

**BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP
QUESTIONS
FOR REFLECTION**

**Old Testament
Weeks 1-8**



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Reading Through the Bible

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

WEEK 1

Genesis 1 – 3

How are the two creation accounts (chs. 1&2) different?

What purpose could each possibly serve?

Name the two types of trees mentioned in chs. 2 & 3.

What power or ability did each tree give to those who ate its fruit? (2:17, 3:1-7, 3:22)

Genesis 4 – 9

Why do you think God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's?

What is the meaning the Lord's words in 4:7?

What do you make of the various ages in chapter 5? (see 6:3, 11:10-26)

How did God respond to human evil inclinations? (6:5-7)

What is God's covenant with Noah? (6:18, 8:20-22, 9:8-17)

Genesis 10-14

Who were the three sons of Noah?

Why did the people build a big city with a high tower? (11:4)

Why did the Lord confuse the people's language? (11:5-7)

How does Abraham rescue Lot? (14:13-16)

Why is the name Melchizedek significant in chapter 14 (look up Hebrew's 7:1)

Genesis 15 – 20

What problem does Abraham mention concerning God's promise?

Who is Hagar? (Gen. 16:1-6)

What is wrong with her attitude according to Sarai?

What is the sign of the covenant? (17:9-14)

What reason does the Lord give for revealing his plan to Abraham? (18:16-20)

What was the sin of the men of Sodom? (19:1-11)

Genesis 21-24

What is God's test of Abraham? (22:1-10)

What do you imagine is going on in Abraham's mind?

What is the significance of Abraham's obedience? (22:12-18)

How did Abraham's servant know that Rebekah was the right choice?
(24:11-27)

WEEK 2

Genesis 25-30

How were Jacob and Esau different from one another?

How did Jacob steal the birthright from Esau?

How did Jacob acquire the blessing from his father Isaac? (27:1-33)

What was the meaning of Jacob's dream in 28:10-22?

How did Laban trick Jacob (29:21-30)

List the names of Jacob's ten sons mentioned in 29:31-30:24 with their respective mothers.

Genesis 31-36

How do you explain Jacob and Rachel's behavior in 31:19-20?

How did Jacob plan to reconcile things with his brother Esau? (32:3-21)

How do you explain Jacob's wrestling match in 32:22-32?

What happens in the encounter between Esau and Jacob?

Genesis 37-41

Why did Joseph's brothers despise him? (37:1-28)

How did Joseph rise to power in Egypt? (chs. 39-41)

Genesis 42-46

What happens the first time Joseph's brothers come to Egypt? (ch. 42)

Why do you think the brothers couldn't recognize Joseph?

Which brother is left in prison when they leave?(vs. 24)

How would you feel if you were Joseph and your brothers, who left you for dead, returned to you to ask a favor? What would you do?

What happens on the brothers' 2nd visit?

What happens to the youngest brother, Benjamin? (ch. 44)

How do you think the brothers felt when Joseph revealed himself ?
(45:4-7) Note how Joseph includes God in his understanding of events. Do we speak similarly of God in our lives today? Why/Why not?

Genesis 47-50

Name the twelve tribes/sons of Jacob/Israel.

What does Joseph mean in 50:19-20?

WEEK 3

Exodus 1-4

How is life described for the Israelites under the new king? (1:8-14)

What orders did the Pharaoh give to limit the number of Hebrew men?
(1:15-16, 22)

What circumstances forced Moses' parents to give their baby up for
"adoption"? 1:22-2:3

Why did Moses have to flee from Egypt to Midian? 2:11-15

What was God's response to his fate of the people in slavery? 2:23-25

In what way was the ground considered "holy"? 3:5

What sign would God give to Moses showing that He had sent him to
lead His people? 3:12

List the four objections Moses gave to God's call in Exodus 3:11,13 and
4:1,10?

