

PBF CONNECT GROUP STUDY GUIDE

For the week of June 12-18

Exodus 21:1-23:9

Synopsis: Having redeemed His people Israel, God now gives them further instructions on how they are to order their new society. God is concerned that they worship Him properly, treat one another with dignity, and establish a society that brings honor to Himself.

Into the Bible

1. Read all of 21:1-23:9. Which law strikes you most? Why?
2. Describe the slavery being discussed in 21:1-11. In what ways is it similar to or different from slavery as you normally conceive of it?
3. In what ways does the description of slavery in 21:1-11 inform your understanding of New Testament references to slavery to God and his children (e.g., Mark 10:43-44)?
4. Instead of instituting laws to govern slavery, God could have just given a law that said, "Thou shalt not have any slavery." Why do you think he didn't do that?

5. Which capital offense was the most surprising to you, and why (21:12-17, 29; 22:18-24)?
6. Jesus talks about 22:23-25 in Matthew 5:38-42. How do you understand his explanation there?
7. In light of these laws, what kind of society do you think God was intending to construct?

Application

8. The laws we've looked at this week have all been about how to relate to other members of the faith community. List several of the New Testament commands you know that tell us as Christians how to relate to one another.
9. How seriously do you take those commands in your daily life?