

PART 1 NOTES

1. The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:1-17 (NIV) *Reference page 1, paragraph 4*

- ¹ And God spoke all these words:
- ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
- ³ "You shall have no other gods before me.
- ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- ⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
- ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
- ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
- ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
- ¹³ "You shall not murder.
- ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.
- ¹⁵ "You shall not steal.
- ¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his

manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Quick Reference:

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath.
5. Honor your father and mother.
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8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

2. Examples Of Life Struggles *Reference page 1, paragraph 5*

A. Moses wanted to help God's people with their burdens, but was not willing to wait on God's timing. He took matters into his own hands by killing an Egyptian taskmaster who was beating a Hebrew slave. Then he had to flee for his safety to the desert where he remained for forty years (Exodus 2:11-25). As a result, Moses was unable to use his previous position to help the Hebrews, which lengthened their struggles another forty years.

Exodus 2:11-25: One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was

afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock. When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?" They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock." "And where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat." ¹ Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, "I have become an alien in a foreign land." During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them."

B. King David was in a position of power and authority such that he could have whatever he wanted. Rather than obey God's laws, he chose to take the wife of another man, commit adultery with her and then arrange for her husband's death by placing him at the front of the fiercest battle (2 Samuel 11). The consequences of David's sin were the death of his son (2 Samuel 12:15-18) and continued strife in his family (2 Samuel 12:10-11) through rape, murder and treason (2 Samuel 13 and 15).

2 Samuel 11:1-16: In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very

beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. When David was told, "Uriah did not go home," he asked him, "Haven't you just come from a distance? Why didn't you go home?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!" Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

2 Samuel 12:15-18: After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill. David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted

and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground. The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them. On the seventh day the child died.

2 Samuel 12:10-11: Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own." "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.'"

2 Samuel 13: ¹ In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. ² Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her. ⁶ So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand." ¹⁰ Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom. ¹¹ But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister." ¹² "Don't, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me." ¹⁴ But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her. ²⁰ Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet now, my sister; he is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart." ²³ Two years later, when Absalom's sheepshearers were at Baal Hazor near the border of Ephraim, he invited all the king's sons to come there. ²⁸ Absalom ordered his men, "Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you, 'Strike Amnon down,' then kill him." 2 Samuel 15: ⁷ At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, "Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the LORD." ¹⁰ Then Absalom sent secret

messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'" ¹³ A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom." ¹⁴ Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom."

C. Unlike the self-inflicted struggles above, we often can't control how, when or if others will cause struggles in our lives. What we can control is how we respond to those circumstances. We must trust that God will work all things together for our good (Romans 8:28). In the Bible, the story of Joseph (Genesis 37 - 41) describes a young man hated by his brothers. He was thrown into a well to die, then sold as a slave and thrown in prison. He finally became the second most powerful person in Egypt. Why? Because he continued to look to God and serve God no matter what life sent his way. God used all those circumstances to prepare Joseph for the purpose God had always intended. If Joseph had blamed God and quit serving, worshipping and following God he would have never seen all the blessings God had prepared for him.

Romans 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

D. The Bible has many examples of personal struggles that came from the decisions of others: Stephen stoned (Acts 7:54-60), Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned (Acts 16:16-24), Paul shipwrecked (Acts 27), Jewish people held in slavery in Egypt, burdened and afflicted for 400 years (Exodus 1:8-14), and the man who was healed but cast out of the synagogue (John 9:13-34). We do not live in a perfect world, but rather a world infected with the sinful nature of man (Genesis 3).

Acts 7:54-60: When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he

said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 16:16-24: Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 27: ⁹Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Fast. So Paul warned them, ¹⁰"Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." ¹¹But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. ¹⁴Before very long, a wind of hurricane

force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. ²⁷On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. ⁴¹But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

Exodus 1:8-14: Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly.

John 9:13-15, 30-34: ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." ³⁰The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. ³²Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Genesis 3: ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the

garden?"⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.²² And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

3. Everyone Is Searching For Something

Reference page 2, paragraph 1

A. One example in the Bible tells of a man who was healed after being unable to walk for 38 years (John 5:1-9). Prior to meeting Jesus, he had spent his time near a pool waiting for someone to help him into the water in hopes of being healed. He was searching for a basic need. After meeting Jesus his life was changed forever.

B. John 8:1-11 tells of a woman caught in adultery. She was looking for happiness through an unwise relationship. Jesus forgave her and told her to sin no more. Her life was also changed forever when she found God's amazing grace.

John 5:1-9: Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie — the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the

invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

John 8:1-11: But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

C. Another example, in the book of Ecclesiastes, tells of King Solomon, the wealthiest and wisest man in the world. He had 700 wives and 300 concubines. He had all the money, possessions and pleasures a person could dream of, but he discovered he was still not content or satisfied with life. King Solomon explained that all the chasing and searching for satisfaction was meaningless. His conclusion was to obey God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

4. Answer — God's Grace

Reference page 2, paragraph 2

“Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” The woman said, “I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.” Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did” (John 4:17-18, 25-26, 28-29).

A. God's Word: *Reference page 2, paragraph 3.*

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand” (Romans 5:1-2).

“For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor (grace); no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless” (Psalm 84:11).

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

B. God's power: *Reference page 2, paragraph 4.*

Acts 4:33 describes just such an event: “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you” (Romans 16:20). This is another promise from God you can hold on to.

“Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's

sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:8-10). In this example, the Apostle Paul actually reached the place mentally and spiritually that he could accept whatever came his way because he knew God's strength and power were always bigger than his circumstances. God's grace and power are sufficient for you too.

C. Faith in Jesus Christ: *Reference page 2, paragraph 5.*

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

You must realize that until you are spiritually “born again” you will not see the kingdom of God (John 3:3).

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:1-5).

D. To begin a life of grace: *Reference page 3, paragraph 1.*

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

5. Basic Steps To Salvation

Reference page 3, paragraph 5

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).

A. The penalty we pay for being sinners is death. “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). *Reference page 3, paragraph 6.*

B. The payment for our sins was made by Jesus Christ. “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). *Reference page 3, paragraph 6.*

C. We must believe that Jesus died for our sins and was raised from the dead. “The word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved” (Romans 10:8-10). *Reference page 3, paragraph 6.*

D. God’s promise: “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound

in every good work. As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:8-11). *Reference page 3, paragraph 7.*

E. Ask God: “Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 2:38). *Reference page 3, paragraph 8.*

F. Your decision: If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15). *Reference page 4, Think About It box.*

6. What’s Next

Reference page 4, paragraph 6

Your future: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live” (Acts 17:26).