

THE BOOK OF

Exodus

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

Give Me a Break

OPENING QUESTION

What country would you NOT want to live in right now?

READ Exodus 1:1–22.

1. What advantages did the children of Israel have in Egypt with Joseph?

- A. Joseph was the prime minister.
- B. Joseph saved everyone from famine.
- C. No taxes for those who lived in Goshen
- D. They were all together as one family.
- E. God blessed them.
- F. Joseph had married into Egypt's priestly family.
- G. The Israelites multiplied in number.
- H. They all got along so well with each other.
- I. Other.

2. "There arose a king who knew not Joseph" means:

- A. The new guy didn't know the old guy.
- B. The new guy didn't care about the old guy.
- C. The new guy decided to erase the old guy.
- D. Egyptian dynasties experienced revolutions and new dynasties.
- E. New rulers need to make a new name for themselves.
- F. The Israelites had too many privileges.
- G. The Israelites posed a threat to the new Pharaoh.
- H. He wanted their skill and work, but not for them to keep their power.
- I. Other.

3. How did the Egyptians turn the Israelites into slaves?

- A. After Joseph's death, the Israelites lost all political influence.
- B. Egypt experienced a revolution that upset previous power structures.
- C. The Israelites were farmers, not fighters.
- D. It was gradual, like what happened to the Jews in WW II.
- E. God had predicted it (*Gen. 15:13*).
- F. The Israelites started to worship Egyptian gods.
- G. Slave masters.
- H. Slavery isn't as bad as it sounds initially.
- I. Other.

4. Why did the Israelites multiply when oppressed?

- A. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger.
- B. God's blessing during their oppression.
- C. Physical exertion made them more fertile.
- D. There's no human explanation; it's a miracle.
- E. Many of the slave masters gave them slack.
- F. God's promise to Abram to become a great nation was being fulfilled.
- G. To put the fear of Yahweh into the Egyptians.
- H. Other.

5. What was the deal with Shiphrah (beauty) and Puah (brightness)?

- A. They were lousy midwives.
- B. They were terrific midwives.
- C. They were slow midwives.
- D. They feared Yahweh.
- E. They didn't fear Pharaoh.
- F. They wanted God's blessing.
- G. Jewish legend links Shiphrah to Jochebed and Puah to Miriam.
- H. Other.

6. Why did Pharaoh want to kill all the males but not the females?

- A. He had a soft spot in his heart for females.
- B. To reduce the number of Israelites.
- C. To make the Israelites extinct.
- D. This was one way Satan tried to eliminate God's people.
- E. Satan was behind it, fearing the birth of God's promised male child.
- F. Females would integrate into Egyptian households as slaves.
- G. Pharaoh figured he needed only one generation of male slaves.
- H. Other.

7. To what extent do you think God and Satan battle over you?

8. What blessings from God are you experiencing now? Which one(s) are you not experiencing now?

An Up-and-Down Kind of Life

OPENING QUESTION

When have you escaped death?

READ Exodus 2:1–25.

1. Why did the parents of Moses put their baby in a basket by the Nile?

- A. It was the mom's idea; the dad had nothing to do with it.
- B. Baby Moses made too much noise to keep him in the house.
- C. This followed the letter of the law—all baby males go into the Nile.
- D. Because Moses was such a beautiful baby.
- E. This was their way of giving their baby back to God.
- F. They had full confidence Miriam would take care of things.
- G. God revealed this plan to them.
- H. The basket was waterproof.
- I. Other.

2. Why did the princess save the life of Moses?

- A. She was nothing like her father (Pharaoh).
- B. As a princess, she could have whatever she wanted.
- C. God touched her heart.
- D. The cries of Moses touched her heart.
- E. She was good friends with Miriam.
- F. She knew she would never give birth herself.
- G. She was last in the line of the princesses.
- H. God directed this princess to Moses.
- I. Other.

3. What seems ironic about this story about baby Moses?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Everything.
- C. Pharaoh's daughter saved a Hebrew baby from Pharaoh's order.
- D. The Nile saved the baby rather than killing the baby.
- E. Pharaoh's household paid the Hebrew mother to be the mother.
- F. A child/sister saved the brother her parents couldn't save.
- G. Moses got indoctrinated by the Hebrews before going to the palace.
- H. Moses got named "out of the water;" he was to go "into the water."
- I. Other.

4. Why did Moses kill the Egyptian?

- A. It seemed like a good idea at the time.
- B. The Egyptian was beating a Hebrew slave.
- C. Moses knew God saved him so he could save the Hebrew slaves.
- D. The time had come for Moses to choose his allegiance.
- E. To be a hero to the Hebrews.
- F. To put an end to the Egyptians' unfair treatment of the Hebrews.
- G. Moses had an impulsive temper.
- H. Other.

5. Why did Moses flee to Midian?

- A. He had killed an Egyptian.
- B. Word got out that he had killed an Egyptian.
- C. Pharaoh called for his arrest and death.
- D. Moses couldn't return to the palace.
- E. Moses couldn't return to the Hebrews.
- F. Reuel's seven daughters were "to die for."
- G. God's plans for Moses weren't working out very well.
- H. Other.

6. What happened to Moses in Midian?

- A. He became a local hero.
- B. They thought this Hebrew was actually an Egyptian.
- C. He wowed all seven of Reuel's daughters.
- D. Reuel took him in like a son (in-law).
- E. He got married and became a dad.
- F. He gave up the Egyptian throne for shepherding.
- G. He gave up on having a special purpose for his life.
- H. Other.

7. Why does God take so long to act on behalf of his people?

8. Which years of your life so far have counted the most?

Ready or Not, Here You Go

OPENING QUESTION

Which would you choose: Jumping from a large height OR eating something totally disgusting?

READ Exodus 3:1–22.

1. What was the relationship between Jethro and Moses?

- A. Jethro was the priest in the area.
- B. Moses interacted with God at the burning bush without Jethro being present.
- C. Father-in-law and son-in-law.
- D. Two generations—older and younger.
- E. Patriarch and pariah (outcast).
- F. Provider and desperado.
- G. Boss and employee.
- H. Mentor and mentee.
- I. Other.

2. What was amazing about the burning bush?

- A. It was on fire.
- B. The fire didn't consume the bush.
- C. A voice came out of the bush and called Moses by name.
- D. Moses talked to the (voice in the) burning bush.
- E. God showed up after all those years of silence.
- F. God chose Moses.
- G. People came from miles to see it.
- H. God identified himself as the covenant God of ages past.
- I. Other.

3. Why did God choose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt?

- A. He didn't have very many choices.
- B. This came in response to the Israelites' prayers.
- C. Egypt was not "The Promised Land."
- D. The Egyptians continued to oppress God's people.
- E. Moses knew the way.
- F. This was the reason God saved Moses as an infant.
- G. Moses was finally humble enough to follow God's lead.
- H. It was time.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Moses not want to lead the Israelites out of Egypt?

- A. There was still a warrant for his arrest and execution in Egypt.
- B. It hadn't worked out very well when he tried it previously.
- C. Moses had found his groove as a shepherd.
- D. The Israelites weren't doing anything as God's people.
- E. It didn't pay very well.
- F. He was too old.
- G. It felt like God was using too much pressure.
- H. Other.

5. "I AM THAT I AM" means:

- A. Just what it says.
- B. It's just "I AM."
- C. It's actually "I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE."
- D. Just another name for Yahweh/Jehovah.
- E. God is eternal—past, present, future.
- F. God is personal.
- G. I've never understood why some people make this such a big thing.
- H. Other.

6. Why did God purposely create such an upheaval in Egypt?

- A. God had run out of patience for Pharaoh and the Egyptians.
- B. A loving God fights for his people.
- C. Too many "cries for help."
- D. Justice often leads to conflict.
- E. God doesn't shy away from a fight.
- F. It would be a showdown of the gods (and worship).
- G. Payback for centuries of oppression.
- H. Other.

7. When has God amazed you?

8. When has God asked you to do way more than you can clearly do?

Unstoppable or Unstartable?

OPENING QUESTION

What's something you can do easily but others have a hard time doing it?

READ Exodus 4:1–31.

1. Why did God do the staff trick with Moses?

- A. To show God's power.
- B. To show Moses what power was at his disposal.
- C. This would scare Moses silly.
- D. This reminded Moses that Yahweh is lord of all.
- E. To convince Moses to accept God's call on him.
- F. This would convince the Israelites to follow Moses.
- G. This would convince Pharaoh to grant Moses' request.
- H. It might all backfire at some time.
- I. Other.

2. Why did God do the leprosy-on-the-hand trick with Moses?

- A. To show God's power.
- B. Two tricks are better than one.
- C. Leprosy intimidates even more than snakes.
- D. Leprosy is personal; snakes are impersonal.
- E. No one had been able to inflict leprosy.
- F. No one had been able to heal leprosy.
- G. This would give Moses the option to open a Las Vegas show later.
- H. Nobody would be able to do this trick.
- I. Other.

3. What was Moses' excuse to not return to Egypt?

- A. I'm wanted for murder there.
- B. I'm not very good at, like, um, you know, um . . . like talking.
- C. My staff is better than my stuttering.
- D. I've forgotten how to speak Egyptian.
- E. I'd much prefer leading sheep than leading people.
- F. Jethro and Zipporah won't let me go.
- G. Nobody will follow me.
- H. God, you could certainly find someone else.
- I. Other.

4. How did God respond to Moses' excuses?

- A. No problem; I'll get someone else.
- B. God got angry with Moses.
- C. God tried to bribe Moses.
- D. God punished Moses.
- E. God provided a spokesperson for Moses.
- F. This meant God would just leave his people in Egyptian slavery.
- G. God transported Moses immediately to Egypt.
- H. Other.

5. What reminders did God give Moses as he headed toward Egypt?

- A. I will be with you.
- B. The ones who wanted you dead are now the ones who are dead.
- C. You will do powerful signs.
- D. The Israelites will believe you.
- E. You need to keep God's covenant, including circumcision.
- F. Pharaoh will resist you, and he will lose his firstborn son.
- G. The bottom line is worship.
- H. Other.

6. What made Moses and Aaron a good team?

- A. They were brothers (who got along most of the time).
- B. Aaron talked; Moses performed miraculous signs.
- C. Aaron knew the language; Moses knew God's plan.
- D. They reunited at Mount Sinai after 40 years of separation.
- E. Aaron was older; Moses was smarter.
- F. Aaron had Israelite contacts; Moses had supernatural contacts.
- G. Miriam mediated between her two younger brothers.
- H. Other.

