

# THE STORY OF GOD

***“The Law: Relationships and Rules”- Exodus 20***  
***November 1st, 2015***

## **OBSERVE & REFLECT**

*(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)*

### **READ Exodus 20**

- ☀ Read the texts at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the texts? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the texts? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

## **INVESTIGATE & APPLY**

*(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)*

1. Read Exodus 1:8-14. It's important to note that 400 years have passed in between the end of the book of Genesis and the beginning of the book of Exodus. What has taken place in those 400 years? What is the condition that the people of Israel find themselves in? What would have you been wondering about God if you were in their position (even though he had foretold it in Genesis 15:13-16)?
2. Read Exodus 2-3. Finally, when Moses is around 80 years old, the Lord comes to him with his message of deliverance for the people of Israel. How was God preparing Moses during those 80 years? What is Moses' response to God's message? Have you ever dealt with the same feelings that Moses expresses?
3. Read Exodus 11-12. God sent plagues to the nation of Egypt to free his people from slavery. What was the final plague? How were the Israelites spared from this terrible plague? What was this meant to be for the people and how did the Passover become a symbol of the nation? What were they to be reminded of on a yearly basis? How did this point forward to Jesus?
4. Read Exodus 20:1-3. Pay careful attention to the wording. How does God make it clear that the relationship came before the rules? Why is this important for us? What happens when you are given rules with no relationship? How does this change your understanding of the purpose of the law and of all of God's commands?

***“God’s law is never given to establish a relationship; God’s law is given to confirm an existing relationship. These divinely inspired instructions stand not as a gateway into a relationship with God, but as a confirmation that you already belong to him.”***

***-Andy Stanley***

## **NEXT STEPS**

- ☀ The purpose of God's law has always been the same from the beginning: to protect the freedom of those he loves. Is that how you see God's law? Is it a good thing? If not, is it because you are using the law to try to gain God's approval, which is impossible?
- ☀ The Bible teaches that sin leads to slavery and death, while obedience leads to freedom and life. Satan tries to deceive us and convince us of the opposite. In your daily life, how do you see the enemy trying to convince you that you'll be missing something good if you obey God? How do we overcome these attacks?