What three miraculous signs would God give to Moses? (4:3,6,9)

How did God reassure Moses' feelings of inadequacy (4:10-17)

What was Aaron's role? 4:14-16

Exodus 5-11

How did Pharaoh react to Moses' and Aaron's first request? 5:2-9

How did the Israelite foreman react to Moses and Aaron? 5:19-21

What questions did Moses have for the Lord? 5:22-23

What promises does God make with the people in 6:6-8?

List the miraculous sign and the ten plagues God gives Moses to perform.
(ch.7-11)

Exodus 12-15

Name the four primary actions that are part of God's command for Pass-over (12:1-11)

What purpose does the blood of the Lamb have? (12:13) How does this relate to our Christian faith (Jesus)?

Why does God tell His people to remember this special day (Passover) and give them instructions for the festival of unleavened bread? 12:14-28, 43-51, 13:1-6

What was the experience of leaving Egypt like for God's people? 12:33-39

Why did God lead the people into the wilderness rather than along the sea coast? 13:17-18

Why did Moses take Joseph's bones with him? 13:19

How did the people react when they saw Pharaoh's army coming? 14:10-12

How have you heard the story of the Exodus told to you? Why is it such a central event in the Bible? 14:13-31

What stands out to you as you read/hear the Song of Moses and Miriam? 15:1-21

What is the lesson/instruction God gives to the people at Marah? What is the miracle? 15:23-26

Exodus 16-20

[some daily readings have more questions due to the central nature of its material]

Why were the people given instructions to go out on the sixth day to prepare what they would bring in? 16:1-5, 23-26, 29-30

What two things rained down from the sky to feed the Israelites?

What happened at Massah and Meribah? Look up Psalm 95:7-8 and Hebrews 3:7-8

What do you think is the point of Moses' hands having to be held up for battle? 17:10-13

What did Jethro conclude after he spoke with Moses? 18:7-12

What lesson does Jethro teach Moses? 18:13-26

How is this lesson or model important in the life of our church? ...in the life of your family?

Describe what the Lord has done for the people in 19:3-6.

In what form is God's presence revealed before the people? 19:9,16-18

Why does God set limits for the people around the mountain? 19:10,12,20-24

In each of the Ten Commandments (20:1-17) is a gift given to God's people. Choose two commands and describe what God's gift is (how God protects and provides direction)?

How is the "fear of God" that is given to the people described in 20:18-21?

Exodus 21-24

Name the crimes that are punishable by death in the following verses

21:12-14

21:15,17

21:16

22:18

22:19

22:20

21:28-29

Note any laws that stand out to you or have meaning as God's relationship among the people 21:1-23:19

List some of the promises given by God as he prepares the way with an angel (23:20-33)

(What do you think the "hornet" is a symbol that is given in 23:28)

Of what do you think the Book of the Covenant consists? (24:7)

What do you think the leaders saw when it says they "saw the God of Israel?" 24:9-10

WEEK 4

Exodus 25-30

What is the purpose of the sanctuary they are told to make? 25:8-9

Note any interesting facts or peculiarities of God's instruction for the tabernacle in 25:10-27:21

Note any interesting facts or peculiarities of God's instruction for the priests in 28:1-30:38

Exodus 31-34

What are Bezalel and Oholiab's skills? (31:1-11)

What people can you think of who have these similar gifts?

How would the Sabbath be a "sign" for the people and a "lasting covenant?"
31:12-18

Describe the sin of "the golden calf." 32:1-33:6

What is the "Tent of Meeting?" How would God speak to Moses there? 33:7-11

How is God's presence described in 33:12-23? What assurance did Moses seek?

Why did Moses have to hide in the cleft of a rock and see only God's back?

Why were another set of tablets needed in 34:1?

Identify the parts of the covenant God makes with the people in 34:10-28

What festivals are the people commanded to celebrate? 34:18-26

What was the purpose of the veil over Moses' face? 34:29-35

Exodus 35-40

Note any interesting facts or peculiarities of God's instructions to the people about Sabbath regulations (35:1-3), and the building/arrangement of the Tabernacle (35:44-40:33).

When could Moses enter the Tent of Meeting? 40:34-35

As the Israelites traveled, what was the clue God gave them to travel? 40:36-38

Leviticus 1-5

What kind of animals were used in the sacrificial rites (1:3,10,14)?

