

Exodus 19-20

God: the consuming and life-giving fire



What is your most positive and negative experience of fire?

The text – Exodus 19–20

1. There is an ongoing tension between being near God and being unable to be near him in this passage. In what ways are the people near God in Exodus 19:1–6?
2. In what ways are the people unable to be near God? See Exodus 19:7–25 and 20:18–21.
3. What is Moses' experience of being near God? What does this mean for his relationship with the people?
4. What does God want Israel's relationship with him to be like? Exodus 20:1–7
5. What kind of society does God want Israel to be? Exodus 20:8–17.

The Scriptures – Exodus 19–20 as a portion of the Scriptures

6. The tension between nearness and distance is an ongoing one across the Bible. What can we learn about the tension in Exodus 40:1–38; John 1:1–18; Hebrews 10:19–25; 12:18–28?
7. How does Jesus develop or explain the commandments given by Moses? See Matthew 5:17–48.
8. How can laws from God become evidence of God's consuming fire rather than his life-giving fire? See Galatians 3:1–22.
9. Consider how Jesus is like the God of Exodus 19–20. How is he like Moses? How is he like an Israelite?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Exodus 19–20 as a portion of the Scriptures

10. Is God more like a life-giving or a consuming fire in your experience? Do you feel drawn to God or fearful of him in Ex 19–20?
11. What role (if any) do the Ten Commandments have in your life?
12. What is your response to Hebrews 12:28–29?