

EXODUS

COVENANT PRESENCE & PURPOSE

June 25, 2023 | Erwin Ramos

WARM UP QUESTIONS: When was the last time you wrote a letter? What was it for?

READ: Exodus 20:1-7

FOCUS: Our loving God desires exclusivity, detests idolatry and demands purity from His people for the world to know Him.

OBSERVE:

- After God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, He quickly initiated a covenant with them to establish how they would be holy or set apart from other nations and properly relate to God.
- The Ten Commandments are the covenant details – God’s intimate explanation of how He desires His people to live. The terms of God’s covenant differed from what the Israelites were previously familiar with after being in and around polytheistic nations.
- God is the only one true God and desires His people to put Him above all other “gods,” exclusively worshipping and living for Him.
- God commands His name not be taken in “vain” because His name represents His very nature, His holiness and His personhood. Misusing God’s name isn’t just speaking His name inappropriately but misrepresenting Him in any way.
- None of us have been able to uphold our side of the covenant, but thanks be to God for Jesus! Jesus became a man to keep our side of the covenant and bridge the gap between us and the Father; that is why we are “blameless in His sight.”

TAKING ACTION:

- Share with someone a new perspective on the Ten Commandments and God’s covenant, what it means to you and how it shapes your life.

REFLECT:

- When you think of a covenant or God’s commandments, do you think of cold, impersonal rules or loving boundaries for flourishing?
- How are you making God exclusive in your life and before all other things?
- Are you thoughtful in how you use God’s name when you speak and represent God’s name when you act?

PRAY: *God, You are holy, mighty and wonderful. There is no one like You. None besides You or before You. We are so thankful that You have pursued us all our lives and Your people through all of history. Open up the eyes of our hearts to see You for who You really are. To understand Your Word. Spirit of God, we pray You fill us with revelation, wisdom and love to bear God’s name well. May all we do honor and glorify You. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.*