7. Moses had a staff God used. What tool(s) do you have right now?

8. What is something you resist or ignore, even though it's pretty clear that God wants you to do it (or stop doing it)?

Get To Work

OPENING QUESTION

When have you wanted a change in your job (or your school)?

READ Exodus 5:1–6:30.

1. What did Moses and Aaron do to present their case to Pharaoh?

- A. Please . . . pretty please.
- B. Our God wants us to do religious rituals in the wilderness.
- C. Our God is telling you to let us go worship him.
- D. If you don't let us go, we'll refuse to work for you.
- E. Our God will zap us if you don't let us go.
- F. Our God will zap you if you don't let us go.
- G. We could really use a sabbatical.
- H. You might not know Yahweh now, but you will soon.
- I. Other.

2. What was Pharaoh's response to the request Moses and Aaron made?

- A. No problem
- B. No way.
- C. I don't know your god.
- D. I am God.
- E. If your god is so great, why are you my slaves?
- F. Don't even think of my slaves missing a day of work.
- G. Let's set up a study commission and look into it.
- H. I'm going to increase the work load of the slaves.
- I. Other.

3. What would have been your response to the foremen's complaints?

- A. Give me a break.
- B. Why are you working for Pharaoh and against your own people?
- C. I'm so sorry.
- D. They won't kill you; they'll just beat you more.
- E. Let me talk with Yahweh and I'll get back to you.
- F. Yahweh, what in the "Egypt" are you doing?
- G. God, I quit.
- H. Yahweh, this doesn't look anything like a rescue for your people.
- I. Other.

4. What was God's response to Moses' grievance?

- A. Don't you talk to me like that.
- B. You're right; what was I thinking?
- C. I'm the covenant God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- D. This is going to take longer than you expected.
- E. You can count on me to get my people to the Promised Land.
- F. There's more to this than a three-day journey into the wilderness.
- G. I will redeem you with mighty power and acts of judgment.
- H. Other.

5. What promises did Yahweh make at this time?

- A. I will free you from slavery.
- B. I will be your God; you will be my people.
- C. Pharaoh's son, his heir, will die in the process.
- D. You will plunder the Egyptians.
- E. I have a special place for you to dwell.
- F. You'll get good things, but you have to obey everything I tell you.
- G. Pharaoh will have a change of heart.
- H. Other.

6. What stands out THE MOST to you about "this Moses and Aaron"?

- A. Aaron gets listed before Moses.
- B. They came from the tribe of Levi.
- C. Miriam wasn't named in the genealogy.
- D. Moses truly was an Israelite, not an Egyptian.
- E. Moses was still playing the "I'm no orator" card.
- F. Aaron's role seems so prominent, at least at this time.
- G. God called both of them to lead all the Israelites out of Egypt.
- H. Other.

7. When you have expected God to make things better, and they just got worse?

8. What promises has God made to you?

Invasion

OPENING QUESTION

Military invasion, natural disaster, plague/pandemic—which is the worst?

READ Exodus 7:1–8:30.

1. Why did God take Pharaoh and the Egyptians through so much turmoil?

- A. They deserved it.
- B. God wanted to multiply his miracles throughout Egypt.
- C. God's people needed time and examples to change their orientation.
- D. It took Moses and Aaron several attempts to do their part right.
- E. Pharaoh wasn't willing to allow God's people to go.
- F. This way everyone would know who Yahweh was.
- G. This served as an example for all who followed.
- H. Judgment Day had come for Pharaoh and Egypt.
- I. Other.

2. What happened with the staff-to-snake miracle?

- A. Aaron could do the same miracles as Moses.
- B. Aaron used Moses' staff.
- C. Egyptian wise men and magicians could do the same thing.
- D. It made quite an impression on Pharaoh.
- E. The Egyptian magicians lost their snakes/staffs.
- F. Everybody started turning their staffs into snakes.
- G. Aaron got offers to perform and entertain the Egyptians.
- H. This indicated the direction things would be going.
- I. Other.

3. How did the water-to-blood plague happen?

- A. Moses and Aaron waited at the Nile River for Pharaoh.
- B. The focal point remained worshiping Yahweh.
- C. God used Moses' staff as the instrument.
- D. God notified Pharaoh he would come to know Yahweh.
- E. The Nile and all surface water in Egypt turned to blood.
- F. Egyptian magicians added more contaminated water.
- G. The Egyptians immediately faced a water crisis.
- H. Pharaoh began to change his mind.
- I. Other.

4. What happened with the plague of frogs?

- A. Aaron's staff made it happen.
- B. It came as a natural result of the water turning to blood.
- C. Worshipping Yahweh remained the underlying issue.
- D. This plague invaded the Egyptians' living spaces.
- E. Egyptian magicians added even more frogs.
- F. Pharaoh started to negotiate with Moses and Aaron.
- G. Moses had to plead with Yahweh to stop the frogs.
- H. Other.

5. What made the plague of gnats different from the previous plagues?

- A. This time it was Moses' staff.
- B. The people didn't suffer as much.
- C. This time the Egyptian magicians couldn't replicate it.
- D. The Hebrews weren't affected by this plague.
- E. The Egyptian magicians attributed this plague to God.
- F. Only those with screens on their doors and windows survived.
- G. Pharaoh hardened his resolve even more.
- H. Other.

6. What stands out in your mind with the plague of flies?

- A. I hate flies.
- B. Pharaoh should stop going to the Nile River.
- C. These plagues came out of no place and invaded the Egyptians.
- D. God predicted and controlled the plague.
- E. God distinguished between his people and the Egyptians.
- F. Pharaoh agreed to let the Hebrews go worship Yahweh.
- G. Moses, not Pharaoh, had the power to stop the plague.
- H. Other.

7. What does it take for God to get your attention?

8. What makes the difference in you whether your heart hardens or melts when you "feel the heat"?

Yahweh is God

OPENING QUESTION

When has God gotten your attention in the past?

READ Exodus 9:1–10:29.

1. What stands out to you regarding the plague on the livestock?

- A. It happened just as predicted.
- B. Worshipping Yahweh remained the core purpose for the plague.
- C. It only affected cattle.
- D. The previous plague of flies probably caused this plague.
- E. The Israelites experienced total protection.
- F. Pharaoh sent people to check on the Israelites' livestock.
- G. Aaron played no role in this plague.
- H. Pharaoh showed no indication he would change.
- I. Other.

2. What surprised you about the plague of boils?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Tossing furnace soot into the air started this plague.
- C. It affected people and animals.
- D. Aaron seemed to be back in the picture.
- E. Pharaoh didn't seem to suffer from this plague.
- F. God's people continued to be protected.
- G. The magicians seemed impotent and subjugated.
- H. The mounting pressure seemed to push Pharaoh to relent.
- I. Other.

3. What made the plague of hail different from the other plagues?

- A. It was hail.
- B. God's message to Pharaoh claimed total dominance for Yahweh.
- C. The purpose of worship was for all people, not just Israelites.
- D. The Egyptians suffered the worst storm in Egyptian history.
- E. This affected people, animals, and Egypt's food supply.
- F. Pharaoh's officials heeded the warning.
- G. The storm by-passed the Israelites.
- H. Pharaoh admitted he and his people were wrong.
- I. Other.

4. What made the plague of locusts miraculous—the hand of Yahweh?

- A. The predicted timing came true.
- B. God has all the forces of nature at his beckoned call.
- C. Yahweh predicted this would become generational lore.
- D. Egypt—the land that provided food for all—will now be without food.
- E. Yahweh used wind to bring the locusts and to remove them.
- F. Pharaoh confessed to Moses and to Yahweh.
- G. Pharaoh got specific about the Israelites worshipping Yahweh.
- H. Other.

5. Why was darkness considered a plague?

- A. It wasn't.
- B. The density of the darkness paralyzed everyone and everything.
- C. God's people in Goshen had plenty of sunlight.
- D. Ra, the Egyptian sun god, was second in power only to Pharaoh.
- E. Hoping new crops would grow wasn't realistic without sunlight.
- F. Pharaoh saying, "Don't ever let me see you again" to Moses.
- G. It seemed to break Pharaoh's resistance.
- H. Other.

6. How would you have responded if you were Pharaoh?

- A. Let them go!
- B. I'm not going to lose my slaves.
- C. I'll go with them and worship Yahweh.
- D. Call for a religious festival and implore the Egyptian gods to act.
- E. Resign from my post as Pharaoh.
- F. Continue to resist Yahweh.
- G. Make Moses the new Pharaoh.
- H. Other.

7. What causes you to vacillate on your commitments to God?

8. Where would you like to experience God's dominating influence in your life right now?

This Does It

OPENING QUESTION

When have you been stubborn?

READ Exodus 11:1–10.

1. How did God know it would take just one more plague to free Israel?

- A. It was a lucky guess
- B. He is God.
- C. Pharaoh was buckling.
- D. Moses was buckling.
- E. God decided to stop hardening Pharaoh's heart.
- F. The Israelites were getting restless.
- G. The Israelites were getting bold.
- H. The Egyptians were pressing Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.
- I. Other.

2. Why did God remind the Israelites to ask for silver and gold?

- A. That's the kind of thing slaves forget to ask.
- B. To complete the burning bush promise (*Ex. 3:21-22*).
- C. The Egyptians were ready and willing to do anything (*Ex. 10:7*).
- D. Back pay for hundreds of years of slavery.
- E. This provided the resources to make God's sanctuary later.
- F. It demonstrated total dominance of the Israelites over the Egyptians.
- G. To make it obvious the Egyptian gods had gone AWOL.
- H. To decimate Egypt to the point of never being a world empire again.
- I. Other.

3. In what way(s) had the Egyptians' outlook on the Israelites changed?

- A. The Egyptians remained defiant—just like Pharaoh.
- B. Just waiting for the tide to change in their favor again.
- C. Some of the Egyptians best friends were slaves.
- D. The plagues separated the two groups.
- E. A transition from dominance to respect.
- F. A transition from dominance to submission.
- G. The Egyptians wished Moses would become their new Pharaoh.
- H. Some of the Egyptians wanted to join the Israelites.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Yahweh go after the first-born males?

- A. In patriarchal societies, that's the jugular—the lifeline.
- B. It strikes the future generation, leaving Egypt vulnerable to survive.
- C. This would be more devastating than a war.
- D. It would threaten the highest god of Egypt—Pharaoh (and his future).
- E. God gave Moses this message earlier (*Ex. 4:22-23*).
- F. Yahweh considered the Israelites his first-born son.
- G. This brought every Egyptian family to their knees.
- H. Other.

