



CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- How have you been finding reading the Bible? (Encourage people to be honest!)
- What have your bible reading habits been like in the past?
- If you want, you can watch the Bible Project Video on the second part of Exodus to give people a sense of the context of what we've been reading this week: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/torah-exodus-2>.

READ & DISCUSS *UNDERSTAND & APPLY THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

Why should we read the Bible? There are plenty of good answers to that question, but one stands at the center of them all: because it's God's words. When we read it to hear his voice, we find ourselves in his presence. God wants to speak to us. He wants to teach us to think and feel the way he does, just like he did for Moses and the Israelites in the book of Exodus.

READ	DISCUSS
Exodus 24:1-8	God's desire is to be with his people. The Israelites, when they were offered the chance to come into his presence, refused out of fear, and so only Moses came into the center of God's presence. Do you have any fears about coming before God and listening to him?
Exodus 24:9-11	God appears on Sinai in the midst of fire and thunder, but when his people come into his presence he doesn't do violence to them: he feeds them and blesses them, gives them his full attention and love. Have you ever had the experience of being with God intimately? Would you like to?
Exodus 24:12-18	God invites Moses deeper into his presence so he can give him instruction. God had a plan for Moses, and God wanted to teach Moses to think God's thoughts and feel God's feelings. He has a plan for us, too; if we are going to be God's people in the world, then we need God to teach us his wisdom and goodness. As we read Scripture over the coming weeks, let's do so in the faith that we are coming into God's presence, and that he will speak and instruct us if we let him.

PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

Take 10 minutes to sit with this passage. Have each person imagine the scene told in Exodus 24—the going up the mountain, the sitting down in God’s presence, the eating and drinking with him. The Holy Spirit loves to work through our imaginations: give him space to do so now. Imagine sitting with God like the elders of Israel did, and begin to pray to him. Tell him everything you want to tell him, and then sit and listen. Give God time to speak.

This is a powerful way of reading Scripture. Let it change your imagination, and let it teach you to hear God’s voice both on the page and in your heart. Don’t worry if at first the words come slowly; like Moses, be willing to sit in the cloud and wait for God to speak to you. Delight in his presence, and wait for his voice.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?