

Read Exodus 3:1-6. What is a priest? Do all peoples have priests?

Is a pastor the same as a priest?

Who else tends sheep in the scriptures?

What is “holy ground”? What places in the world require the removing of shoes to enter?

Do you think you would be afraid to look at God?

Read Exodus 3:7-15. Is God a God that has everything planned from the beginning or a God that responds to human needs and concerns?

What is the first cry God heard in Genesis?

What cries do you think God is hearing today?

Is the church of Jesus Christ called to listen with the ears of God and to respond on behalf of God?

Moses was reluctant. What are the ways in which you are reluctant in responding to the call of God?

Read Exodus 3:16-32. Does God need human help to do what God wants done?

Is the Lord encouraging theft?

Do the Ten Commandments only apply for the in-group?

How does Jesus view the in-group and outsiders?

Read Exodus 4:1-9. Do you believe in miracles? Do the miracles of the Bible help you to believe in God? In Jesus?

Read Exodus 4:10-17. Why did the Lord choose Moses?

Why has the Lord chosen you? What has the Lord chosen you to do?

How can we discern what the Lord has chosen for us and what we are choosing for ourselves?

Read Exodus 4:18-20. Is there power in the staff?

Read Exodus 4:21-23. What is the relationship between God and Israel?

How is this like the relationship between God and Jesus? Is the history of Israel re-enacted in Jesus life?

Read Exodus 4:24-26. What events in Genesis does this call to mind?

Read Exodus 4:27-31. What kisses do you recall in scripture?

Read Exodus 5. What changes would you like to see happen? What would be the reaction?

Has God provoked Pharaoh intentionally? Why?

Tell the story of someone who has been willing to endure opposition and complaint to accomplish an important goal.

Read Exodus 6:1-13.

Read Exodus 6:14-30.

Read Exodus 7.

Read Exodus 8:1-15. What things do you want the Lord to take away from you tomorrow?

Read Exodus 8:16-19.

Read Exodus 8:20-32. Is the Lord directing Moses to be deceitful? If so what does this teach us about the Lord?

Read Exodus 9. Who suffers in these plagues? What does this say about the Lord?

Have you ever made a vow or promise to God in a time of trial and then forgot it when things got better?

Read Exodus 10:1-20.

Read Exodus 10:21-29. What was the cost of ending the injustice of slavery in our land?

Read Exodus 11.

Do verses 2-3 indicate that the Egyptians held the children of Israel in high regard? How do these two verses fit in with the rest of what we have been reading in Exodus?

Is God just? Is God good? Who suffers from this last plague and for all the other plagues?

Who suffers most in our society for the sins of the rich and powerful?

Someone has remarked, "If God is good God is not almighty. If God is almighty, God is not good. Discuss.

Do you hope for God's blessing upon those who are most in need or upon the people who belong to your group, i.e. family, community, state, race, nation?

Is God like you or different from you?

How does Jesus cause us to see God differently?

Luther made a point of declaring that God cannot be known in the events of this world but is always hidden – wearing a mask. Only in Jesus is God revealed. Discuss.

Read chapter 12.

What is the significance of the unleavened bread? Is the reason given in verses 33- 39 hinted at anywhere else in this chapter?

What feast of remembrance do we celebrate in America? What event is remembered?

The passover is the feast of remembrance celebrated by the children of Israel. What is the feast of remembrance celebrated by Christians? How does this feast of remembrance change the symbols of the passover?

Verses 1-27 of chapter 12 may sound more like a manual for the celebration of the passover than a retelling of what actually happened on that night. Discuss. How does verse 39 relate to these instructions?

If you were writing a manual for the celebration of Thanksgiving what instructions would you include? Do you think those who celebrated the first Thanksgiving foresaw it becoming a national holiday?

How does the remembrance of past events influence how we understand ourselves today?

Only the baptized have been allowed to take Holy Communion. How does this relate to verse 43-49?

Read Exodus 13:1-2. What is the significance of setting aside the firstborn for the Lord? Do Christians follow this practice?

Read Exodus 13:3-16. What is the purpose of the festival of unleavened bread?

If future generations celebrated the festival of unleavened bread and the consecrating of the firstborn what did they learn about themselves? What did they learn about God?

The donkey is an unclean animal; a clean animal such as a lamb was substituted for an unclean animal. Does this distinction make sense at this moment in time?

Read Exodus 13:17-22. Are the people required to find their own way? What are they expected to do? How is the way God leads us similar or dissimilar to the ways he led Israel?

Where were the rest of Jacob's sons buried? How do you think Moses was aware of Joseph's request?

