

# The Torah

## Community Groups Discussion Guide

Sunday, January 31

### Week 5

#### Relationship First, Rules Second | Exodus 19, 20

##### Introduction

We're in a 9 week series we've titled The Torah. In Jewish tradition, "Torah" is the name of these first five books of the Bible. It's a Hebrew word that means 'teachings' or 'instructions'.

Sunday's sermon looks at God's relationship with the people of Israel. Before answering the following questions you will want to have read Exodus 19 and 20. You might find it helpful to also read Deuteronomy 5 which also gives the Ten Commandments but with some added insights.

##### Questions for Study

1. What difference does it make when you're given instructions on what you can and cannot do – if you're given those instructions from someone you know well and who you trust?
2. After reading Exodus 19 write down all your observations of what takes place. After you've done this, then describe how you would be feeling if you were one of the Israelites.
3. Verse 3 through 6 are the most important verses to understand in chapter 19. Read these verses and write down what God is emphasizing to the Israelites.
4. What is the common message that God gives to the Israelites in Exodus 19:4 and 20:2?
5. Going back to Exodus 7 through 12, how did God do what he said he did in Exodus 19:4 and 20:2?
6. What was the one thing God asked the Israelites to do on the night of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Answer is in Exodus 12.
7. Write down as many differences you can think of between being religious and being in a relationship with God.
8. The Ten Commandments are given in chapter 20. Without looking write down as many of these ten commands as you can remember.
9. How do the Ten Commandments accomplish the following:
  - 1) They tell us a lot about the God who wrote them.
  - 2) They give us navigational cues for advancing in life.
  - 3) They test our character.
  - 4) They point us to our need of God's grace and forgiveness.