

Hey Liberty Students Connect Group Leaders!

I pray that you're more excited than ever about the direction of Liberty Students as we're going through the whole Bible in a **GOSPEL**-centered way to **SEND OUT RELATIONAL** students who can make **DISCIPLES** on **MISSION** with Jesus!

Connect Group Leaders, please let me continue to encourage you to raise up your connect group students with the goal of sending them out by **facilitating discussion and conversation** rather than spending most of your time personally teaching and lecturing. One of the best ways to do this is by not reading the curriculum to them during Connect Group, but being prepared to ask questions that lead to the point we are trying to make.

As always, please never hesitate to let us know what we can do for you personally, your family, or your ministry! We love y'all!

Thankful for all His Grace on you and I. To Jesus Be the Glory! Be reminded of this truth:

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, *if we do not give up.* - Galatians 6:9

Praying this verse for you!

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Series: “All Out” (Worship Through the Book of Exodus)

Date: April 24, 2016

Lesson: Meeting God at the Mountain

Lead Teacher Welcome and Introduction (10 mins)

Our LEAD TEACHER for the morning will welcome the Connect Groups while they are coming into the room. This is to bring energy into the room and a welcoming environment for our first timers, guests, visitors, and members.

Story: Lead Teachers, tell a story to the Connect Groups about a time where you have needed to personally prepare for a major event in your life. Maybe it was the day before your wedding, basic training before military service, packing before vacation, preparation for a major exam or a medical procedure. Whatever the case, without the preparation, you would not be ready for the event. Major events call for major preparation!

Point: Everyone has experienced some form of “preparation” in their lives whether its for sports, a test, vacation, or other significant event. Without preparation you will probably suffer in some way because of your “lack” of preparation! Put it this way, if you go to the beach but don’t pack sunscreen, you’re going to experience the horrifying effects of sunburn. God is no different when he decides to do major things in the lives of his people. God calls Israel to preparation or consecration “to set themselves apart in holy ways” as he gets ready to reveal his powerful holiness on Mount Sinai. Consecration ultimately helps the people to realize God’s holiness, otherness, and power. They had to “prepare” for this event 3 days in advance, in order to experience one of the biggest supernatural phenomena’s this world has ever seen. Failure to prepare themselves would have led to God’s judgment and their destruction. The presence of holiness cannot be met carelessly by sinful humanity. But preparation by faith and obedience lead to an opportunity that this world has never forgotten.

Intro into Discussion: Turn in your Bible’s to Exodus 19, and discuss how God is teaching us to respond to his holiness.



Connect Group Introductions and Discussion #1 (25 mins)

- **Welcome** and personally speak to every student.
- Give special **attention** to any first timers or guests.
- Ask about one special thing that happened in the **students'** week.
- Also tell them one special thing that happened from **your** week.
- **Fill out the "Off-Campus Connect Group or Discipleship Groups"** form by writing the names of your students who were involved in either off-campus connect groups or discipleship groups this past week.
- **Go over the Newsletter and Daily Devos** on your table with your students.
- **Pray** to begin the morning together.

Connect Group Leader Note: The purpose of this first Connect Group time is to see the contrasts and comparisons between the people of Israel's call to preparation (consecration) and God revealing his holiness to them at Sinai. We want to find out the "why" behind this topic. "Why" did God call them to set themselves apart before he came? "What" is it about his coming that causes the people to have re-prioritize their lives? Ultimately we see in verses 5-6 that God wants them re-structure their lives to experience what he is like, and therefore they can be a witness of what God is like to the rest of the world.

Please study this lesson, internalize it, pray through it, and own it so that you don't have to just read the answers or the teaching points from this curriculum. I realize you will need to read the questions of course, but the more the students hear the answers and the teaching points from your heart, the more they will want to memorize it as well and let it sink deeply into their hearts!

We are well aware you will not be able to get to or through every single question in the curriculum. Please do not even try! We put more questions than you need into the curriculum because we know that some questions will connect with some groups better than others. Please prayerfully study which questions to facilitate your Connect Group through.

- **(Ask 2-3 students) Do you remember any major events in your life that called for intense preparation? Why did you have to prepare so intentionally for it?**
These kinds of questions get the students to start talking so that we can transition the conversation into deeper spiritual matters. Let them share about their experiences in this topic!



- Read Exodus 19:1-4.

What perspective was God wanting the people to REMEMBER according to verse 4?

