

# THE BIG STORY

FROM CREATION TO CHRIST

## WEEK 5

### *A Holy Nation: Law, Worship & the Presence of God*

#### **DAILY READING – Feb 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**

Mon – Exodus 19

Tue – Exodus 20

Wed – Leviticus 1

Thu – Leviticus 17

Fri – Deuteronomy 6:1–9

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

##### **A Holy Nation: Law, Worship & the Presence of God**

**Story Thread:** God gives the Law not to keep people at a distance, but to teach a redeemed people how to live near His holy presence.

Freedom changes the question.

Once Israel is rescued, the question is no longer, “How do we get out of Egypt?” but, “How do we live with God now that we’re free?”

Israel does not arrive at Mount Sinai as slaves hoping for rescue. They arrive as a redeemed people who have already been carried out of Egypt on God’s strength. The sea has closed behind them. The chains are gone. And now, something new happens—God draws near.

At Sinai, God does not begin with rules. He begins with relationship. Before giving commands, He reminds Israel of what He has already done for them. “You yourselves have seen what I did... how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.” Obedience is not the price of rescue; it is the response to rescue.

This is why the Law matters. God’s commands are not about controlling behavior from a distance, but about sustaining relationship up close. God declares Israel to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”—a people set apart to reflect His character to the world. Holiness is not withdrawal from life; it is learning how to live in God’s presence without fear.

As God gives the Law in Exodus 20, it shapes a community that mirrors who He is. Worship without idols. Rest without exploitation. Truth without manipulation. Justice without violence. The commandments form a people who know what it looks like to live with God and with one another.

Leviticus continues this story by answering an important question: how can a holy God remain present with imperfect people? God provides sacrifice—not because He desires death, but because He desires closeness. The sacrificial system makes space for relationship, allowing God to dwell among His people without destroying them.

This story ultimately points to Jesus. What the Law revealed and sacrifice protected, Jesus fulfills. In Him, holiness is no longer guarded by distance, but embodied in a Person. God does not abandon His desire to be near—He completes it. Through Christ, we are invited to live aware of God’s presence, shaped by His grace, and set apart for His purposes.

## **FAMILY DEVOTIONAL**

**TALK** What does it mean to be careful with something important or special? Why do you think God wanted to live close to His people?

**READ** Exodus 19:4-6

**Prayer:** God, thank You for rescuing us and wanting to be near us. Help our family live in a way that honors You and shows Your love to others. Amen.

## **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**

### **Week 5**

#### *A Holy Nation: Law, Worship & the Presence of God Text*

1. **In Exodus 19, God reminds Israel of their rescue before giving the Law.** Why is it important that obedience comes after redemption, not before?
2. **God calls Israel “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”** What do you think this says about God’s purpose for His people?
3. **Many people view the Law as restrictive.** How does seeing the Law as guidance for living near God change that perspective?
4. **The commandments shape how Israel worships God and treats others.** Which of these areas—worship, rest, truth, or relationships—do you find most challenging?
5. What might it look like for you this week to live more aware of God’s presence in your everyday life?