Why do you think the animals that were sacrificed have to be without defect?

Why does the burnt offering of birds have to be made by the poor? (1:14; 5:7)

What happens if the poor do not have birds? (5:11)

Do you see any connection between Leviticus 2:13 and Matthew 5:13?

What does "atonement" mean?

Leviticus 6-10

Do you see a connection between 6:9 and Luke 19:8?

Why do you think the grain offering is eaten without yeast?(6:16)

Do you see a pattern in the regulations of each of the five main offerings?
(6:8-7:36)

What would you say is the lesson learned from Nadab and Abihu? (10:1-3)

As you read 10:6 how would you distinguish between “the holy and the common?” What do you think this means?

Why do Aaron and his sons get a share? (10:13-15)

WEEK 5

Leviticus 11-15

What is significant about the Lord’s command to be holy ... and the remembrance of how the people were brought out of Egypt? (11:4-47)

Compare 12:3 with Luke 2:21-24.

Compare 13:1-46 with Luke 17:11-19.

Do you see practical reasons for the regulations in chapters 11-15.

Leviticus 16-20

Why is the goat called a scapegoat? (16:10, 20-22)

How would you compare the Day Atonement with a Christian practice in the church year? (16:29-34)

How was blood understood in the Levitical laws (17:10-12)

Why are people told not to follow practices in Egypt and Canaan? (18:1-5)

Identify each of the Ten Commandments referred to in chapter 19.

What is gleaning? (19:9-10) How can we practice this today?

What is the purpose of welcoming the alien? (19:33-34)

What does 20:22-26 say is the primary purpose of following all of the laws?

Leviticus 21-27

Why is it necessary for priests to be ritually clean? (21:1-15)

Compare 22:4-9 and Luke 10:31.

List the seven sacred festivals that God commanded the people to observe

(chapter 23).

Who is responsible for lighting lamps in the Tent of Meeting? (24:3)

What can we learn about Sabbath rest and how it can benefit us?
(25:1-7)

What would it be like to live during a Year of Jubilee? (25:8-12)

What does it mean that God calls us stewards (tenants)? (25:18-24)

Describe the relationship God promises to His people? (26:9-13)

What is a tithe? (27:30-34) How were people commanded to practice tithing?

Numbers 1-4

List the twelve tribes of Israel (note how Levi is not in list and Joseph's two sons are)

Describe the Levites role in 1:47-53.

What is the relationship of the Levites to Aaron (3:5-10)

The Levites serve in place of _____ . (3:12, 41,44)

What is "redemption money?" (3:46-51)

What happened if the Levites accidentally touched the holy things while they served? 4:15

Numbers 5-10

How was restitution practiced? 5:5-10

What impressions do you have of the test of faithfulness and the law of jealousy? 5:11-31

What impressions do you have of a Nazirite's consecration? 6:1-21

What is the Aaronic benediction? 6:22-27 How is it used in our worship?

How is the Lord's name put on the Israelites through this benediction?
In what sense?

Describe how the Levites were ceremonially cleansed to do their work.
8:5-22

At what age did the Levites have to retire from regular duties? 8:25

When did God command the Passover to be observed 9:3

What were the people to do if they were unclean because of a dead body? 9:11

How must a person be treated if they do not celebrate the Passover? 9:13

How did God direct the people to set and set out from camp? 9:15-23
What signal would be used to call an assembly or to set out from camp?
9:15-23
What signal would be used to call an assembly or to set out from camp?
10:1-10
What was the promise that Moses speaks of to his father-in-law? 10:29-
32
What did Moses say when the ark set out?
What did Moses say when the ark came to rest?

