

## Reflection Questions: Exodus 19:1-6; 1 Peter 2:9-12

For the message, "God Calls a People for Himself" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on October 21, 2018

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

### **Read the Scripture:**

- Exodus 19:1-6, "On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, 3 while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."
- 1 Peter 2:9-12, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

**A summary of the message:** God has always intended to partner with humanity. This is seen not only in the original creation mandate when God commissioned humans to partner with him in the building of his kingdom on earth (Genesis 1:26-28), but it's seen in God calling a people for himself to partner with him in the blessing of this world (Genesis 12).

In Exodus, we see God formally entering into a covenant with Abraham's descendants who were to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests for the sake of the world (Exodus 19:1-6ff). Jesus picked up their calling where they failed, and now that mantle is passed on to the church (1 Peter 2:9-12).

### **Bottom Line:**

- When we believe in Jesus, not only are we restored back to fellowship with God our Creator, but we're brought back into relationship with our true selves. In other words, the blessing given to Abraham, "You are blessed in order to be a blessing," now becomes ours as we apprentice with Jesus in a new way of being human.
- Jesus says to his followers, "'You are the light of the world.... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'" Jesus, who is the light of the world, wants to now shine his light through us for the sake of the world.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- In the history of Israel, they became part of the problem instead of part of the solution. Even today, many people have a hard time with the message of Christianity because of...well, Christians. Let's be honest, often times we've reflected Jesus poorly. How have you processed this? What might you say to someone who has wrestled with this issue?
- How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption? In other words, how are we supposed to be "different" if we follow Jesus? How does this text clarify what God wants to do in my life?

### **2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- How would our life as a community of faith be enriched by aligning our character and calling with the vision of this text? What would it look like if we were truly "Good News" people?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

### **3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- What does this mean for us as we live out our faith in the city? How does this text clarify the kind of lifestyle we are called to live in this world, both in terms of intentionality and motive?
- What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience? How does this passage serve as an invitation to the world to join God's mission?

## **CONCLUSION QUESTION**

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

## **PRAYER**

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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