

The



Compass

August 9 - August 15, 2010

Faith Journey - Adventures in Trust
Terms of the Relationship

Overview

Sometimes in our journey, we get in a rut. This can be because we've lost view of the "terms" of relationship with God. Somehow we've allowed ourselves, the culture around us, or the enemy, to shape ideas about Who God is or what is expected. These "terms" sidetrack us. Refocusing on who God is and how He wants to be in relationship with us can lead us back to the right track of deeper relationship with God.

Exodus 19-24

This week our focal passage will be Exodus 19:1-9, but we want to read the entire section to see the passage in context. Here is the reading schedule for the week.

Monday – Exodus 19

Tuesday – Exodus 20

Wednesday – Exodus 21

Thursday – Exodus 22

Friday – Exodus 23

Saturday – Exodus 24

Memory Verse – Exodus 24:3

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." (NIV)

Biblical Context

God has now begun the journey to develop the character and relationships He wants with His special people. God has chosen to powerfully communicate His requirements for relationship and make a covenant with them. This covenant contains promises, but also contains conditions under which the promises will be fulfilled.

Our Context

Seth decided it was time for a “DTR” – “define the relationship.” He and Heather had spent a lot of time together, and she seemed interested. He knew he was! This DTR had to be handled correctly, though. He didn’t want to scare her away, but he definitely wanted to move them further down the road. Hopefully, setting the “terms” would benefit them both.

Monday, August 9th

First Impressions

Read though your Compass from last week and review the Numbers 13-14. How would you summarize your view of the future after last week's study?

This week we will be looking at a different chapter each day. Read through Exodus 19 twice today.

What is the promise God makes with the Israelites and what is the condition on that promise?

Imagine yourself as one of the many Israelites in today's passage. What thoughts are going through your mind?

Tuesday – August 10th

Focus: Basic commands for vertical and horizontal relationships.

Read: Exodus 20. Spend five minutes reflecting on this passage before answering the questions.

Discover:

1. What is the common theme in the first five commandments?
2. What is the common theme in the second five commandments?
3. In verses 23-24, what are the differences between idols and the altar God asks them to make?

Apply: Memorize Exodus 24:3. How can we, as a church body, respond with one voice like the people of Israel?

Wednesday – August 11th

Focus: God's guidance for social responsibility.

Read: Exodus 21 twice before answering the questions.

Discover:

1. Why do you think God began with instructions regarding servanthood?
2. As you look at the instructions regarding personal injury, what seems to be the common theme for these instructions?
3. Why do you think God transitions to injuries with animals?

Apply: Do any of these laws and regulations concern you? Why or why not?

Thursday – August 12th

Focus: We find more instructions on social responsibility.

Read: Exodus 22. Take time to reflect before answering the questions.

Discover:

1. Do you think many of the consequences seem harsh? Why or why not?

2. Imagine you were there in the crowd listening to the reports of Canaan. What Old Testament assurances should have comforted the Israelites? List some of them.

Apply: Read Joshua 24:15. Pray about the concerns and worries you have. Consciously and confidently release them to God.

Friday – August 13th

Focus: Worship responsibilities and God's promise of direction and protection.

Read: Exodus 23 twice. Reflect before answering the questions.

Discover:

1. What appears to be the common threads through the first 19 verses?
2. What are the promises and conditions God gives to the Israelites in verses 20-33?

Apply: Think about your relationship with God. Are there promises you are expecting Him to fulfill? If so, are you fulfilling the conditions to enjoy those promises? Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you uphold your end of the relationship.

Saturday – August 14th

Focus: God wants to confirm His promises to His people in a visible way.

Read: Read Exodus 24. Take time to reflect on this passage.

Apply: What are some of the visual symbols God uses in this passage to remind His people of this special relationship?

Do you have visual reminders of the covenant you have with God? If not, what might you select? Spend time with God, asking Him to give you a visual reminder of your commitment to Him.

