about what is good and bad?

Question 3:

In order to reject God's warnings, what did the first humans have to believe about God, themselves, and the fruit? Be specific. Now consider a time in your life when you neglected God's warnings. How can you relate with the first humans?

Question 4:

In order to appreciate and heed God's warnings, what do you need to believe about God, yourself, and something you struggle to avoid? Be specific and write out your answer. Why do you or don't you believe the truths on your list?

Question 5:

Review Genesis 3:7-8 and identify what kinds of things are lost after the first humans reject God's warning. How have similar consequences followed your own regrettable choices?

Question 6:

The consequences that humans face for neglecting God's warnings are difficult, but God promises hope. Review God's promise in verse 15. What do you observe? Identify a specific area in your life where you sense your need for redemption. With this in mind, how does this promise specifically impact you today?

Question 7:

How can these reflections turn into a prayer? Take time now to thank God for Jesus, who fulfilled God's promise and made a way for us to live in fellowship with God again. Be honest with God about the ways you have trusted your own understanding over his wisdom. Lift up the list you wrote in question four and ask for God's [Spirit](#) to rewrite it on your heart.

2/28/2021 When we Cry Out

Video Link:

<https://youtu.be/0uf-PgW7rqE>

Read:

[Exodus 3:1-8](#)

The Exodus story reminds us that God is faithful to act on behalf of the hurting and the oppressed. He grieves when we suffer and can be trusted to respond with [compassion](#). Feel free to reflect on all the questions or just a few right now. You can also reflect throughout the week by focusing on one question per day.

Question 1:

As you review today's passage, pay attention to the details. Notice repeated words and how each sentence connects to the next. What do you observe?

Question 2:

Horeb is later called Mount Sinai. Compare Moses' experience with [Yahweh](#) at Horeb while the Israelites were in captivity (Exodus 3:1-8) with Moses' experience with Yahweh at Sinai after the Israelites were set free (Exodus 19:16-25). Consider how Yahweh seeks to save and protect his people in both instances. What do you notice?

Question 3:

Notice how Yahweh is again depicted as a fire in Jerusalem (see Acts 2) and at the city's fortress, Mount Zion (see Hebrews 12:18-29). How are these instances similar to and different from Moses' encounter with Yahweh at the burning bush and at Mount Sinai? What do you observe?

Question 4:

Contemplate other Bible passages where Yahweh meets his people in literal fires or "fiery trials." Read Isaiah 43:1-3, Daniel 3:21-27, and 1 Peter 4:11-13. How do these passages encourage you in the midst of suffering?

Question 5:

How has God met you in the midst of your past suffering? Where do you currently sense a need for his rescue in your life?

Question 6:

God told Moses he would deliver the oppressed, and he called Moses to join him (Exodus 3:9-10). But Moses was reluctant. Why do you think Moses responded in this way? How did God help Moses overcome this attitude (Exodus 4:11-16)? How does God want to work through you to support his people this week? What are your hesitations, and how do you think God would address those today?

Question 7:

Turn your reflections into a prayer. Thank God for his rescuing power. Tell him where you need his rescuing power in your life. Ask for his help and seek him for new courage, wisdom, and creativity to advocate for the oppressed.