5. What was the basic message Moses gave Pharaoh for the 10th plague?

- A. You're going to die.
- B. Your first-born son—the next Pharaoh—is going to die.
- C. All first-born males in your kingdom will die.
- D. Yahweh is calling the shots now.
- E. You will now submit to me.
- F. I'm done with you.
- G. You will beg us to do what we requested—go worship Yahweh.
- H. Other.

6. Why did God keep hardening Pharaoh's heart?

- A. To show God's great power—to the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- B. It proved to be Pharaoh's natural response.
- C. It's just a way to say "God is ultimately in charge."
- D. After 400 years of slavery it needed a process, not a quick escape.
- E. A heart that refuses to submit to God becomes a heart of stone.
- F. "God hardened Pharaoh's heart" continues to be a problem for me.
- G. This challenged the many different gods of Egypt.
- H. Other.

7. What makes you hard-headed? What makes you hard-hearted?

8. What have you suffered from when you resisted God? What have you gained when you accepted/submitted rather than resisted God?

We're Outta' Here

OPENING QUESTION

When have you gone on a long, long walk?

READ Exodus 12:1–51.

1. Why did God have the Israelites slaughter an animal for the Passover?

- A. It stands in the place of the death of the firstborn male for Israelites.
- B. Not a big deal—they slaughtered and ate animals regularly.
- C. The blood would become a symbol on their doorposts.
- D. This reduced the number of livestock for departing from Egypt.
- E. To start a tradition.
- F. It united neighborhood families.
- G. People have to eat.
- H. This illustrated Christ's gift—the innocent dying in place of the guilty.
- I. Other.

2. Why did God allocate seven days for the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

- A. That's how long it lasted in Egypt the first time.
- B. It served as a reminder of the creation of the world in seven days.
- C. It reminded the Israelites of the seventh-day Sabbath.
- D. A seven-day feast makes more of an impact than a one-day feast.
- E. Seven is God's favorite number.
- F. The Israelites requested it.
- G. It took seven days to carry out all the ceremonies.
- H. To see if his people would fast from leaven (sin) for seven days.
- I. Other.

3. What happened the night of the Passover

- A. All Egyptian first-born males died.
- B. All Israelite first-born males lived.
- C. The Israelites had a feast.
- D. The Egyptians quivered in fear and dread.
- E. The Israelites prepared to depart—for good.
- F. Israelites pillaged Egyptians.
- G. More brick-making without straw for the Israelites.
- H. All Egyptians, including Pharaoh, "bent the knee" to Yahweh.
- I. Other.

4. What does Passover mean to you?

- A. Not much—something long ago and far away.
- B. A Jewish festival.
- C. Yahweh is God.
- D. God delivered his people from slavery.
- E. God acts in decisive ways (sometimes).
- F. God takes sin's punishment for those who trust and obey him.
- G. The final Day of Judgment.
- H. Other.

5. If you were an Egyptian, how would you have responded to Passover?

- A. Wailing and gnashing of teeth.
- B. Get out of here! All you Israelites, leave!
- C. I want to go with you Israelites.
- D. Yahweh is a god of love.
- E. Worshipping Yahweh seems to be a matter of life and death.
- F. Take a free shopping spree at my place.
- G. You're killing me/us.
- H. Other.

6. Why did circumcision matter so much?

- A. It started with Abram becoming Abraham (*Genesis 17:1-14*).
- B. A patriarchal society pivots on the males.
- C. It symbolized God's covenant.
- D. It demonstrated sincere obedience to Yahweh.
- E. It was so easy.
- F. It was so difficult.
- G. An external, visible, life-long indicator of an internal reality.
- H. Other.

7. What religious celebrations do you participate in regularly?

8. What personal stories about God did your parents share with you? What personal stories about God have you passed on to those younger than you?

Here We Go

OPENING QUESTION

What food would you hate to remove from your diet?

READ Exodus 13:1–22.

1. Why did Yahweh claim ownership of all the firstborn?

- A. God had saved all the firstborn from the angel of death at Passover.
- B. The firstborn represented the entire generation of a family.
- C. This provided an annual reminder of Israelite identity.
- D. Yahweh is a jealous God.
- E. Yahweh needed his quota to get cattle on a thousand hills.
- F. This would shape the newly freed slaves into the people of God.
- G. It illustrates that firstborn people and firstborn animals are similar.
- H. It functioned like tithe—a symbol that everything belongs to God.
- I. Other.

2. What's the deal with “no yeast” (leaven) for seven days?

- A. It makes no sense to me.
- B. Yeast symbolized sin.
- C. You can sin any day except these 7 and the Day of Atonement.
- D. A little yeast leavens the whole lump (*Gal 5:9; 1 Cor 5:6-8*).
- E. Yeast appears 22x in the OT and 17x in the NT, always negative.
- F. Grain offerings must have no leaven (*Lev 2:4, 11*).
- G. Peace offerings and wave offerings (*Lev 7:13; 23:17*) require leaven.
- H. Purposely getting rid of sin in your dwelling might be a good practice.
- I. Other.

3. When do you receive reminders that God has rescued you?

- A. I rarely do.
- B. When I go on vacation to Bible lands.
- C. During my daily devotions.
- D. Sabbaths.
- E. Campmeeting.
- F. Near misses with death.
- G. Flashbacks.
- H. It usually comes from others, not from me.
- I. Other.

4. Why did God command the Israelites to “buy back” every firstborn male?

- A. The firstborn sons were to become the priests in Israel.
- B. This served as another tangible reminder of redemption.
- C. At a cost of five silver coins, this would fund temple services.
- D. Today, 10% of Jewish families still practice this (Pidyon Haben).
- E. Another indelible impression from Passover for centuries to come.
- F. Donkeys, valuable but unclean, can be redeemed, but not sacrificed.
- G. It included animals, not just humans.
- H. Other.

5. Why didn't Yahweh take the Israelites the shortest route to Canaan?

- A. The Philistines would have fought them.
- B. They were supposed to go to Mount Sinai to worship Yahweh first.
- C. Yahweh had one more round with Pharaoh.
- D. The Promised Land wasn't only a destination, it was a journey.
- E. Yahweh could save them from the Egyptians, but not the Philistines.
- F. Efficiency often prevents the development of quality.
- G. Yahweh needed time to transform these redeemed slaves.
- H. Other.

6. Why did Yahweh provide a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night?

- A. Shade during the heat of the day.
- B. Warmth during the cool of the night.
- C. Direction.
- D. Moses requested it.
- E. Direction for those accustomed to being told exactly what to do.
- F. A physical symbol of Yahweh's presence with his people.
- G. A marker for other people to find them.
- H. Other.

7. What has God given you? What have you given God?

8. How do you discern God's direction for your daily life (if you don't have a visible cloud that leads you)?

(Let's) Get Out of Here!

OPENING QUESTION

When have you been someplace and you wished you weren't there?

READ Exodus 14:1–31.

1. Why did Yahweh need one more proof he was lord of all?

- A. He didn't.
- B. The Egyptians would forget.
- C. The Israelites would forget.
- D. Old Testament writers viewed all activity as originating with Yahweh.
- E. The devil always comes back for God's people.
- F. This prefigures the end of the millennium (*Revelation 20*).
- G. Yahweh wanted to test the Israelites' trust and obedience.
- H. This released the Israelites from ever having to return to Egypt.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Pharaoh chase the Israelites?

- A. It had been more than three days and they weren't returning.
- B. Moses (and Yahweh) had lied to Pharaoh.
- C. The Egyptians wanted their slaves back.
- D. The Egyptian economy hung in the balance.
- E. Yahweh prompted Pharaoh.
- F. Satan prompted Pharaoh.
- G. The Israelites actually needed the Egyptians.
- H. This would decimate Egypt's military and Pharaoh himself.
- I. Other.

3. What was the Israelite response when Pharaoh and his army closed in?

- A. Look, our friends have come to worship Yahweh with us.
- B. We've missed you so much.
- C. Yahweh, help!
- D. Moses, help!
- E. Moses, you're a lousy leader.
- F. We'd rather be slaves in Egypt than worship Yahweh in the desert.
- G. Please explain "righteousness by faith" to us.
- H. Please demonstrate "righteousness by faith" through us.
- I. Other.

4. If you were Moses, how would you have handled this crisis?

- A. Go on a retreat for a season of prayer.
- B. Encourage the newly freed slaves.
- C. Panic.
- D. Surrender to Pharaoh and his army.
- E. Get ready to fight.
- F. Remind people of Yahweh's plagues on these same Egyptians.
- G. Split the sea and walk across on dry land.
- H. Other.

5. What amazes you THE MOST about the Red Sea miracle?

- A. Pharaoh chased the Israelites after begging them to leave.
- B. Yahweh led the Israelites into this crisis.
- C. The Israelites forgot Yahweh's power.
- D. The Israelites preferred slavery in Egypt.
- E. Yahweh moved the pillar of fire and made it dark to the Egyptians.
- F. Yahweh parted the Red Sea.
- G. Yahweh used wind to dry the pathway through the sea.
- H. Pharaoh and his army followed the Israelites into the Red Sea.
- I. Other.

6. What is your take-away from this story?

- A. It's a great story for kids, but I doubt it happened this way.
- B. The Israelites seem to lose their faith so quickly.
- C. Pharaoh can't seem to stop himself.
- D. Moses had more faith and patience than I have.
- E. Even after 10 plagues, additional acts of God increase faith.
- F. Sometimes the supernatural blows you away—awesome!
- G. Good and evil keep battling until the very end.
- H. Other.

7. Have you ever had a “Red Sea” type of experience in your life?

8. Why don't you have more “Red Sea” types of experiences?

Dancing in the Desert

OPENING QUESTION

Which do you do more: dance or complain?

READ Exodus 15:1–27.

1. How are you most likely to respond to a miracle from God?

- A. I can't believe it.
- B. I expect it.
- C. It was just a coincidence.
- D. I've got to share this with somebody.
- E. Let's sing!
- F. I've got to dance.
- G. Write it in my journal.
- H. Look for me to bow in worship.
- I. Make some sort of promise to God.
- J. Other.

2. What did the Israelites include in their praise to God?

- A. God's goodness.
- B. God's power.
- C. The enemy's power.
- D. Percussion instruments.
- E. God's destruction of Israel's foes.
- F. The benefits for the Israelites for generations to come.
- G. Promises to never forget God's providence.
- H. Details of the Red Sea miracle.
- I. All nations will hold Israel's God in reverence.
- J. Other.

