

**WELCOME (15 minutes)**

- **Ice Breaker:** What's the longest & shortest jobs you've ever had?

**WORSHIP (10 minutes)**

- Sing #15, "Unstoppable God" from the **2016 Small Group Worship CD**.
- Allow a couple people to offer brief prayers of praise!

**WIN (15 minutes)**

- **PRAY** for your list of people who need to know Jesus as their Savior!
- **PLAN** something to do to reach out to these people (The Super Bowl is coming!)

**WORD (25 minutes)**

**Read:** The Israelites needed to understand God's love and what He expected from them. They needed to know God more fully and understand what it meant to live in a covenant relationship with Him.

***Have everyone open their Bibles to Exodus 19.***

Point #1 – The Lawgiver loves His people – Have someone read Ex 19:1-6 & 20:1-2.

**Discuss:** God told Moses to remind Israel that He was the One who delivered them from the bondage to the Egyptians and brought them to Himself. In delivering Israel, God was putting His character as Redeemer on display. How has God given you evidence of His love through a rescue? How is your life a testimony to the character of God as a deliverer?

**Read:** The Ten Commandments are not just a list of rules from a rigid uncaring taskmaster. They are from a loving Father who rescued His children from slavery. While false religion frustrated people by keeping them guessing how to placate their imaginary gods, God loved people enough to show Himself in the law. By telling Israel about Himself through the law, God was establishing a clear understanding of how to know and please Him. God reminded Israel again that He was their God and He alone had delivered them out of Egypt. The lesson is simple. God deserves our full devotion simply because of who He is!

Point #2 – The Lawgiver deserves first place in our lives – Have someone read Ex 20:3-6.

**Discuss:** God has no rival, and He has called people to demonstrate their loyalty by giving no one and nothing else greater devotion than to Him. In this first Commandment, God turns right side up what was turned upside down by human sin. Giving God the place He rightfully deserves in our affections is necessary for every action, thought, and relationship. Is it possible to break one of the other Commandments without breaking the first? Why or why not? What's the significance of this Commandment being the first?

**Read:** "Remember what sin is: fundamental independence of God; the thing in me that says, I can do without God. I don't need Him." – Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

**Discuss:** The second Commandment amplifies the first. In our sin, we who are made in God's image turn around and seek to make Him into ours. The desire to deify anything but God comes from a heart that is always striving to compete with God for first place. Left to our own desires, we will always choose to exalt ourselves and wrap our lives around things we believe will fulfill us. You and I may not struggle with making statues or images of gods to give our attention and devotion, but we should be on our guard for idolatry in its more subtle forms. An idol can be anything or anyone that we give first place in our lives. What are some of the good things in your life that you struggle against making into an idol?

**Read:** "If anything becomes more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life, and identity, then it is an idol." – Tim Keller.

Point #3 – The Lawgiver deserves honor in all we do – Have someone read Ex 20:7-11.

**Discuss:** Do you see how seriously God takes the misuse of His name? We may have grown up thinking this command is only about cussing or swearing oaths in God's name, but we should realize that revering God's name means much more. What are some ways God's name is misused in the world?

**Discuss:** God called for a pause to our provisional activity in order to focus on Him. As Christians, we believe Jesus Christ has freed us from the technicalities of Sabbath law since He is our rest (see Colossians 2:16-23). Still, there are principles in this Commandment we would do well to remember. What are some specific ways you have turned to work to define and sustain you? How can Sabbath-keeping help you refocus your mind's attention and heart's affection on God?

**Read:** Have someone read Isaiah 49:6. Israel was to display God to the world through their obedience to God's covenant law-keeping. Yet Jesus was the only one to fully keep the law! Only through Him and His death for us can we fully enter God's Sabbath-rest. Have someone read Hebrews 4:9-10.

***For next time encourage your people to read Exodus 20-24.***

## **WORKS (25 minutes)**

- Break into smaller groups of 2 or 3's of the same gender to pray for each other.