WEEK 6

Numbers 11-15

With whom did God share the Spirit that was on Moses? For what purpose did God do this? 11:16-17
What is the meaning of the question, “Is the Lord's arm too short?”
What two men were prophesying in camp? 11:26-30
What did the wind drive in from the sea to camp and how did the Lord punish the people? 11:31-35
For what reason did Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses? 12:1
What was the Lord’s punishment to Miriam? 12:10-12
How would you summarize the report of exploring the land of Canaan (13:26-33)?
What were the names of the two men who explored the land and told the people to take possession of it? (14:1-9)
What was the punishment for those who disobeyed and tested the Lord? (14:20-25)
What can we learn from the instructions given upon entering the promised land? (15:2ff, 17-21)
What did you think about the differentiation between sinning “unintentionally” and “defiantly”? (15:22-30) How do we treat these sins in the Church today?
Consider the severity of the “breaking the Sabbath” in 15:32-36. Why was it so vital in the Lord’s eyes to establish this law and obey it?
What was the purpose of having tassels on one’s garment? 15:37-41

Numbers 16-20

Of what did the Levites accuse Moses and Aaron? 16:1-3, 12-14, 41

How was this dispute settled? 16:4-35, 42-49

How did Moses and Aaron try to prevent the Lord's wrath from killing all the people? 16:46-49

How do Moses actions foreshadow Jesus' redemption?

How did God use the sprouting, budding, blossoming, almond producing staff in 17:1-11?

Who did God appoint to be responsible for the care of the sanctuary and altar? 18:1-7

What is the purpose for redeeming (paying the redemption price) for every first born son and various animals? 18:15-16

What is meant by the "everlasting covenant of salt" in 18:19?

What animal's ashes are used in the Water of Cleansing ritual? 19:1-10

What great miracle was performed at the waters of Meribah? 20:1-13

What are the consequences of the Israelites' sin at Meribah?

What is the Edomites' response to the Israelites' request at Kadesh? 20:14-21

Numbers 21-25

What was the purpose of the bronze snake on a pole? 21:1-8

Read the song in 21:17-18. In what ways do we use songs to practice our faith?

What was the Lord's directive to Balaam? What reason is given for not placing upon the Israelites? 22:11-12

How did the Lord speak his word to Balaam and finally open his eyes to his rebellion? 22:21-41

How would you say the Lord "puts words in your mouth" to speak? 23:12

Why is Balak angry with Balaam in 24:10

What verses in Balaam's oracle (24:15-19) point towards a future hope?

For what reasons are Phinehas' actions recognized? 25:10-13

Numbers 26-30

What is the purpose of a second census before the Israelites enter the promised land? 26:1-4, see vss. 63-64

What happened to some of the descendants of Reuben because of the rebellion at Korah? 26:8-11

Describe how the land was allotted to the tribes. 26:52-56

Why do the daughters of Zelophehad request an exception to the laws to secure a part of the inheritance? 27:1-11

See Chapter 36. What additional guidelines are given in response to the daughters of Zelophehad to regulate the transfer of the inheritance for tribes?

Why do you think the Lord allows Moses to see the promised land? 27:12-14

What will be Joshua's role? 27:15-21

In what way do the words of 28:1-29:40 serve as reminder to the new leader, Joshua, and the people prior to entering the promised land?

What is being said about a person's word and pledge before God? 30:1-2

What does Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 and Deuteronomy 23:21-23 say in addition?

How were a woman's vows nullified? 30:3-15

Numbers 31-36

In considering the Lord's commands to Moses in 31:1-31, how might the existence of Midian jeopardize God's plan for Israel? (see 25:16-18)

What was the Gadites' and Reubenites' request of Moses? 32:1-3

How did Moses suggest that it would adversely affect Israel crossing the Jordan and taking possession of the land? 32:6-7

What example did Moses give in responding to this request? 32:8-13

What did the Gadites and Reubenites offer to do? 32:16-32

What is the Lord's warning to the Israelites as they take possession of the land? 33:55-56

What is the purpose for the Cities of Refuge? 35:6-28

What is the concern raised to Moses by the descendants of Joseph? 36:1-4

How does Moses' order resolve the issue that is raised? 36:5-9

WEEK 7

Deuteronomy 1-4

Where are the people encamped?

What "time" is it? Why is that important? (see Numbers 14:33-34)

Where are they to go?

