



week 4 | june 19

LESSONS FROM EXODUS

when life with God is out of our control

INTRODUCTION

As we near the end of our Lessons from Exodus series, we can see by Chapter 32 the many and varied ways God has saved the Israelites and proven Himself to them. Whether through His audible voice, a cloud, or even thunder and lightning, they've been consistently cared for and reminded they belong to God and of His promise to bless them and make them a great nation.

As Moses establishes God's Law with the Israelites, we find refrains in both Chapters 19 and 24 of the people saying, "We will do everything God told us to do." Which is why Chapter 32 can be so frustrating for us to read. Even amidst God's obvious presence and provision, they quickly take matters into their own hands building a golden calf to worship instead. And yet when we look at our own lives, this may sound like a more familiar rhythm than we'd like to admit.

DISCUSSION

1. After Moses left the Israelites at the base of the mountain and didn't come back when they thought he would, their fear of abandonment caused them to start looking for a substitute to guide and comfort them. What feelings and fears can cause you to seek something or someone other than God? Are there specific moments you can remember choosing your own kind of substitute?

Remember: God is good so I don't have to look elsewhere.

2. Pastor John says in his message, "When life with God seems out of control, when His promises seem slow, when His ways are so opposite of the world, and His way seems impossible: We grab life and make it our way." What areas or situations in your life are you struggling to let go of or invite God into? Why? Which of these may be controlling you?

Remember: God is gracious so I don't have to prove myself.

Remember: God is glorious so I don't have to be afraid of others.

3. Consider this: What if the Israelites waiting at the base of the mountain for over a month just got tired of being left in the dark? What if they "just wanted to know the plan?" Do you ever get tipped over when you don't know all the details? Is it hard to trust without knowing the gameplan? How has this played out in your spiritual journey?

Remember: God is great so I don't have to be in control.

TAKE ACTION

1. **Start with prayer.** Ask God to show you the areas you haven't given Him control of or tend to tend to take matters back into your own hands.
2. **Ask for help.** Ask God to help you surrender these areas of your life He's revealed to let go of and invite Him to help you navigate moments when you want to take control again.
3. **Make a list.** Start keeping a simple running record of what God has done in your life. It can become a powerful tool to look back on when you need reminders of God's faithfulness.

RESOURCES

It's Not Supposed to Be This Way by Lysa TerKeurst

When Strivings Cease by Ruth Chou Simons