Base Camp Suggestions

Eating together...

Mix people of ages and experience at each table. Have one or two adults share with the other adults and children at their table how they met/ married their spouse.

Being family together...

Read Exodus 19:1-9 together. Ask the children what one of their favorite “rules” is in their house and why.

Applying together...

1. What are some of the “terms” you’ve created in your relationship with God?
2. What are some terms you think God might want to change in your relationship?
3. How does community (our Base Camp) impact the defining of your terms?
4. How does it support the desire you have to change terms?

Praying together...

Let’s be intentional about praying together for the people we can see from our front porches.

For Families with a Child in Tiny Town (0 to Pre-K)

Verse: “Everything the LORD has said we will do.”
(Exodus 24:3b)

As parents we see potential pitfalls. Literally, as our toddlers careen quickly down the driveway, we see the scraped knees sure to follow! We want our children to trust us and slow down because we know what can happen. God wants His children to listen to Him and follow His lead because He can see the big picture.

Activity: Take a pair of binoculars on a walk around your neighborhood. Let your child stop several times and look through them. Have them notice how much bigger everything seems. Talk about how God can see everything everywhere. He knows them by name and has a special plan for each of them. (Jer. 29:11)

If your child learned the verse and completed this or another of our family activities, return this page to the check-in station.

Parent Signature

Date

For Families with a Child In Adventure Quest

Read Exodus 24:3. God loves us so much that He sets up parameters just like parents do. In this verse, the people said, “Everything the Lord has said we will do.” God wants to be in relationship with us and because He is God, He knows what is best for us on our journey.

Ask your children to draw a shape on a piece of paper. Within that shape, have the children write words to describe who God is. (love, provider, creator, faithful, etc.)

Spend time talking about God and who He is. Can we not trust God who is faithful, loves us, created all things, and has a plan for our journey which will glorify Him?

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station with your signature.

Parent Signature

Date

For Families with a Child In Elevate

Read Exodus 19:1-9 and Exodus 24:3 together.

Discuss who God is and why He has given us parameters for our relationship with Him. (Just like we, as parents, have given our children parameters.) As we turn our hearts toward God, we will learn to surrender to His true desires for our journey with Him.

Ask your children to write a paragraph about who God is to them. You do the same. Take turns reading out loud and comparing what you wrote. Is there a huge difference in how each individual family member sees God? Take time to discuss the similarities and the differences.

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Base Camp Ideas

After God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptian army, He brought them to Mt. Sinai. This was the place God was planning to illustrate His relationship with His chosen people, the Israelites.

1. God's promises to the nation of Israel are very clear in this week's passage. What promises has God given you?
2. Many times, God brings us to a place in our lives where we are willing to listen. What are some ways God tries to speak to us?
3. Do you remember a time you knew God was trying to say something to you and you wouldn't listen? What caused you not to listen to God's voice?
4. If we are aware of the promises of God and that He loves to speak to us through various ways, what continually causes us to doubt what He says? Why do we persist on challenging what God says and walking our own path?

Sermon and Connection Class Notes

Mission and Vision

Our mission at Tri-Lakes Chapel is to help people connect: intimately with God, intentionally with God's family, and influentially with God's world. Our vision is to develop genuine Biblical community on every street in the Tri-Lakes region.

To this end, we have designed this Compass with a holistic, communal approach to spiritual growth that we believe will grow us together to be more like Jesus. This approach has four elements which work in an integrated fashion.

They are:

Household - Using this resource daily, both personally and communally, as our road map to integrated, spiritual growth.

Base Camp - Small groups meeting in homes to live life together while applying the message of the week.

Connection Class - Mid-size Sunday groups digging deeper together through detailed teaching and discussion.

Worship Service - Coming together corporately to focus on and respond to the heart of the week's passage.

We believe this integrated approach will bring dynamic growth in and through our Tri-Lakes family. Our hope is to experience communal, spiritual transformation as we - together-engage at all four levels.