

BIG IDEA

When we read certain stories in the Old Testament, it's hard not to wonder... is God legalistic or gracious?

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 30:1-5 & 11-19 in the Message translation.

ICE BREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT

The purpose of these questions is to start a conversation. Don't worry about everyone sharing something life-changing; just get everyone comfortable talking and sharing.

BIBLE STUDY

Most people have heard of the Ten Commandments from growing up in Sunday school or merely watching the movie. Help the group to explore their responses to the verses as it will be revisited in the Life Application section when we reframe them.

As you discuss the passages from Deuteronomy, help the group to see that even in the midst of what seems like legalistic verbiage, God has set a pattern of applying grace every time we fall short. Life Application: As you move through these questions, help the group to see how deeply God loves us. As a parent, his dream for all of us is to flourish. The ultimate motivator for his commands is to bring us wholeness.

CHALLENGE

Love is a supremely motivating factor. Spend time this week praying for you to believe or believe more deeply that God is for you. Choose one of the "imagine if" statements to meditate on this week asking God to show you ways to flourish in that specific area.