3. YES or NO (circle one): Do you praise God?

- A. What do you do to praise? _____
- B. When? _____
- C. Where? _____
- D. Why? _____
- E. For whom? _____
- F. With whom? _____
- G. How? _____
- H. Other _____

(over)

4. Rate your praise to God on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high):

- _____ Length of time
- _____ Intensity
- _____ Thoughts
- _____ Feelings
- _____ Actions
- _____ By myself
- _____ With others
- _____ Other.

5. Why did the people turn against Moses when they got to Marah?

- A. They were thirsty.
- B. The water was bitter.
- C. Moses didn't know where to lead the Israelites.
- D. The cloud no longer directed them.
- E. They were surrounded by enemies.
- F. They were surrounded by desert.
- G. There was no evidence God was still with them.
- H. Some people will always complain about something.
- I. Other.

6. What did God promise the Israelites in *verses 25-26*?

- A. The Israelites would not get the diseases that plagued the Egyptians.
- B. God would test their faithfulness.
- C. God would test their obedience.
- D. Their lifestyle would differ from the Egyptian lifestyle.
- E. God would heal them of their sicknesses.
- F. God would prevent them from getting sick.
- G. Their bread and water would be sure—no end to it.
- H. Other.

7. Why aren't Adventists known for dancing?

8. What promises has God made to you?

Food

OPENING QUESTION

When you're really, really hungry, what food do you want the most?

READ Exodus 16:1–36.

1. What did the Israelites complain about in *Exodus 16*?

- A. No food.
- B. No water.
- C. Moses' leadership.
- D. Yahweh not taking care of them.
- E. Egyptian slavery.
- F. No more Egyptian food.
- G. The heat of the desert.
- H. Any topic would do.
- I. Other.

2. Why did God provide manna for the Israelites?

- A. God's love for his people.
- B. The Israelites were hungry (starving).
- C. This was God's response to their complaint(s).
- D. This endorsed Moses' leadership.
- E. It served as a reward for the Israelites' obedience.
- F. It provided a test for the Israelites' obedience.
- G. This would teach them about the Sabbath.
- H. This would take care of their food needs for the next 40 years.
- I. Other.

3. What amazes you about the manna?

- A. It was such an obvious miracle.
- B. God gave in to the complaints of the people.
- C. God kept providing this miracle day after day, year after year.
- D. The taste of the manna.
- E. God's method of testing obedience through daily food instructions.
- F. The (Friday and) Sabbath miracle each week.
- G. People disobeyed the clear instructions given to them.
- H. Lack of gratitude by the Israelites.
- I. Other.

4. What made the Sabbath special in the wilderness?

- A. No work.
- B. No manna.
- C. No cooking.
- D. God's presence.
- E. Going to church.
- F. Taking Sabbath afternoon hikes.
- G. A holy day set apart for Yahweh.
- H. Other.

5. What would you say to the Israelites after 4 weeks of receiving manna?

- A. Isn't this amazing?!
- B. It seems like your obedience keeps improving.
- C. What do you think God is teaching us about the Sabbath?
- D. Do you still wish you were in Egypt?
- E. Do you still think you will starve in the wilderness?
- F. God gave us yet another gift with the Sabbath.
- G. No more complaining?
- H. Want to swap manna recipes?
- I. Other.

6. Why did the pot of manna go inside the ark of the covenant (vs. 34)?

- A. It illustrated the covenant between Yahweh and his people.
- B. Moses and Aaron were obedient.
- C. To provide an anchor point for future generations.
- D. It was "most holy."
- E. God told them to do it.
- F. Covenants usually involve food.
- G. This symbolized Jesus as the bread of life.
- H. Other.

7. What's an example of something God provides for you consistently, but you tend to forget that God provides it/them?

8. What do you do to prepare for Sabbath?

Water and War

OPENING QUESTION

Where do you usually get your drinking water?

READ Exodus 17:1–16.

1. Why did the Israelites run out of water?

- A. They were in the desert.
- B. The pools of Rephidim had unexpectedly gone dry.
- C. God was testing/revealing how much they trusted Him to provide.
- D. Too much manna made them thirsty.
- E. The cloud led them to the wrong place.
- F. The people didn't carry enough water with them.
- G. Moses wanted the people to die of thirst in the desert.
- H. God didn't provide water like He provided manna.
- I. Other.

2. What would you have done if you had been Moses?

- A. Quit.
- B. Turn to God.
- C. Turn on the people.
- D. Listen well.
- E. Remind the people of what God had done in the past.
- F. Affirm God's current activity in their daily lives.
- G. Get defensive and angry.
- H. Recruit crisis counselors to process their disappointment and anger.
- I. Other.

3. What do you think of God's plan to provide water from a rock?

- A. I would never come up with an idea like this.
- B. Cool!
- C. Clever to separate Moses and the leaders from the complainers.
- D. Is this the same Mt. Horeb/Sinai as the 10 commandments?
- E. Is this the same Mt. Horeb/Sinai where the golden calf will appear?
- F. Our part is necessary for participation, but not for power.
- G. The Israelites will never doubt God again.
- H. The water won't last for 40 years.
- I. Other.

4. What would have been your response when water came out of the rock?

- A. I want a rock like that.
- B. I want a stick like that.
- C. I want a God like that.
- D. I'll follow Moses anywhere.
- E. I'll follow Yahweh's leading anywhere.
- F. I'm sorry for my unbelieving attitude and actions.
- G. Let's name this place "Massah" (testing) and "Meribah" (arguing).
- H. Other.

5. Why did the Amalekites (*Gen 36:12*) attack the Israelites?

- A. They felt intimidated from reports they'd heard about the Israelites.
- B. The Amalekites were desert raiders—that's just what they did.
- C. There was no Red Sea nearby that might engulf them.
- D. The Israelites' complaints lessened God's protection.
- E. The Amalekites considered themselves invincible.
- F. They would be a persistent pain to the Israelites (*1 Sam. 15 & 30*).
- G. Satan used them in an attempt to wipe out God's people.
- H. Other.

6. What happened in the battle?

- A. Victory seemed elusive and teeter-totter-like.
- B. Supernatural power didn't seem obvious.
- C. The cloud of God's presence didn't seem to play a role.
- D. The staff of Moses seemed to make the difference.
- E. It took more than Moses to win.
- F. Prayer made the difference.
- G. Each person had a part to play.
- H. Other.

7. When have you felt like God let you down or didn't provide for you?

8. Who are the "Aaron" and "Hur" people in your life?

Leadership

OPENING QUESTION

Name a leader you admire. What is it that you admire about that leader?

READ Exodus 18:1–27.

1. What might Jethro have thought concerning reports about the Israelites?

- A. Yahweh continues to amaze.
- B. I'm proud that Moses is part of my family.
- C. Freeing the Israelites from Egyptian slavery was miraculous.
- D. I want to hear stories and details directly from Moses.
- E. Why don't I see miracles like that around here?
- F. How will I feed everyone if they show up at my place?
- G. Why doesn't Moses come and get his family?
- H. Other.

2. Why had Moses sent his family to Jethro in Midian?

- A. They weren't Israelites.
- B. Pharaoh and the Egyptians would have threatened or hurt them.
- C. The Israelites would have threatened or hurt them.
- D. Moses really had no time for them.
- E. God told Moses to send his wife and sons back to Jethro.
- F. Zipporah's physical health couldn't handle the strain.
- G. Zipporah's mental health couldn't handle the strain.
- H. Moses sent them to bring Jethro since they were near Midian.
- I. Other.

3. Pick three things you would have told Jethro if you had been Moses.

- A. How the Israelite slaves put their faith in Yahweh and Moses.
- B. The plagues on the Egyptians and their gods.
- C. The showdown with Pharaoh and his magicians/priests.
- D. The Passover.
- E. How the cloud led the Israelites through the desert.
- F. The Red Sea experience.
- G. Manna.
- H. Water from a rock.
- I. Battling the Amalekites.
- J. Other.

4. What happened at the religious feast with Jethro and Israel's leaders?

- A. Jethro, the priest of Midian, offered the sacrifice.
- B. Jethro brought the sacrifice for Moses and Aaron to offer to Yahweh.
- C. It was just time to eat something.
- D. The leaders were delighted to eat anything other than manna.
- E. Praise and worship are a response to God's goodness.
- F. Sacrifice is a response to God's goodness.
- G. This showed the Israelites already had some leaders.
- H. Other.

5. What leadership counsel did Jethro give Moses?

- A. This is too much for you (and the people).
- B. Empower others to lead.
- C. Organize different levels of leadership.
- D. Leaders need to make judgments.
- E. You need to train more people in God's laws so they can lead well.
- F. The people aren't slaves any longer, so stop treating them as slaves.
- G. Make people leaders so they step up to the responsibility.
- H. Wait until people have proven themselves before they lead.
- I. Other.

6. What part does God play for humans to lead?

- A. A solid foundation in contrast to the ebb and flow of human opinion.
- B. God provides the standard for right and wrong.
- C. God gives supernatural wisdom.
- D. Humans were made in God's image, with power to lead.
- E. Good leaders must first know how to follow.
- F. God sets up leaders and God also removes them.
- G. Common sense comes from the school of hard knocks.
- H. Other.

7. When do you feast with God? What sacrifices do you give Him?

8. When has someone taken a risk by empowering you to lead? When have you taken a risk by empowering someone else to lead?

When God Shows Up

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a place where you'd like to camp.

READ Exodus 19:1–25.

1. What is the significance of the Israelites camping at Mount Sinai?

- A. Camping means they weren't progressing to the Promised Land.
- B. The view is lovely.
- C. Mount Sinai is majestic.
- D. This is the spot God called Moses to free the Israelites from Egypt.
- E. God had promised Moses they would worship Him here (*Ex. 3:12*).
- F. God would give the 10 commandments here.
- G. This was 2 months after leaving Egypt, not 3 days (*3:18; 5:3; 8:27*).
- H. St. Catherine's Monastery would later be erected here.
- I. Other.

2. What did God offer the Israelites with the covenant (*Ex. 19:3-6*)?

- A. Their bread and water would be sure.
- B. They would need to obey God's commands.
- C. God's continual presence.
- D. They would be "more special" than everyone else on the earth.
- E. Safety.
- F. Prosperity.
- G. Be a kingdom of priests.
- H. The land of Canaan.
- I. Other.

