



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 5th January 2025



Adorning the Altar Exodus 20:22-26

Warm Up

What are the things that people believe about church (worship, practice, theology), that often become a barrier or obstacle to others? Are they human tradition or Biblically based interpretation? What are the things that you often cherish about Church that others don't?

Background and context

This passage comes at the end of one of the most important passages in the Old Testament. We often focus on the Ten Commandments but sometimes miss the rest of the chapter. Once the law is given the Israelites are fearful. They have heard God speak, it has overwhelmed them. God gives them details the simple way He desires them to worship Him. Hidden in this passage is a valuable lesson for us today.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Exodus 20: *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?*

1. How does this chapter naturally divide into three sections? What sub-headings would you attribute to each section?
2. Read v 18-21. What do you think causes the Israelites to react as they did?
3. In what way is Moses foreshadowing Jesus in this passage?
4. Read v22-26. What are your initial reactions to this strange section?
5. Why do you think God wants earth or rock altars that have not been carved?
6. What does God promise to do if people are inspired to worship Him? What does this look like?
7. The cross of Christ was a simple and plain "altar," how have Christians adorned it?
8. Read v26. What do you think this means for us today?
9. Steps could suggest human efforts to reach God. When we try to be self righteous what often happens? Can you recall examples of this from current life or history?

Discipleship and Application



10. What are the things that the church has done in the past that were used as "steps" to salvation and righteousness?
11. Having particular theology, likes and dislikes with worship is fine until they replace Jesus at the centre. What is there in your life that has or could easily push Jesus aside?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.