The Lord is calling them to remember his power, what his power did to the Egyptians, how His power rescued them, where his power took Israel away from and where it brought them to.

What perspective does God want us as His people to remember for our lives?

When we remember the perspective of us being created by God, Jesus living and dying for us, God calling us, and God doing specific miracles in our life, it helps us to live for Him!

Ask the students at your table to give a QUICK recap of what's happened to Israel from the plagues, up to this point.

The Plagues, Passover, walking on dry ground through the Red Sea, Manna, Water from the rock, victory in war.

- Read Exodus 19:5-6.

After God asks them to REMEMBER His power in verse 4 He gives 5 reasons for why He used His power to save them. What reasons can you see for this in verses 5-6? Are these same reasons true for our own lives?

- 1) God used his power so that they would **trust Him** enough to “obey His voice”.
- 2) God used his power for them so they would **love Him** enough to keep a “covenant with Him.”
- 3) God used his power for them so that they would **become** a “treasured” people.
- 4) God showed them His power so that they would **become** “a holy nation”.
- 5) God used His power so they would **become** a “kingdom of priests”.

- Read the first half of Exodus 19:9 (verse 9a).

Looking at the first part of verse 9, why do you think God wanted to come to the people in such a terrifying way?

Events like this are hard to forget, we see that God wanted to create a lasting impression on His people so they would always believe on Him, realize His total power and desire to become the people He saved them to be in verses 5-6.



As Christians, do we need to continue to have this view of God? Why or why not?

- **Read Exodus 19:10-11**

What instruction does God give the people in verse 10?

Consecration, preparation. God tells Moses to consecrate the people or “to set them apart for a special purpose” and tells them to prepare for this purpose by washing their clothes.

Is there any place in verse 11 that God gives a “why” for this instruction?

To be ready for the Third day, this was the day that He would physically appear to the people of Israel and they would audibly hear His voice for the first time.

There’s a lot of things God could have asked the people to do to prepare for His arrival, why was God concerned with their cleanliness and laundry?

God’s powerful holiness demands that the people alter their everyday life, set aside work, take a bath and wash their clothes as an intentional way to recognize those three days that the ultimate perfect being is coming their way. They had to physically alter the hygienic state of their bodies and clothes in order to prepare for this event.

How does God’s command for consecration connect into our lives? In what ways and at what times do we need to cleanse our lives to specially worship Him?

We need to consecrate our lives daily through immediate confession.

We need to consecrate our lives first thing every morning to live set-apart from the world.

We need to consecrate our lives before worship services.

- **Extra Credit: What was the purpose of the cloud?**

God’s holiness and power cannot be separated. His perfection and His holiness are so powerful that He had to cloak it behind the thick cloud. He would not allow Himself to be seen, only his voice to be heard.

- **Connect Group Teachers Point:** God reveals His holiness and saving purpose to Israel through an extraordinary event in Exodus 19. He shows his holiness to let the people know that He is different. He is complete perfection, He is incredible power, He is not a pushover and that an appearance of His royalty needs to be prepared for not by red carpets or news crews but by an examination of the human heart and faith driven obedience to His commands.



Large Group by Lead Teacher #2 (5 min)

God shows that His powerful holiness should never be taken lightly. The people were called to get ready for this event three days in advance! Not only do we see this truth but God shows us His heart and purpose behind this event in the verses 4-5. God wants to do something incredible in these peoples lives. However, first He must show them what He is like so that they will continue to believe. God teaches them in this passage that He is way different than than them, essentially this is what the definition of holiness is. God wholly different from us, He is clean, we are unclean, He is powerful, we are so weak we must take special steps to avoid his destruction. With such contrasts between us and Him it seems that He is kind of unapproachable. Have you ever wondered the “**why**” of the way God acted here in Exodus 19 or the OT in general? Did God change between the OT and the NT? Is Jesus just a way more *chill* version of Yahweh? Let’s look more at this chapter to find out.

Connect Group Discussions #2 (20 min)

Leader Note: The purpose of this section is for students to get a clear picture of the unapproachable nature of God due to His holiness and our sinfulness. And then make much about how Jesus has brought us to God the Father! The people later become terrified of God and go on to ask Him only to speak to Moses because they couldn’t take it anymore. The Father, Jesus, the Spirit, the whole Trinity will always be powerfully holy! We will learn from this next section that God knew His people could never come up and approach Him, because He knew that he would one day come down to perfectly approach us as. The Old Covenant was always going to be temporary, the New and better one was still coming. Be ready to use Hebrews 12 to tie this story into the Gospel!

