

<p>Monday (Aug 17<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p><b><u>Scripture: Exodus 20:1-7</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The first commandment directly addresses the reader in the second person “you.” This command insists that the true and sustained freedom of the created people of God was, and would be established and maintained when you have no other gods “<i>before me</i>”.</li> <li>2. The second commandment continue the first, but more specifically. Israel is to experience the world as created by God, never to create gods. This command ought to protect them from binding or enticing promises of the power of idols.</li> <li>3. God’s pledges everlasting loyalty to the promises &amp; commitments he made to Israel even when one generation or another fails to respond to that everlasting love. Unfaithfulness results in negative consequences for a time, God’s promises abide exponentially through generations. Is this a promise worth keeping/changing within your current situation?</li> <li>4. The third commandment refers to “Yahweh” as a direct reference to remembering who had delivered the Israelites. God’s reputation was tied to God’s name in the exodus. Is it then possible in our own worship or service within worship that we are lifting up God’s name “<i>in vain</i>”?</li> </ol>
<p>Tuesday (Aug 18<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p><b><u>Scripture: Exodus 20:8-17</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The fourth commandment refers to the Sabbath, from the verb “rest”. It requires that people trust that they could survive without working every day. The Sabbath day belongs to the Lord. Does our community (self, friendships, workplace, church, home, etc) rest in God’s provision? Is there something we can put to “rest” at God’s feet today and in the days to come?</li> <li>2. The fifth commandment’s original context was a covenant with adult children in the community to honor their parents. In turn, the young children learned (or not) to honor their parents through the honor they saw adults give to their elders. The attached promise of long life demonstrates the central value God placed on extended families for the health of the community.</li> <li>3. The sixth commandment refers killing without proper authority. Those administering justice were to take into account the motivation for the crime. Therefore it is important to provide a place where judges could render a just judgment and an appropriate sentence.</li> <li>4. The seventh commandment meant sexual fidelity within the marriage. The promise to bless the nations of the world through Israel can only be fulfilled only if the people sustained the integrity of marriages, families, and thus the community of faith.</li> <li>5. The eighth commandment prohibits theft in order to protect the goods and livelihood of the people and sustain freedom and trust. If we are not by any standards ‘poor’, are we making any strides towards lifting up and giving back?</li> <li>6. The ninth commandment instructs not to lie about your neighbor in or out of the court. God’s community is to be a place where truth is told. Is this so in your testimony right now?</li> <li>7. The tenth commandment focuses on the internal desires as an extension of the law against stealing, false witness, or adultery, or as a combination of them. It is helpful to remember the inward as well as the outward applications of the commands.</li> </ol>

<p>Wednesday (Aug 19<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p><b><u>Scripture: Exodus 20:18-26</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Only trusting in the Lord can transform being “afraid” into “fear of the Lord.” Being kept from sinning is not enough, one must trust in the Lord who gives commandments. Is this an aspect of your daily life and testimony?</li> <li>2. What are the standards of worship &amp; behavior that God expects of His people?</li> </ol>
<p>Thursday (Aug 20<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p><b><u>Scripture: Exodus 21:1-11</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The laws in this portion concern relations between people, particularly those between slaves and masters. While slavery is tolerated, its severity is mitigated in various ways.</li> <li>2. What are the principles underlying the laws about persons? In particular, what kind of relationship between slave and master is contemplated in verses 2-6? Ref. Det. 15:12-18; Je. 34:12-17.</li> </ol>
<p>Friday (Aug 21<sup>st</sup>)</p>	<p><b><u>Scripture: Exodus 21:12-36</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For what transgressions was the death penalty inflicted? Why is this?</li> <li>2. These verses concern from human violence and injury to offenses of animals (oxen) against humans, followed by offenses of property against property, and humans against property. Each law needs to be interpreted in the light of those surrounding it.</li> </ol>
<p>Saturday (Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>)</p>	<p><b><u>Scripture: Exodus 22:1-31</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What instances of careless neglect, leading to injury or loss for others are given in Ex. 21:33-22:15? Also, what does God demand of the offender in such cases? Can you think of modern parallels to the careless neglect described here?</li> </ol>
<p>Sunday (Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>)</p>	<p><b><u>Scripture: Psalm 64</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How are the psalmist’s enemies described (verses 1-6)? What are the purpose and result of God’s judgment? What truths should we take to heart, and act on when in similar circumstances?</li> </ol>

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