

Weekly Devotional

*Material taken from “The Story” curriculum by Randy Frazee with Kevin and Sherry Harney.

Session 5 – New Commands and A New Covenant

“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.” Exodus 25:8-9

The journey had begun. And, like all journeys, there is a “from” and a “to.” God saved Israel *from* slavery, and He saved them *to* become a holy nation – set apart for His purposes. Israel was to be different than the pagan nations surrounding them; they were called to honor God and to point others to this LORD. Just weeks after the exodus, God inaugurated a new covenant with Israel that, if obeyed, would shape them into the holy nation that He intended them to be.

God’s grace compels a devotion to Him alone. He is a jealous God for our benefit; all other gods lead to sin and death. His people are free – not to act any way they want, but free to become who He created them to be – holy, different, and designed to point the world to him. God didn’t just redeem Israel *from* slavery; He redeemed them *for* holiness. Their freedom did indeed carry a purpose.

Read Ch. 5 in The Story book or in your Bible:

Exodus 19:1-6, 9-25; 20:2-21; 24:3-8, 12, 15-18; 25:2, 8-9; 32:1-35; 33:1-3, 7-23; 34:1-10, 14, 27-35; 40: 34-38.

Think on these questions:

1. What does this passage tell us about GOD? (Who is God? What is God like? What has God done?)
2. What does this passage tell us about US (Human Beings)? (What/how are we supposed to be? What has gone wrong?)
3. What does this passage tell us about HOW WE SHOULD LIVE? (What has God done about what has gone wrong? What does He expect of us? How should we live?)

Closing Prayer:

As you take time to pray, here are some ideas to get you started:

- Ask God to give you a clearer vision of who he is. Pray that it will not be tainted by false understandings and childish images, but shaped and informed by his Word.
- Welcome God, in growing measure, into your heart, home, church, and workplace.
- Thank Jesus for being the ultimate, complete, and final sacrifice for sin. Celebrate that you are made clean through his shed blood on the cross.

Personal Action:

Jesus took the helpful, life-giving information of the Ten Commandments and clarified it in the Sermon on the Mount. Read Matthew 5:17-48 this week. Let Jesus’ teaching grow your understanding of how the commandments of God bring life and hope.