Is anything passed from generation to generation in your family?

Where will you be buried? Where is the place of your belonging?

Read Exodus 14:1-4. Do you think that the Lord is obsessed with punishing Pharaoh? What sort of reaction might we expect from blacks for what their ancestors suffered in being made slaves? How long were blacks slaves in America?

Have blacks suffered more violence from whites or whites from blacks? Which do you think of as being more violent – whites or blacks?

In the 1950s and 1960's what myth about violence was portrayed over and over? (Hint: "the good guys" belonged to the U.S. Calvary) Are there any ways in which these stories about Pharaoh are similar to those myths?

Do the Egyptians ever know that "I am the LORD" or do they fail to acknowledge the LORD?

How long did it take the waters to be turned into dry land? What did the LORD use to push back the water?

What happened to the chariots? Was this to be expected?

How long did it take for the sea to return to its normal depth?

What does it mean that Israel feared the LORD? Believed in the LORD? Do you fear the LORD? Do you believe in the LORD? What is the evidence of this in your life?

Read Exodus 15:1-18. What is the purpose of a song like the one in 15:1-18?

What is your favorite hymn? What is the intent of the hymn?

Read Exodus 15: 19-21. Verses 19-21 tell the same story as 14:21-15:18. Do you think 19-21 is a summary or that the other version is a later expansion?

Read Exodus 15:22-25a. What is the sequence of events in verses 22-25? Does this fit the sequence of events in your life? If this is not the pattern in your life how is the pattern in your life different?

Read Exodus 15:25b-26. These verses follow an "if-then" formula. Has this been the formula the Lord has followed up to this point? Is this the formula the LORD follows with you?

Read Exodus 16:1-4. The first thing the people do is to regret the leaving of Egypt. What does this teach us about change and anxiety?

If Moses had listened to the people would they have followed him back to Egypt?

It is said that when a change is made, things get worse before they get better. Have you experienced this in your life?

What decisions has anxiety caused you to make? What was the result?

Read Exodus 16:5-36. The glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. What do you think they saw?

Does the Lord want us to store up for tomorrow?

Does the Lord want some to have a little and others to have a lot?

What is the purpose of all the miracles in this chapter?

Read Exodus 17:1-7. Is it surprising to you that the Lord leads the people into a situation in which there is no water?

Do you think the people are unreasonable in their complaining?

What is the result of the complaining?

Read Exodus 17:8-15. What does it mean, "Joshua defeated Amalek?"

Does the Lord hold grudges?

What is the significance of Moses' holding up his arms to affect the outcome of the battle?

How do the experiences of Israel show that "everything comes from the hand of the Lord?"

Read Exodus 18:1-12. Of what god is Jethro priest?

Do you think of the god worshipped by native Americans as being the god you worship?

Is Jethro a priest? What functions of a priest does he perform? Who authorized persons to be priests in that time? Who authorizes persons who are pastors or priests in our time?

What does the text mean when it says, "they ate in the presence of God"?

How is what they did like Holy Communion? How is it different?

What practices /understandings have Christians borrowed? Is there any borrowing going on today?

Are there any practices of other religions that you would like to adopt?

Read Exodus 18:13-27. Is Jethro wiser than Moses?

Is the wisdom of the older generation valued in our culture?

Who gives you advice? Do you take the advice?

What is the importance of statutes and instructions? Who wrote these statutes and instructions? Do you think these statutes and instructions have been included in the scriptures?

Has the Lord been instructing Moses through Jethro?

What burdens do you share in the church?

Read Exodus 19:1-8. What is promised? What is expected?

What does God promise you? What does God expect from you?

What do you think of when you read the words, “a priestly kingdom and a holy nation?”

What must Israel do to be the Lord’s “treasured possession out of all the peoples?” Is love conditional?

Is confidence in ourselves a sign that we will succeed? Was Israel confident that they could do what the Lord expected?

Read Exodus 19:7-15. What happens on mountains in the New Testament?

Do you make preparation for being in the assembled people of God?

How is sexuality related to worship?

Read Genesis 19:16-25. What is the significance of the separation of the people from the Lord?

Was the Lord separated from the people in Genesis? What has changed? Has the Lord changed or the religious world changed?

Does the curtain in the temple tearing at the moment of Jesus death signify a change in the Lord?

Is God dangerous in this account? Do you think of God as being dangerous?

Read Exodus 20:1-6. How does the self-designation of the Lord change in vs.2 from the way the Lord described himself at the burning bush?