3. Why did the Israelite leaders promise to do all God would ask (*vs. 8*)?

- A. They had no choice.
- B. They had no idea what this meant.
- C. They intended to fully obey.
- D. There seemed to be a lack of awareness regarding their abilities.
- E. It's all about good intentions.
- F. God was covenanting with them to become a kingdom of priests.
- G. They didn't think God would ask much of them.
- H. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- I. Other.

4. What preparations did the Israelites need to make before God's arrival?

- A. Clean their exterior.
- B. Clean their interior.
- C. Come just as you are.
- D. Repent.
- E. Spread the Gospel to the whole world.
- F. Kill a lamb and put the blood on their doorposts.
- G. Clear up any broken relationships.
- H. Other.

5. What does it seem God was communicating about himself at this time?

- A. Power.
- B. Holiness.
- C. Love.
- D. Obedience.
- E. Compassion.
- F. Particularity.
- G. Forgiveness.
- H. Hope.
- I. Other.

6. What would have impacted you the most when God came to Mt. Sinai.

- A. Thunder and lightning
- B. Long trumpet blast.
- C. The trembling mountain.
- D. Fire.
- E. Smoke.
- F. God's voice.
- G. The boundaries and warnings.
- H. Other.

7. What preparations do you make when you expect to meet with God?

8. How do you respond to God as described in *Exodus 19*?

The 10 Commandments

OPENING QUESTION

What was a rule in your family that seemed important to the adult(s)?

READ Exodus 20:1–26.

1. What difference does verse 2 make leading into the Decalogue?

- A. Not much.
- B. All the difference in the world.
- C. Once you're saved, you have to obey.
- D. Once you're saved, you get to obey.
- E. Salvation from slavery precedes the 10 Commandments.
- F. God gave his name (LORD) and relationship (your God, rescuer).
- G. Context is important.
- H. None of the 10 Commandments made sense in Egypt.
- I. Other.

2. What's included in the first commandment (vs. 3)?

- A. Love.
- B. Worship.
- C. Decisions.
- D. No idols (not even "American Idol").
- E. You can have other "gods" as long as you don't worship them.
- F. Not putting even good things (family, friends) ahead of God.
- G. A very jealous god.
- H. Everything else is a sub-category of this commandment.

3. What's included in the fourth commandment (vs. 8-11)?

- A. Remember—because otherwise you're likely to forget.
- B. Remember—this isn't new; just a reminder.
- C. When to keep it holy.
- D. Where to keep it holy.
- E. How to keep it holy.
- F. The reason for the Sabbath.
- G. A day off for everyone—even slaves, foreigners, and work animals.
- H. What to do, and what not to do, on Sabbath.
- I. Other.

4. What's included in the last six commandments?

- A. Common sense guidelines.
- B. Important commands about how we relate to others.
- C. These flow out of the first four commandments.
- D. It's easier to follow the letter of the law than the spirit of the law.
- E. Laws most societies have.
- F. Laws most people break.
- G. Laws most people obey.
- H. Other.

5. Why did the Israelites opt out of having God speak to them directly?

- A. The Israelites were simply freaked out!
- B. God had come on too strong.
- C. The Israelites had a very incomplete picture of God.
- D. They had all they needed from God by this time.
- E. Moses could be trusted to tell them what to do.
- F. They wanted to disobey God's commands.
- G. They related to God with horror rather than honor.
- H. Other.

6. What is a person to make of the remaining verses (Exodus 20:22-26)?

- A. Chapter breaks were added later; ch. 20 should end at vs. 17 or 21.
- B. God had spoken to all Israel; then he spoke to only Moses.
- C. God had more details to give about the 10 Commandments.
- D. This starts the longer covenant God made at Sinai (Ex. 20:22-24:7).
- E. There was no need to repeat "don't make idols of silver or gold."
- F. Worshiping God includes gifts/sacrifices.
- G. Modesty matters to God, especially in worship.
- H. Other.

7. Which do you prefer more: A) The 10 Commandments (Ex. 20:3-17); or B) The Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7)? Why?

8. Do you relate to God's 10 Commandments more as instruction, orders, guidance, or suggestions?

Be Kind (or at Least Fair)

OPENING QUESTION

Did you ever feel like a slave because your parents gave you chores?

READ Exodus 21:1–36.

1. Why would there even be such a thing as a Hebrew slave (vs. 2)?

- A. Slavery has always existed.
- B. God wanted it this way.
- C. God allowed slavery at that time.
- D. God set unique guidelines for Hebrew slaves.
- E. It's better to be a slave among your own people than elsewhere.
- F. People get into debt; this is a way to get out of debt.
- G. Some people do better if someone tells them what to do.
- H. This seems abhorrent to current, first-world sensibilities.
- I. Other.

2. What made Hebrew slavery different from other slavery?

- A. Not much.
- B. Humane treatment for slaves.
- C. Liberty after six years of slavery.
- D. The owner set up a freed Hebrew slave for success (*Deut. 15:12-18*).
- E. Potential marriage into the slave-owner's family.
- F. God ordained it.
- G. Males treated differently than females.
- H. A movement away from treating people only as property.
- I. Other.

3. What's the similarity/difference between owner and slave compared to:

- A. Boss and employee.
- B. Husband and wife.
- C. Parent and child.
- D. Older sibling and younger sibling.
- E. God and human.
- F. Government and citizen.
- G. Law enforcement and an individual.
- H. Privileged white male and a person of color.
- I. Other.

4. Why would a freed slave choose to become a slave for life?

- A. A slave's life can be a good life, especially with a kind master.
- B. There might be nothing better to do.
- C. Fear and insecurity sometimes occur when a person becomes free.
- D. No home to return to after becoming free.
- E. Choosing to stay with one's wife if he married a slave during slavery.
- F. Choosing to stay with one's family that formed during slavery.
- G. The internal fire to be free got extinguished during slavery.
- H. Other.

5. Who did God instruct the Israelites to kill?

- A. Nobody (*Exodus 20:13*).
- B. Anybody.
- C. Enemies, like the Amalekites (*Exodus 17:8-16*).
- D. Murderers.
- E. A child who curses their parent(s).
- F. A child who strikes their parent(s).
- G. Kidnappers—with or without their victim(s).
- H. Other.

6. What do you think of an “eye for an eye...” (*Ex. 21:24-25*)?

- A. God set it up as the rule of law.
- B. I think it's fair.
- C. An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind—Gandhi.
- D. It was more merciful than the practices at that time.
- E. Yahweh needed to read *Matthew 5:38-42*.
- F. This has become the basis for all attempts at justice.
- G. This has little or nothing to do with love.
- H. Other.

**7. Paul used the metaphor of being a “slave” to sin or a “slave” to Christ (*Romans 6:17-22*).
What might be a better metaphor for you?**

8. Name an attitude or action you practice to be kind to others, or at least fair.

Take Care

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time you stole something or something was stolen from you.

READ Exodus 22:1–31.

1. What is the Biblical penalty for stealing?

- A. It depends on whether or not the thief gets caught.
- B. Capital punishment—the death penalty.
- C. Pay back double.
- D. Go to jail.
- E. Live with a bad reputation.
- F. It depends on whether or not the stolen item is alive.
- G. The judges decide.
- H. There's a penalty in OT times, but only forgiveness in NT times.
- I. Other.

2. Why did God give the Israelites rules about stealing?

- A. This seemed to be a big problem with newly freed slaves.
- B. The eighth commandment needed more details and consequences.
- C. Without this everyone would do what was right in their own eyes.
- D. Greed always grabs for more.
- E. To develop respect for others.
- F. The black market undermines community stability.
- G. This denies God as Savior and Lord.
- H. Stealing isn't just about stuff; it's a violation of another person.
- I. Other.

3. When is it okay to steal?

- A. Never.
- B. It depends.
- C. When you're destitute (*Les Misérables*).
- D. When someone else has stolen from you.
- E. Cheating a little on your taxes.
- F. If this is your spiritual gift, then use it!
- G. You can steal a heart or mind, but not property.
- H. As long as you're willing to make restitution (if you get caught).
- I. Other.

4. When have you been in a dispute about personal property?

- A. Paperwork got messed up.
- B. It was a simple misunderstanding.
- C. A greedy, lawsuit-happy person came after me.
- D. One of those internet scams.
- E. A timeshare run amok.
- F. Credit card misuse or fraud.
- G. None of your business.
- H. Other.

5. Who gets the death penalty in *Exodus 22*?

- A. A man who seduces a married woman.
- B. A sorceress/witch/evil magic person.
- C. Those who exploit widows and orphans.
- D. Anyone who sacrifices to anything or anyone other than Yahweh.
- E. Bestiality—someone who has sex with an animal.
- F. A thief.
- G. An atheist.
- H. Other.

6. When are you most likely to hold back with finances?

- A. When I'm running short on cash.
- B. If I've lost my job.
- C. When there's a major drop in the economy.
- D. If I've just forgotten to give.
- E. When I'm thinking of more things I want for me.
- F. Getting close to retirement.
- G. When I'm upset with God or the church.
- H. Other.

7. Give an example of an instruction from God that is in the front of your mind. Name one in the back of your mind. What is one that's not even in your mind?

8. Why does personal property and stealing matter to God? How much does it matter to you?

How To Treat People

OPENING QUESTION

What is your reaction when someone lies to you?

READ Exodus 23:1–33.

1. When are people most likely to lie?

- A. An attempt to make one's self look better than reality.
- B. Cover up a previous lie.
- C. Exaggerate stories.
- D. Some lie so much they don't even know they're lying anymore.
- E. Feeling pressured and not liking one's options with the truth.
- F. When they don't know the truth.
- G. Under oath, like on the witness stand, or saying, "I swear . . ."
- H. When there's bias, like trying to help a friend or family member.
- I. Other.

2. When is justice most likely to be perverted?

- A. When people lie.
- B. Powerful people flexing their power.
- C. Powerful people trying to maintain their power.
- D. When there are guns, or the "good people" lack guns.
- E. During a riot or revolution.
- F. When people claim that God is on their side.
- G. Lack of clarity on what is right and what is wrong.
- H. Extreme economic disparity—very rich and/or very poor people.
- I. Other.

3. How do you determine what is just?

- A. Follow the law(s) already given.
- B. Go with my gut/intuition.
- C. I ask God to tell me.
- D. Search out all sides of an issue.
- E. Rely on what experts say.
- F. Trust my preferred news source.
- G. The Bible spells it out clearly.
- H. Look at the fruit/results.
- I. Other.

