

EXODUS

COVENANT PRESENCE & PURPOSE

July 16, 2023 | Dana Williams

WARM UP QUESTIONS: Have you ever set house rules or participated in creating house rules? What was the aim of those rules?

READ: Exodus 24:3-11

FOCUS: God desires covenant relationship with His people and He sets the terms.

OBSERVE:

- God defined His relationship with the Israelites before they were able to get close to Him. God tests and determines our seriousness towards Him while we establish our relationships with Him.
- This covenant, instituted by God, was to be a reminder to the Israelites that they were obligated to be obedient to the laws of God (Exodus 19:5). God instituted covenant boundaries to both define and protect the relationship. However, these boundaries were quickly broken by those He chose to provide for and protect.
- God continued to show His mercy towards the Israelites because He lovingly wanted His presence to remain with them. This is why God instituted the sacrificial system—that an animal's blood would be offered in the place of the people who breached the covenant agreement.
- Moses sprinkles blood on (or toward the people) calling it the blood of the covenant. This blood seals the promise the Israelites are making to God (Hebrews 9:18). The conditions of this covenant led to blessings or curses based upon their obedience to the covenant boundaries God had established.

TAKING ACTION:

- Considering that we have a new and greater covenant through the blood of Jesus, what are the boundaries God has established for you to follow?
- How would you explain to someone the purpose of the Sinai covenant and how it fits in the larger Gospel narrative?

REFLECT:

- When you consider the guidelines of scripture on how to live your life, do you view them as rules to be followed?
- How can you see them more as boundaries protecting your relationship with God?
- What areas in your life do you find yourself struggling to trust/abide by God's covenant agreement with you?
- **PRAY:** Heavenly Father, thank you for loving and caring for us. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, the mediator of Your covenant with us. We pray that we would earnestly love one another and You without pretense. Thank you, Lord, for desiring to be in a committed relationship with us and for grace you extend to us as we fall short of our end of the covenant. We cannot live this Christian life without Your Spirit empowering us to live in obedience. Thank You for placing us not only in relationship with You, but also in a Spiritual family as a covenant people. Amen.

