

Intergenerational Worship

by Beth Barnett

Intergenerational Bible Reading

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Year A Proper 22 Oct 8 2017



What this is: Interactive Bible Reading



Where it's used: Any intergenerational gathering; Early Word;



What's needed: - Text of Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 (on screen or print copies) with other rules interspersed (see below)

- 3 boxes each labeled

 1. God's rules for God's people
 2. Egyptian Pharaoh's rules for Israelites
 3. God's rules for the Egyptians.

Each line of the text written on a separate piece of paper.



Time: 5 minutes



Bible focus/theme: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 The ten words of God.

Introduction

We have been tracking the story of the people of God - the Israelites - from slaves in Egypt, escaping through the Sea, wanderers in the desert in need of food and water, provided by God.

They have arrived at a place called Horeb - a mountain - in fact the same same place that God appeared to Moses, a refugee shepherd and called him from a burning bush to demand that the Pharaoh of Egypt release the Hebrew slaves.

Moses seems to be going round and round in circles.

From growing up in Egypt - running away into the desert - meeting God at Mount Horeb - who sends him back to Egypt - to escape with all of the slaves into the desert - and now he's back at Mount Horeb.

To be honest, it sounds like he could use a little direction.

God's people the Israelites could use a little direction too. They've been slaves all their lives - bossed around by someone else - who makes the rules now? We can see how this could go badly.

In today's reading God speaks again to Moses on the mountain. God has ten words or ten sayings that will give the people direction in how to live in God's good ways.

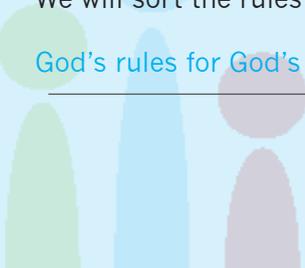
Process

The reading today from Exodus 20 tells us these directions - but scrambled in amongst God's rules for God's people are some other rules - Egyptian Pharaoh's rules for Israelites and God's rules for the Egyptians.

As we read today - you need to decide whose rules are whose.

We will sort the rules into three lists: (*Display the three labeled boxes*)

God's rules for God's people - Egyptian Pharaoh's rules for Israelites - God's rules for the Egyptians.



>Distribute the pieces of paper that have all the individual rules written on them amongst your gathering. Read each line from the reading displayed on the screen. Stop after each line and consult the gathering as to which category or box the rule belongs to. The person who has the piece of paper with that rule comes forward and places the rule in the nominated box. At the end of the reading when all of the rules have been categorised, review the rules and reflect on the following questions.

*Which set of rules do you think are the most fair and good rules?
What do the rules tell us about the one who has made the rules?*

Conclusion

In the image that artist Chris Booth has created for this text, we can see the way God's presence takes over the whole mountain, not just a bush this time. Look at the image. On the count of three - Let's all make the sound that we think this image and the text - is trying to portray of the experience of God the Israelites had.

>Count to three and lead thunder/lightning/trunpet/booming sounds. Repeat if necessary

This thunder and lightning and smoke and trumpeting freaked out and frightened the people. They tried to tell Moses they didn't want God to speak to them anymore, and that Moses could be an inbetweenner. But Moses reassures them. Don't be afraid. God is concerned for you - he doesn't want you to sin, because it will make life terrible for you. So take God seriously, but don't be afraid of him.

Let's look again at the rules God gave his people. One by one. In between each rule let's remind one another - 'Do not be afraid'.

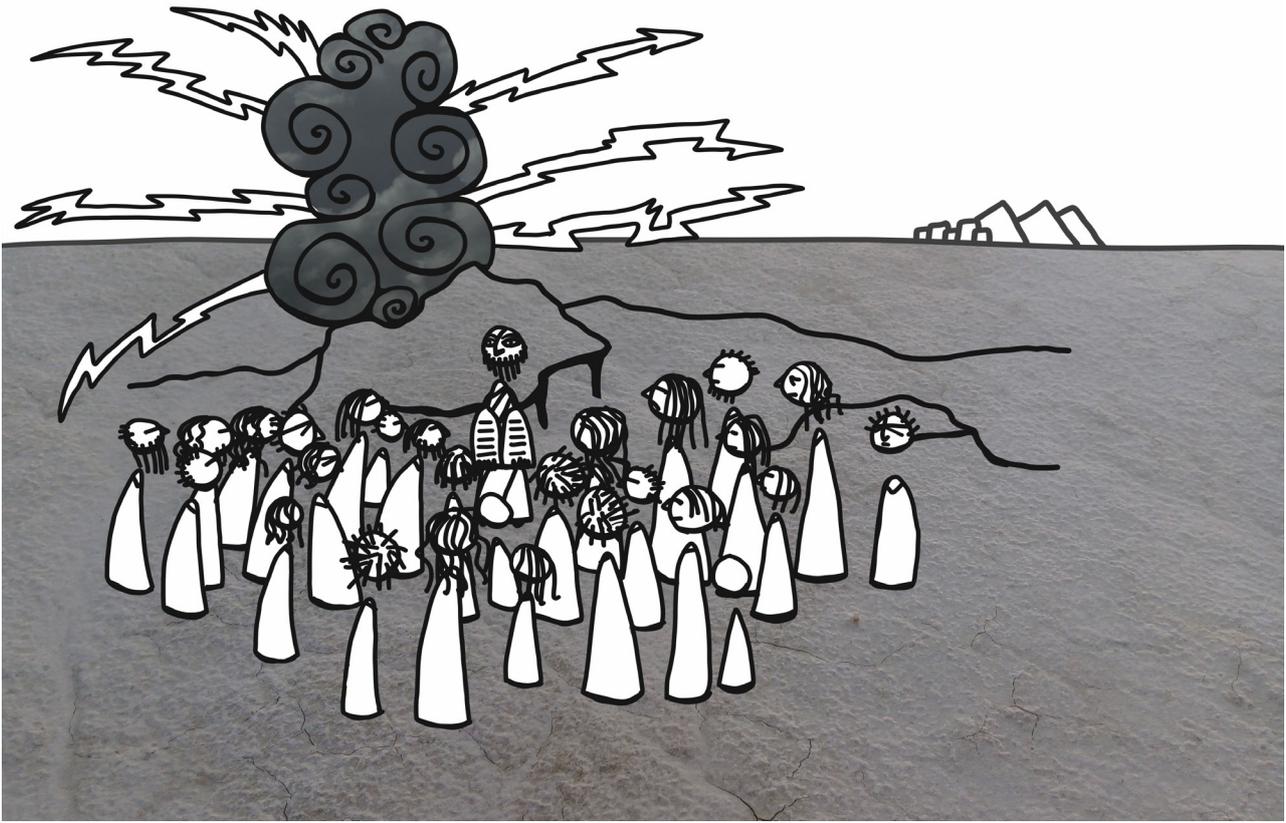
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

- I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.
- Slavery is out. Let the Israelite slaves go
- You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- All baby boys must be thrown into the river
- You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
- Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
- All Israelites must make bricks
- Six days you shall labor and do all your work.
- All Israelites must be slaves
- Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- Slaves shouldn't be ripped off. Give them all your gold.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- All Israelites must make double the bricks in the same time as they were making bricks before
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die."

Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."



Art image for Exodus 20, Chris Booth, 2017