

Best Story Ever: 5. Sinai (Exodus 19-20)

Text questions

1. According to Exodus 19:5, what kind of relationship does God want with the Israelites?
2. Read Romans 3:20 and Romans 7:7. According to these verses, why did God give Israel the Law?
3. Describe how God is portrayed in this passage. What does this portrayal reveal about His character?
4. In Exodus 20:20, Moses gives two appropriate responses to God's majesty and holiness: "Do not fear" and "...that the fear of him may be before you." Are these two responses contradictory? What's the difference between the fear the Bible tells us we're *not* supposed to have*, and the fear the Bible tells us we *are* supposed to have**?

*For example, Luke 12:6; Romans 8:15; and 1 John 4:18.

**For example, Luke 12:4-5; and 2 Corinthians 7:1.

5. Where do you see Jesus in this passage?

Life questions

1. Concerning the First Commandment ("You shall have no other gods before me"), theologian Martin Luther once wrote:

What does it mean to have a god? or, what is God? Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress.... That ... upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.¹

Based on this definition, what "other gods" do you worship?

2. Think of times you've fallen short of God's standards. How have those moments changed your view of yourself? Your view of God?
3. How has God's grace met you in your failures? How have those moments changed your view of yourself? Your view of God?

¹Martin Luther, "The Large Catechism," in *Triglot Concordia: The Symbolical Books of the Ev. Lutheran Church*, trans. F. Bente and W. H. T. Dau (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1921), n.p., accessed August 3, 2022, <https://www.projectwittenberg.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/catechism/web/cat-03.html>.