4. Why take a Sabbatical one full year every seven years?

- A. God said to do it.
- B. It's only for farmers.
- C. Sabbath is a day, not a year.
- D. Everyone and everything benefits.
- E. It limits greed.
- F. This equalizes things.
- G. Animals matter.
- H. Other.

5. How is “Yahweh’s angel” showing you the way to the Promised Land?

- A. This was for the Israelite’s trip to Canaan, not for me today.
- B. Jesus is “Yahweh’s angel/messenger,” so I just follow Jesus.
- C. Make America God’s shining city on a hill.
- D. I could use a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
- E. Meeting regularly with people of faith.
- F. Hebrews 11 provides plenty of examples.
- G. The application part of our Bible study.
- H. Other.

6. Who/What is likely to distract you from going to the Promised Land?

- A. It seems like “the wrong” usually wins.
- B. The cares of this life.
- C. Temptation(s).
- D. Busyness.
- E. Church stuff.
- F. Media and technology.
- G. Caring for family and friends.
- H. Other.

7. Why don’t Christians continue God’s three annual festivals (vs. 14)? What do/could Christians do in place of these?

8. When has God clearly led in your life? What’s an example that’s not so clear?

Seriously

OPENING QUESTION

How do you show people you are really serious about something?

READ Exodus 24:1–18.

1. Why did God have Moses bring a select group partway up Sinai?

- A. This would give them special powers.
- B. To verify the connection Moses had with Yahweh.
- C. The Israelites were getting restless.
- D. To consecrate these leaders.
- E. To put some space between the common people and the leaders.
- F. The number 70 has special significance to Yahweh.
- G. Yahweh had a feast prepared for them.
- H. God was getting tired of Moses.
- I. Other.

2. Why did the people give the same reply to God's instructions (vs. 3)?

- A. They felt the same way they did previously (*Exodus 19:8*).
- B. The covenant was the same, so they replied in the same manner.
- C. Additional details of the covenant yielded the same response.
- D. They really didn't have any choice.
- E. Everything seemed reasonable and do-able to them.
- F. They wanted to remain in covenant with God.
- G. They had no idea what they were saying.
- H. Yahweh had overwhelmed them from the top of Mount Sinai.
- I. Other.

3. Why did Moses set up the 12 altars and sprinkle blood on the people?

- A. God told him to do this.
- B. This was how they did covenant ceremonies at that time.
- C. To impress the people with the seriousness of the covenant.
- D. God always seems to want blood.
- E. Moses questioned the sincerity of the Israelites' response.
- F. Blood symbolizes life (and death).
- G. After the verbal commitment came a covenant ceremony.
- H. To engage the Israelites' participation in the covenant with God.
- I. Other.

4. Why have a third round of instructions followed by a response (vs. 7)?

- A. The third time is a charm.
- B. This was all new to them, so they needed repetition.
- C. God didn't believe them the first two times.
- D. This was the first time it was read from the written record.
- E. This time it was part of the covenant ceremony.
- F. Not everyone was present the first and second rounds.
- G. The Israelites were about to be tested.
- H. Other.

5. What's the deal with the meal on the mountain in Yahweh's presence?

- A. A meal is part of the covenant.
- B. This served as a precursor to *Matthew 26:26-29* and *Revelation 3:20*.
- C. God came partway down the mountain and ate with the leaders!
- D. The leaders could only see God's feet (as they looked up).
- E. This sanctified the leaders with God's holiness.
- F. Ezekiel later saw four creatures holding up a blue throne (*Ez. 1:26*).
- G. John later saw this in the throne room of heaven (*Rev. 4:6*).
- H. Other.

6. Why did God do fancy fireworks and time delays on Sinai (vs. 15-18)?

- A. It's Yahweh, so it's okay to be "over the top" for humans.
- B. To impress the Israelites with Yahweh's power.
- C. This would confer additional power to Moses and his leadership.
- D. Six days then a seventh day ascent to Yahweh—creation week.
- E. God's visible presence continued for 6 days, but day 7 was special.
- F. Enjoy the moment(s).
- G. God created our senses, so God communicates through them.
- H. Other.

7. How often do you commit yourself to a covenant with God?

8. When has God revealed himself to you in a way you took him seriously?

The Wilderness Sanctuary

OPENING QUESTION

What part of your church facility stands out in your mind?

READ Exodus 25:1–27:21.

1. Why did God choose to dwell with his people by means of a sanctuary?

- A. This resembles a house—God’s house in a human setting.
- B. It would be more mobile than Mount Sinai.
- C. God’s presence in the cloud wasn’t down-to-earth like the sanctuary.
- D. This averted the tendency to idolize human/animal shapes as gods.
- E. The sanctuary provided several useful symbols about God.
- F. It gave the people an opportunity to contribute to God’s house.
- G. This served as the central hub for the camp of Israel.
- H. It made Yahweh more tangible to his people.
- I. Other.

2. Why did God provide such a specific plan for building the sanctuary?

- A. The Israelites only knew how to construct pyramids.
- B. There had never been anything like this; it was an original.
- C. It matched many temples at that time, with some definite differences.
- D. Yahweh knew exactly what he wanted.
- E. This would serve as a test for Moses’ leadership.
- F. This would serve as a test for the people’s obedience.
- G. God’s design accounted for the limited resources in the wilderness.
- H. Moses came up with the plan, but he needed God’s endorsement.
- I. Other.

3. Why did God have the covenant, written in stone, placed inside the ark?

- A. To remind everyone of the centrality of the covenant.
- B. It was heavy.
- C. It came from God’s mouth.
- D. It came from God’s finger.
- E. To keep it safe.
- F. This made it accessible to everyone.
- G. The ark was the holiest part of the sanctuary.
- H. This combined the law with the atonement covering on the ark.
- I. Other.

4. Prioritize from 1 (most fascinating) to 10 (least fascinating):

- A. _____ Altar of burnt offering.
- B. _____ Lampstand—7 branched candlestick.
- C. _____ Table of showbread.
- D. _____ Altar of incense.
- E. _____ The covering of the ark.
- F. _____ The contents inside the ark.
- G. _____ The courtyard.
- H. _____ The Holy Place.
- I. _____ The Most Holy Place.
- J. _____ Other.

5. What grabbed your attention about God's plans for the sanctuary?

- A. How often he said to follow the plans shown on the mount (4x).
- B. So much detail.
- C. So much gold.
- D. This centralized worship for the Israelites.
- E. How practical it seemed to be.
- F. I find it hard to believe God put himself in a box.
- G. This provided experiential interaction with Yahweh.
- H. Other.

6. Why was it important to keep the lampstand always burning (27:20)?

- A. God's light never ceases.
- B. It's just practical to have light inside the tent.
- C. It symbolized Jesus, the light of the world.
- D. This gave the priests a task around the clock.
- E. Other lamps would be lit from this one lampstand.
- F. It went out during the night and got re-lit each morning (30:7).
- G. It commemorates God's promise in *Deut. 31:6* and *Heb. 13:5*.
- H. Other.

7. Where do you find God's presence today?

8. What pattern(s) has God given you to connect with him?

Let's Dress Up

OPENING QUESTION

Do you prefer to dress up or dress casually for church? Why?

READ Exodus 28:1–29:46.

1. Why did God separate the priests from the rest of the people?

- A. The priests were holier than the other people.
- B. Their dress-up and ordination would make them holier than others.
- C. Aaron was chosen by God, just like Moses had been chosen.
- D. “All men are created equal” is an American idea, not God’s idea.
- E. To separate God’s holiness from the people.
- F. To bring God’s holiness to the people.
- G. This could be a set-up for failure.
- H. This seems so opposite from the incarnation—God came to us.
- I. Other.

2. What stands out in your mind about the ephod and chest piece?

- A. Fine linen with embroidery.
- B. So much gold.
- C. Engraved stones representing all the Israelites.
- D. The specific instructions.
- E. A way to determine God’s will.
- F. This uniform must mean a lot to God.
- G. I’d hate to wear something like this.
- H. I’d love to wear something like this.
- I. Other.

3. Why have such an involved dedication ceremony for the priests?

- A. To demonstrate how significant it was.
- B. Priests were to connect the holy God to unholy people.
- C. Priests were to connect unholy people to the holy God.
- D. The priests were unholy.
- E. To make priests holy.
- F. The sanctuary itself wasn’t enough; it needed people/activity.
- G. This served as a precursor to the sanctuary’s daily activities.
- H. It illustrates how complicated religious things can be.
- I. Other.

4. What did God use to make the priests holy?

- A. Washing with water.
- B. Application of innocent blood.
- C. Eating part of the offerings.
- D. Anointing with oil.
- E. Connecting the priests with the altar.
- F. Repeating the process for seven days.
- G. Following the detailed instructions for their ordination.
- H. Other.

5. Who is your priest?

- A. I am my own priest.
- B. Aaron's lineage.
- C. Melchizedek.
- D. My pastor.
- E. The spiritual leader in my house.
- F. Jesus.
- G. It must be a male.
- H. Other.

6. What practices do you follow to be holy?

- A. Spend time with Jesus in private devotions.
- B. Worship regularly.
- C. Confess my sins.
- D. Serve others with my time/talents/treasure.
- E. Healthy lifestyle habits.
- F. Character development.
- G. Separate myself from sin.
- H. Other.

7. God communicated his will to the Israelites through the chest piece (vs. 15, 30). How does God communicate his will to individuals and groups today?

8. How does a holy God live among you today? How do you live with a holy God by your side or in your heart?

The Rest of the Tabernacle Plans

OPENING QUESTION

Put an “X” on the line for how decorated you want your worship place to be:

SIMPLE

ORNATE

READ Exodus 30:1–31:18.

1. Why have an altar of incense in the sanctuary?

- A. It smells good.
- B. To give a mystical look and aura.
- C. This put to good use the coals from the altar of burnt offering.
- D. The priests paired this with the lampstand/candlestick.
- E. It symbolized the prayers of God’s people.
- F. It’s better to have two different altars instead of just one.
- G. God said to do it.
- H. This provided another link between God and his people.
- I. Other.

2. Why did God institute a census tax for the tabernacle?

- A. God couldn’t maintain the tabernacle without the tax.
- B. God chose to maintain the tabernacle with this tax.
- C. It wasn’t much.
- D. It wasn’t equally shared.
- E. It was equally shared.
- F. This reminded people of ransoming the firstborn (*Exodus 13:12*).
- G. Giving it served as a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood.
- H. Other.

