

Read Exodus 19 and 20

These two chapters from Exodus describe a kind of marriage ceremony between God and Israel. God is the groom. Israel is the bride. God gave the Law and the Ten Commandments (or the Decalogue) as the bridal gift to Israel. This event is formally known as the covenant-making ceremony when the I AM officially became Israel's God and Israel became God's people. In one sense, the Law through Moses was the "wedding ring", the symbol of their covenant union.

1. Before the Law was given, Israel had to be rescued from Egypt. Before the Decalogue was dictated, God said, "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." What does say about the covenant relationship between God and His people? What is the foundation of their covenant relationship? What does this mean for us as the Church and in our personal relationship with God in Jesus?
2. Go through the Decalogue. The first four commands pertain to how we relate to God. The next six commands pertain to how we relate to other people. These two sections combined summarise the Two Great Commands: love God and love neighbour. How are we doing with each of these commands? Share with each other as you're comfortable.

Read Matthew 5

Matthew presents Jesus Christ as the New Moses. He emulates Moses' climbing up Mt. Sinai to bring God's Law down to His people. In the same way, Jesus climbs up a mountain, turns to His followers, and teaches them a new Law. He starts His Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes.

3. Go through the Beatitudes. How are we doing with living out these "blessed attitudes"? Share with each other as you're comfortable.
4. The other commands after the Beatitudes are Jesus' fresh and authoritative take on the six "neighbourly" commands of the Decalogue. Overall, in His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus "ups the ante"—increases the demand—of the Law. He made it more impossible for anyone to obey the Law. But earlier, Jesus said He came to fulfill the Law (v. 17-20). What does this mean for us as His disciples?
5. If Jesus fulfilled the Law, does this mean we're totally free from the Law? What does having freedom in Christ look like? How should we then live?