Consult a map of this period. How could the God of Israel expect desert nomads to take possession of all that?

As the Israelites prepare to enter the land (ch. 2), what fears might they have about the people who live there?

On a map locate the territory conquered in 3:3-5 and in 2:24-27.

What do these conquests reveal about how God works to prepare people for the promised land?

What does Moses' prayer in 3:24-25 reveal about his relationship with God? How do you think Moses felt looking at the promised land? Commissioning Joshua?

What two reasons does God give for the necessity of his law to the new nation in 4:3-8?

What is the way to find God (4:29-31)?

Deuteronomy 5-11

The commandments in 5:7-15 are concerned with our relationship with God. What do each of these say about the kind of relationship God wants with us?

The commandments in 5:16-21 concern human relationships. What do each of these say about the kind of relationships God desires for us and for His creation?

Why such a strong emphasis on teaching these laws and decrees to children? (6:6-9, 20-25)

Why did God choose the Israelites? (7:7-11)

What aspect of "spiritual gluttony" so you see in 8:10-20?

How long is Moses on the mountain with God? (9:9)
Why was making the golden calf so wrong?
In ch. 10, why does God make two new stone tablets?
What is unique about the Levites? (10:8-10)
How are the Israelites asked to love God? (11:1-9)

Deuteronomy 12-15

Why do you think Moses begins ch. 12 with commands about places of worship?
How will “promised land” worship be different from “nomadic” worship? (12:8-12)
Why might Israel be tempted to follow a prophet that worshiped other gods? (13:1-4) How was Israel to know if a prophet was from God?
In ch. 14, what do you think is the overall purpose of the dietary commands?
What were the Israelites to do in 14:22-23? What do you think God commands us to give?
By the principle of canceling debts in 15:1-11, what attitude, behavior and theology is Moses trying to teach Israel?

Deuteronomy 16-19

What was the purpose of the Passover celebration? (16:3)
What is the role of law courts in ch.17?
When writing about a King in 17:14-20, why should the King be an Israelite? How is the King to live each day?
What provision does God make for Israel in 18:14-15?
What was the duty of a prophet compared to a priest?

Deuteronomy 20-24

When going to war, what were the Israelites to trust? (20:1-4)
Why the instructions in 21:3-9? (see Deut 19:6)
What was Israel’s attitude to be toward sex, marriage, and divorce? (22:13ff) What was God teaching Israel by these regulations?
Which non-Israelites could enter the assembly? (23:1-7) Who is ex-

cluded and why?

What was the function of the certificate of divorce? (24:1-5) Who did it protect and why? (see Dt. 22:22)? How did Jesus qualify this law? (see Mt. 5:31-32, 19:3-9)

Week 8

Deuteronomy 25-29

Whose welfare is being protected in 25:1-3?

What social problem does God detest? (25:13-16)

What are the Israelites asked to do with their first-fruits? (26:1-11)

What was the purpose of the tithe? (26:5-10)

How are we to follow God's commands? (26:16-19)

What do you think about the ceremony of pronouncing "curses" upon the people? (27:9-26) Why, Where, When, and How was the ceremony to be conducted?

What is the foundation for the blessings: God's work or our obedience? (28:1-14)

Of what does Moses remind the Israelites in 29:2-8? What does each story demonstrate?

Deuteronomy 30-34

What does God promise in 34:1-5?

What do you think "circumcise your heart" means in 30:6?

What point is being made in 30:1-14 about our ability to follow the law?

What choice is being made in 30:19-20?

Why do you think the admonition in 31:6 is given to the people?

In what ways will the people break the covenant after Moses dies? (31:14-29)

Why do you think God would have Moses teach the Israelites the

Song of Moses? (32:1-43, 44-47)

Use one word/phrase to describe each tribe based upon the words of blessing in 33:6-24.

Reuben

Levi

Benjamin

Joseph

Zebulun

Issachar

Gad

Dan

Naphtali

Asher

How would you describe Moses' relationship with the Lord when in 34:10 is said that "the Lord knew Moses face to face?"