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- Read Exodus 19:12-13.

Leader note: Don’t spend too much of this time in Exodus, these next questions are short and designed to get a point across so we can make a big deal of how Jesus brought us to the unapproachable God!

What did The Lord warn the people about doing in verse 12?



To not go up to or touch the mountain He was coming down on.

Looking at 12-13 what were the consequences if they did go up too soon?
“Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death.” Or “he shall be stoned or shot.”

What do you think about this instruction? Why do you think God had to do this?

- **Read Exodus 19:16-20 and 21-22.**

How do verses 16-20 show us what God’s powerful holiness looks like?

Have the students read off the characteristics or attributes of what His presence was like in these verses.

Look at verses 21-22, in verse 21 what was God concerned about?

Warning the people from even trying to get a look at Him!

Key: What do these things say about God’s *approachability*? Why does His holiness seem to default to “*breaking out*” against these people?

God could not be approached! Sinful humanity was not allowed to enter His presence without judgment. They lost that privilege in the Garden of Eden. God only allows his messenger, Moses, there. His present, powerful holiness would attack the people before they got a chance to see him!

- **Read Hebrews 12:18-21**

As the author of Hebrews writes to true believers he starts by telling them the place where God, by saving them, has NOT brought them to. What are these verses referring to?

The Christian’s experience of entering into an eternally saving covenant with God, through Jesus, is NOT like Moses and the people of Israel in Exodus 19.

What type of words do you see the author using to describe this event?

- **Read Hebrews 12:22-24**

Where does the author of Hebrews say that the salvation given to believers by Jesus has brought them to?



Mount Zion, Heavenly Jerusalem, the Assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, to God, and to Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant (the one who gave us the New Covenant, who brought it into being and keeps it in motion)

How do both of these places contrast with one another?

**Most importantly “Who” does it say believers have now approached, or come near to, because of Jesus?
God!**

**“Who” could the Israelites NOT go to in Exodus 19?
God!**

- **LASTLY: Read Ephesians 2:16-18 (With Jesus in mind!)**

What do verses 16-17 say that Jesus’ death on the cross has done?

His death has RECONCILED us back to God. In the same way Adam and Eve tore **Us and Israel** from going back into His presence by their sin, Jesus by His death paid the price for sin and can now bring people back into God’s presence and not only this but God’s presence now lives in His people because of Jesus!

Have one student read Exodus 19:21 then have one student read Ephesians 2:18

How do these verses compare or contrast with each other?

What do these verses say about what Jesus’ life, death and resurrection have done for all believers that the Israelites never got to experience?

Teaching Point: What Jesus has done is far better than even the best of Exodus 19. The Heavenly City that we are spiritually in, and being physically brought to, is far better than the awful scene at Sinai. God’s holy wrath would break out against the Israelites to show us how we were still not able to relate to him and could not approach him because of sin. Jesus took that “break out” upon himself for OUR sins to bring us back to God’s presence on a new mountain, with a new covenant, with all of the rest of the citizens of Heaven. Jesus is the Hero of the narrative of scripture. Can you see why God is crazy about His Son?!

Personal:



One day all mankind will “see” God’s powerful holiness without a cloud. Nothing has changed; at that time when the break through death to see him their sight of God’s holiness will judge and break out against them.

God’s holiness and power against sin shows us our need for Jesus to rescue us.

We can now approach God’s presence and know Him because personal faith “in” and surrender “to” what Jesus’ has done.

The Bible constantly points to the Gospel in every story, on every page we see how Jesus is the hero of the whole narrative of scripture.

Closing Remarks and Announcements by Lead Teacher (5 min)

It is important to realize that God has not changed. He has not become less holy or less powerful. However, what has changed is that we have a greater mediator between God and man; Jesus is a greater mediator of a greater covenant, so that we can have greater access to God.

ANNOUNCEMENT REMINDERS

- This Wednesday, don’t forget to bring a first timer this Wednesday for a chance to win “**The Impossible Shot.**”
- **CAMP:** Don’t forget to tell your parents about camp! It’s the first week of August. On May 11th, have your \$100 deposit ready to reserve your spot and early bird pricing of \$299.
- Our next **Connect Group Leader Meeting** is April 24th at 12:30! It is a lunch and training. Please let me know ASAP and tell me how many of your children will be attending.
- You are not dismissed until your Connect Group Leader dismisses you.