3. Why did God include the laver/washbasin as part of the sanctuary?

- A. The water symbolized cleansing.
- B. The water literally cleansed things.
- C. Do you know how messy animal sacrifices are?
- D. This prefigured baptism for Christians.
- E. The laver linked the courtyard to the Holy Place.
- F. This was drinking water for the Israelites—like water from a rock.
- G. The priests used this to cleanse the entire sanctuary.
- H. Other.

4. What made the anointing oil and incense so special?

- A. The secret recipe.
- B. These sanctified the objects in the sanctuary.
- C. These sanctified the priests.
- D. Their exclusiveness.
- E. God.
- F. The sanctuary objects needed a tangible mark for holiness.
- G. A test of obedience, like the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- H. Other.

5. Why did God call Bezalel and Oholiab to construct the tabernacle?

- A. Moses and Aaron didn't have these skills.
- B. This illustrates the variety of talents God gives.
- C. This illustrates the variety of spiritual gifts God gives.
- D. Somebody had to be in charge; somebody had to do the work.
- E. Two heads are better than one.
- F. Two craftsmen are better than one.
- G. This way one tribe wasn't superior to the others.
- H. Other.

6. Why did Moses present the Sabbath again in this part of Exodus?

- A. This paired the Sabbath (holy time) with the sanctuary (holy space).
- B. The repetition deepens the importance of the Sabbath.
- C. To reiterate the link of the Sabbath with God's covenant.
- D. To emphasize the perpetuity of the Sabbath—it's for all time.
- E. So people would faithfully keep each Sabbath holy.
- F. The Sabbath is the most important of the 10 commandments.
- G. The next part of Exodus is about worshiping the golden calf.
- H. Other.

7. What's a special ability God has given you? What's a special ability you wish the Lord would give you?

8. What does the Sabbath mean to you? How do you "keep it holy"?

Unbelievable

OPENING QUESTION

What god(s) do you see people worship today?

READ Exodus 32:1–35.

1. Why did the Israelites ask Aaron to make them some gods?

- A. Moses had been gone more than a month.
- B. Yahweh had gone silent since speaking the 10 commandments.
- C. It's always nice to have a god you can see and touch.
- D. Aaron was a skilled craftsman, especially with gold.
- E. The Israelites remained clueless about how to worship Yahweh.
- F. The people knew Aaron would give in to their demands.
- G. It's easier to worship a god of your own making.
- H. The Israelites had no assurance Moses would return.
- I. Other.

2. Why did the Israelites worship the golden calf like pagans?

- A. Pagans were their only role models.
- B. They didn't yet have a sanctuary for Yahweh.
- C. Aaron made them do it.
- D. Aaron planned a religious festival since he was the religious leader.
- E. They were worshipping Yahweh; the golden calf represented Yahweh.
- F. Humans are made to worship, and they were feeling the urge.
- G. The highly sensual form of pagan worship seemed attractive.
- H. The golden calf was beautiful and awe-inspiring.
- I. Other.

3. What was God's reaction when the Israelites worshiped the golden calf?

- A. I'm going to wipe them out.
- B. No problem; I completely understand.
- C. Moses, how could you let them do that?
- D. Let's start over Moses—just you and Me.
- E. I am so done with these people.
- F. Let's repeat those 10 commandments, starting with the first one.
- G. This calls for a punishment—a plague.
- H. I'm starting over, but this time with the Egyptians.
- I. Other.

4. If you were Moses, what response would you have given to Yahweh?

- A. I'm with You.
- B. You're wrong, I'm sure the Israelites wouldn't worship a golden calf.
- C. Yahweh, you need to finish getting these people to Canaan.
- D. Give them a second chance.
- E. You promised me You would take them to the Promised Land.
- F. Please!
- G. You made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- H. Other.

5. If you were Moses, what response would you have given the Israelites?

- A. Shame on you!
- B. Choose ye this day whom you will serve.
- C. Follow me, not Aaron.
- D. A golden calf—really?!
- E. Smash the 10 commandments God had inscribed.
- F. Destroy the golden calf.
- G. I don't think you will ever be accepted by Yahweh after this.
- H. Other.

6. Why did Moses go back up the mountain to Yahweh?

- A. Get away from the people.
- B. God called him to return to the mountain.
- C. Repent on behalf of the Israelites.
- D. Respond to Yahweh's offer to start over with him.
- E. Intercede for the disobedient Israelites.
- F. Find out if the people would disobey again in Moses' absence.
- G. Affirm his identification with the Israelites.
- H. Other.

7. How can people give up on a God who has done so much for them?

8. Why didn't God give up on the Israelites? Why doesn't God give up on you?

Moving On

OPENING QUESTION

When a relationship ruptures, do you address it immediately or give it time?

READ Exodus 33:1–23.

1. What were God's instructions to Moses after the golden calf incident?

- A. Get moving.
- B. Stay where you are.
- C. The Israelites will no longer be my people.
- D. Go back to Egypt.
- E. You can have my angels, but you can no longer have me.
- F. My promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are still good.
- G. Worshiping the golden calf wasn't that big of a deal.
- H. Please build me a sanctuary so I can dwell among you (*Ex. 25:8*).
- I. Other.

2. Why did God's people stop wearing jewelry?

- A. God told them to stop wearing jewelry.
- B. The people stopped wearing jewelry on their own accord.
- C. This symbolized repentance and humility.
- D. This symbolized sorrow and mourning (like sackcloth and ashes).
- E. Jewelry separates people into different social strata.
- F. God doesn't like jewelry.
- G. God likes jewelry, but his people weren't acting Godly.
- H. Jewelry indicated wealth and they were now bankrupt.
- I. Other.

3. What happened with the "Tent of Meeting" (*vs. 7*) in *Exodus 33*?

- A. It was set up in the center of the camp.
- B. It was set up outside the camp.
- C. God met with the people there.
- D. God refused to meet with the people there.
- E. That's where the priests sacrificed animals.
- F. Moses met with Yahweh there.
- G. It was much closer than the top of Mount Sinai.
- H. The pillar of cloud hovered there when Moses was present.
- I. Other.

4. What made God's people distinct from everyone else (vs. 16)?

- A. They were just better than everyone else.
- B. God's original promise to Abram (*Genesis 12:1-3*).
- C. Miraculous deliverance from Egyptian slavery and the Red Sea.
- D. Personally speaking, writing, and delivering God's law to them.
- E. God forgave them so many times.
- F. God's people stopped wearing jewelry.
- G. They were "Exhibit A" for God's plan for everyone.
- H. Other.

5. What does it mean that God knew Moses by name (vs. 17)?

- A. God knew Moses' name.
- B. God has a great memory.
- C. Moses was special to God.
- D. With so many people, it's hard to remember all the names.
- E. God was intimate with Moses.
- F. God knows the number of hairs on each person, but not their names.
- G. Yahweh and Moses were "friends."
- H. Other.

6. Why did Yahweh show his glory to Moses in the way he did?

- A. Moses asked for it.
- B. A "full on view" was too much and would have killed Moses.
- C. After the golden calf incident, God was hesitant to trust again.
- D. God sets boundaries, but will sometimes change them.
- E. God's boundaries never change.
- F. Moses yearned for more of God.
- G. It all seems very confusing to me (compare with *Ex. 24:9-11*).
- H. Other.

7. What instructions would you like to receive from God now (vs. 13)?

8. How much intimacy do you want with God now:

- More
- Less
- The same

What will it take for this to happen?

Covenant—2nd Time

OPENING QUESTION

A broken promise—when has it happened with you?

READ Exodus 34:1–35.

1. Why did Moses prepare two stone tablets like the first ones (vs. 1)?

- A. God told him to do so.
- B. Moses had smashed the first set in righteous indignation.
- C. God wanted the Israelites to have a rock solid copy of the covenant.
- D. These would go in the soon-to-be-constructed ark of the covenant.
- E. There were no duplicating machines, hard drive, or information cloud.
- F. It was part of his workout routine with vertical climb and weights.
- G. This would renew the covenant between Yahweh and the Israelites.
- H. Aaron asked for a copy for the priests.
- I. Other.

2. Rank (1-9) the importance for you of God's qualities revealed to Moses.

- _____ The name LORD/Yahweh
- _____ Merciful.
- _____ Gracious.
- _____ Slow to anger.
- _____ Unfailing love.
- _____ Faithful.
- _____ Forgiving.
- _____ Sin-punisher.
- _____ Other.

3. What requests do you make to God?

- A. Help me with _____.
- B. Forgiveness for my sin(s).
- C. Forgiveness for the sin(s) of others.
- D. Safety and protection.
- E. Increase my boundaries and bounty—bless me, I pray.
- F. Wisdom for Godly living.
- G. Eliminate my enemies.
- H. Transform and conform my heart and mind to be like yours.
- I. Other.

4. What promises did God make for the Israelites at this time?

- A. Yahweh would go with them to the Promised Land.
- B. Bread and water would be sure.
- C. More miracles than any other nation had experienced.
- D. Hold people accountable to be obedient.
- E. Victory in battles.
- F. A land “flowing with milk and honey.”
- G. Removal of any future enemies.
- H. Other.

5. Why did God prohibit the Israelites from mixing with the Canaanites?

- A. Blending two religions changes both of them—syncretism.
- B. The Israelites would succumb to Canaanite religions.
- C. Yahweh is a jealous God.
- D. The Canaanite religions were highly adulterous and not child-friendly.
- E. The Canaanites had nothing good to offer the Israelites.
- F. Mixed marriages are a bad thing.
- G. God’s probation for the Canaanites was about to close.
- H. Other.

6. What happened with Moses’ shining face and veil (vs. 29-35)?

- A. God wants to shine his glory off of us.
- B. Moses wasn’t even aware of it.
- C. It embarrassed everyone else.
- D. God’s glory fades on us, so it must be renewed.
- E. This provided a metaphor Paul later used (*2 Corinthians 3:7-18*).
- F. It was easy to see when God gave Moses a new message.
- G. Moses had to wear a veil for the next 38 years in the wilderness.
- H. People can always tell when someone is close to God.
- I. Other.

7. When do you reflect God’s glory?

8. How do you receive more of God’s glory?

Offering Calls

OPENING QUESTION

Why do you think churches ask for money?

READ Exodus 35:1–36:7.