Is verse 4 to be taken literally? Are paintings included in this prohibition? Photographs?

Should our crosses be stamped with the inscription, “In God we trust”? (I know of no Lutheran hymnal that includes the hymn, “The Old Rugged Cross”)

What is the significance of our putting, “In God we trust” on our money?

Read Exodus 20:7. Why do you think using God’s name as if it were an exclamation point is so common and popular, even among those who call themselves Christians?

Read Exodus 20:8-11. What is the purpose of the Sabbath day?

Does this commandment apply to Christians?

Read Exodus 20:12-17. Are these commandments arranged in order of importance?

What does it mean to “Honor your father and mother”?

How is ours a culture that “honors sons and daughters”?

What is the difference between coveting and wanting? Is it wrong to want something someone has and offer them money for it?

Read Exodus 20:18-26. Is the people’s fear a good thing?

What is the role of a priest? How does a priest differ from a pastor?

How do the commandments in 20:23-26 differ from those in 20:1-18? How are they the same?

Read Exodus 21:1-11. What do these verses indicate about the relative importance of marriage and property rights?

According to vs. 7 a man had authority to sell his daughter as slave. Did this practice reflect the will of God? Is there any indication in this passage that God was displeased with this practice? In what way are these verses the “Word of God”?

Is there any sign in vs. 2-11 of God’s care for women?

Read Exodus 21:12-17. What is the purpose of the death penalty in these passages? Is it for the purpose of punishment or deterrence?

Read Exodus 21:18-25. Vs. 22 – How does this verse relate to the debate over abortion?

Read Exodus 21:26-36. Vs. 28 - What is the purpose of the death penalty in this case?

Vs. 29 – What is the purpose of the death penalty in this case?

Vs. 32 – Might this amount be related to the amount Judas received?

Read Exodus 22. How do these ordinances reflect God's care for all people?

What are the deeds that are punishable by death in chapter 22?

Does verse 25 still apply today? How do we decide which laws apply to us and which do not?

What is the meaning of 29? Are the sons to be sacrificed as the oxen and sheep?

Read Exodus 23:10-13. Who is to benefit from the sabbath?

Read Exodus 23:23-33. Does God want believers separated from unbelievers?

Read Exodus 24. What is the significance of blood in this account? Does blood still have the same significance for us?

Read Exodus 25. Are the concerns in this passage reflected in Jesus?

How important to you personally are the furnishings for worship spaces?

Do you think of God as being more present in the place of worship?

Read Exodus 30:22-33.

Read Exodus 31:12-18. What is inscribed on the tablets of stone?

Read Exodus 32:1-6. What causes the people to request that Aaron make gods for them? Has the anxiety of waiting ever caused you to lose hope?

Who is responsible for what the people do?

Read Exodus 32:7-14. What sort of blaming occurs as a result of the people's action?

How does Moses cause God to change his mind?

Read Exodus 15-35. How was the evil purged? Must evil always be purged?

Do you blame others for your wrongdoing?

In what ways is the Lord different from the people? In what ways is the Lord the same as the people?

Is there anything that surprises you about what the people do and how Moses and the Lord respond?

What does this chapter suggest about change and new beginnings and returning to old ways? Have you changed and made a new beginning? How did it happen?

Read Exodus 33:1-6. Has the Lord forgiven the people? What does the Lord do when he is enraged with the people's actions?

Read Exodus 33:7-23. How does verse 11 fit with verse 20?

Has the Lord decided these events before they occur or is the Lord making things up as time goes along?

Why is it that one cannot see the face of God and live?

In what ways do we only see the backside of God even now?

If you were to describe the role of Moses in these two chapters what words would you use?

What sorts of arguments count with God?

Read Exodus 34. What was written on the first two tablets of stone (Ex. 31:18)?

What does "the LORD... proclaimed the name, 'The LORD'" mean?

In vs. 6-7 what part stands out for you?

What does it mean that Moses worshipped? What does a person do to worship?

What is Moses asking in v. 9? What does it mean to "find favor in your sight"? Is this the same as "meriting favor"?

What is the purpose of not making a covenant with the people of the land?

When the Lord later calls for those people to be slaughtered is it because they have displeased the Lord?

Is the redeeming spoken of in vs. 19-20 like the redeeming spoken of in the New Testament?

What is the purpose of the laws in 11-26?

Is this the first time that the title ten words (commandments) has been mentioned? Would you know what those words are if you only had Exodus to go by?

What is the cause of the shining of Moses' face? Does Moses wear a veil the rest of his life?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-18. How does Paul interpret this passage about the veil and the tablets of stone?