1. Why did another Sabbath reminder get inserted here (vs. 1-3)?

- A. Sabbath is an offering call for our time.
- B. Moses had special time with God (*Ex 34*); so can each person.
- C. This was God's time to have full access to His people.
- D. This was the people's time to have full access to God.
- E. Humans need periodic reminders or else we forget.
- F. The Sabbath sums up all of God's other commands/instructions.
- G. Some people are workaholics.
- H. People had started to light fires on Sabbath, and that was a problem.
- I. Other.

2. What did Moses include in his offering appeal (vs. 4-19)?

- A. Time.
- B. Money.
- C. Precious metals, fabrics, and jewelry they were wearing.
- D. Only items for sanctuary construction.
- E. Everything people owned.
- F. The people's Egyptian plunder (*Ex 12:36*).
- G. Willing hearts.
- H. A temple tax.
- I. Other.

3. What would you have given in response to this offering appeal?

- A. A tithe.
- B. Tithe and offerings.
- C. Not much.
- D. A lot.
- E. Whatever I didn't want for myself.
- F. Whatever I didn't need for myself.
- G. I would have given sacrificially.
- H. It depends on what I had at the time.
- I. Other.

4. When do you prepare your gifts for God?

- A. When I pay my bills.
- B. When I worship God.
- C. I give systematically—on a regular basis.
- D. I give based on the moment.
- E. It depends on the economy.
- F. It depends on how much I have and what's ahead of me.
- G. If there's money left after my bills are paid.
- H. Other.

5. What has God chosen to give you so you can give?

- A. Talents that I have to develop.
- B. Gifts that I can share whenever I choose.
- C. Intelligence.
- D. Practical skills.
- E. Good looks.
- F. Faith building.
- G. Artistic ability.
- H. Finances.
- I. Other.

6. When did you get a message to stop because you've given enough?

- A. Never.
- B. Never at church.
- C. At church.
- D. At Christmas.
- E. When I sing out loud.
- F. When I share what's on my mind.
- G. Government tax refunds.
- H. When people don't want me around anymore.
- I. Other.

7. What have you already given to God? What do you have that you don't want to give to God at this time?

8. What do you do when you want to give more than you can?

Majestic

OPENING QUESTION

What's a place that comes to mind when you think of the word "majestic"?

READ Exodus 36:8–38:31.

1. What made the covering of the tabernacle special?

- A. God's instructions.
- B. The skilled craftsmen's work.
- C. Embroidered cherubim could be seen from inside looking upward.
- D. The size, and yet portability of this ceiling/roof.
- E. The combination of beauty and function.
- F. It was waterproof on the outside.
- G. Coming up with so much fabric.
- H. All the colors.
- I. Other.

2. Describe the framework for the tabernacle?

- A. It sounds a little bit like putting Legos together.
- B. Lots of gold.
- C. Lots of silver.
- D. Lots of embroidery for inside curtains hanging over the framework.
- E. I wonder if this is big enough for a million people.
- F. Why do we have this in the Bible if only the Levites saw it?
- G. This kind of thing has no interest for me.
- H. This kind of thing captivates me.
- I. Other.

3. What made the ark of the covenant unique?

- A. It was completely covered in gold, inside and outside.
- B. It was huge.
- C. This would symbolize the very presence of Yahweh.
- D. The design included portability—priests would carry it on poles.
- E. Angels were permanently present on the cover.
- F. It would hold Aaron's rod, a pot of manna, and the two stone tablets.
- G. Other religions at that time had a similar design for their gods.
- H. The atonement cover—making Yahweh and the people "at-one."
- I. Other.

4. The table, candlestick, and incense altar—what caught your attention?

- A. So much gold.
- B. The intricacy of the designs.
- C. The symbols associated with all three of them.
- D. I didn't realize the table included liquid offerings in addition to bread.
- E. Snuffers and trays for the seven-branch candlestick.
- F. The altar of incense was so small.
- G. Not just decorative, but also functional.
- H. Other.

5. What is your favorite part of the courtyard?

- A. Being outdoors.
- B. The altar of burnt offering.
- C. All the utensils associated with the altar of burnt offering.
- D. Cleanliness from the bronze basin.
- E. Mentioning the women who served at the entrance (*Ex 38:8*).
- F. It seems so big.
- G. All the people had access here, not just the priests.
- H. I prefer the inside of the sanctuary more than the courtyard.
- I. Other.

6. Why list an inventory of materials to construct the sanctuary (*vs. 21-31*)?

- A. This would show nobody stole anything.
- B. It illustrates the majesty of this portable sanctuary.
- C. It demonstrates the generosity of the Israelites.
- D. You have to list all items for insurance purposes.
- E. Moses was a stickler for details.
- F. This shows how much the Israelites had pillaged the Egyptians.
- G. This just fills up the chapter with more verses.
- H. Other.

7. What parts of the place you worship have special significance to you?

8. What could make the place you worship more significant to you? Does being part of the construction or remodeling increase your buy-in?

Well Done, Done Well

OPENING QUESTION

What's one of your favorite outfits you wear?

READ Exodus 39:1-43.

1. What comes to mind as you read about Aaron's high priestly attire?

- A. Magnificent.
- B. Over-the-top.
- C. Costly, although donated, designed, and delivered.
- D. It's too much for me.
- E. This clearly set him apart.
- F. Does this mean we shouldn't wear jewelry, or we should?
- G. So much symbolism.
- H. Aaron's outfit connected God to the Israelites, and vice versa.
- I. Other.

2. Why have the two onyx stones as shoulder pieces of the ephod?

- A. I have no idea.
- B. God said to do it this way.
- C. They held the front and back of the linen ephod/garment together.
- D. Two symbolizes "witness" so these stones would be a witness.
- E. The 12 tribes would be on Aaron's shoulders as the high priest.
- F. Aaron carried the 12 tribes with him, and the 12 tribes supported him.
- G. Onyx stones were the only two jewels of the same kind donated.
- H. They were large enough to engrave six tribes on each stone.
- I. Other.

3. What caught your attention with the chest piece for the high priest?

- A. So many precious stones.
- B. This must have been heavy.
- C. Another indicator that this was to be important and meaningful.
- D. Not much caught my attention.
- E. The repetition of the 12 tribes.
- F. The singularity of each tribe having one stone.
- G. The precious stones remind me of the prostitute of *Revelation 17:4*.
- H. It matches the 12 foundations of the New Jerusalem (*Rev 21:19-20*).
- I. Other.

4. Why have pomegranates and bells on the hem of Aaron's robe?

- A. More and more decorations.
- B. Aaron liked pomegranates.
- C. The bells let everyone know when the high priest was ministering.
- D. This added another sense (audio) to the sanctuary.
- E. If Aaron died in the Most Holy Place, you'd know—no bells ringing.
- F. Pomegranates symbolized God's blessings to an agrarian society.
- G. It probably meant something to them, but it means nothing to me.
- H. Other.

5. What was the purpose of the golden medallion on Aaron's turban?

- A. This topped it off.
- B. Turbans cover "bad hair days."
- C. The forehead indicates the mind and dominion.
- D. The message, "Holy to the Lord," superseded the 12 tribes on jewels.
- E. Gold mattered more than the precious stones.
- F. The Israelites donated so much gold, it had to be used for something.
- G. The name on the head matters (*Ezekiel 9:4; Rev 7:3; 13:16; 14:1, 3*).
- H. Other.

6. Why did the Israelites do everything right in constructing the tabernacle?

- A. It's the only thing they ever did completely right.
- B. God had given Bezalel and Oholiab supernatural skills.
- C. After so many mistakes, they pulled together to do one thing right.
- D. The people gave graciously, and that's what made the difference.
- E. I'm completely surprised by this.
- F. God gave them very explicit instructions.
- G. The sanctuary—God's mobile presence—mattered so much to them.
- H. Moses supervised it throughout the process.
- I. Other.

7. When have you, as part of God's people, experienced everything coming together for God?

8. When has God said to you, "Well done"? When have church leaders told you, "Well done"?

Ready for God

OPENING QUESTION

What's it like to attend a church dedication?

READ Exodus 40:1–38.

1. Does the order of these instructions matter?

- A. Probably.
- B. Probably not.
- C. God first gave Moses the instructions, then Moses followed them.
- D. The first day of the year was significant year one and year two.
- E. The instructions start with the ark of the covenant—God's presence.
- F. Moses set up the entire thing by himself.
- G. Moses supervised the setting up of the entire tabernacle.
- H. He worked from the inside out—from Yahweh to the people.
- I. Other.

2. Could the people see the items in the sanctuary while it was set up?

- A. Yes.
- B. No one was allowed to watch.
- C. Only the Levites could watch.
- D. Only the priests in the tribe of Levi could watch.
- E. The Bible doesn't say.
- F. None of it was holy until it had been dedicated.
- G. Multiple people had participated in its construction.
- H. Only those standing in the front could see.
- I. Other.

3. What consecrated the newly constructed sanctuary?

- A. The anointing oil (*vs. 9*).
- B. The process of consecrating it.
- C. Obeying God's instructions.
- D. Only God can make it holy.
- E. The human acts of obedience to God release God's holiness.
- F. Getting everything inside and out of sight from the people.
- G. The presence of God that came in the form of the glorious cloud.
- H. It was holy from the moment the people gave their gifts to God.
- I. Other.

4. Why did God have Moses set up everything for the sanctuary?

- A. Moses was the holiest Israelite.
- B. Moses served as the leader of the people.
- C. Aaron's golden calf experience disqualified him.
- D. The people looked to Moses as their spiritual leader.
- E. Moses only supervised it; he used the priests as his assistants.
- F. Moses requested the honor.
- G. It didn't really matter; the only thing that mattered was it got set up.
- H. Other.

5. Why did God fill the tabernacle to the point of chasing everyone away?

- A. Yahweh was so pleased he couldn't hold back.
- B. This would make an important impression on the Israelites.
- C. God's powerful presence from atop Sinai now came to the people.
- D. God's presence sometimes is muted, but sometimes isn't.
- E. This way the Israelites would know that Moses wasn't Yahweh.
- F. Many get the impression from this that Yahweh is unapproachable.
- G. God's power and holiness should never be forgotten.
- H. Other.

6. Why did the cloud stay with the Israelites?

- A. Security.
- B. Direction.
- C. Centering.
- D. A symbol of God's presence.
- E. A reminder of the day the sanctuary was consecrated.
- F. A replica of the Shekinah glory in the Most Holy Place over the ark.
- G. It came and went.
- H. 24/7 Presence in real time.
- I. Other.

7. When has God "showed up" for you in an unmistakable way?

8. When has God told you to go somewhere? When has God told you to stay somewhere?

