



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Exodus 21	Title:	Obey from the Heart
Author	Ps Jadene Ng		
Summary of Chapter	Moses was told by the Lord to set laws and regulations to show the Israelites how they should treat one another – whether it was within their family and household, or outside with their friends and neighbours. God cares for those unfairly treated and those who suffer injury or harm. So, the laws set the boundaries where they should not go beyond so that each person's dignity and life are protected.		

Key Verse(s) NLT How does it speak to me?

<i>¹ These are the regulations you must present to Israel.</i>	<p>When I was a young Christian, I tried very hard to obey whatever precepts and teachings that was taught. I enjoyed the Bible studies, worship and even Christian fellowship but was, and is still sometimes, wary of people and having to deal with the messiness of disagreements and conflicts. I found it difficult to talk to people who hurt me, to say sorry to people I might have hurt or admit and own up to things I had done wrong. When I had to make amends, I probably did that more as an obligation and because it was the right thing to do. I had yet to grasp the intention and principles behind the commandments written in Scriptures. Over time, I realised that He was using all those difficult moments and difficult people to mould me and grow me. Only through the Holy Spirit changing my heart, was I able to face them and talk things out, and I'm still learning.</p> <p>The Lord knows that we cannot truly love Him without loving one another. Sometimes in our very human and selfish ways, we don't realise nor want to admit that our actions can end up hurting others. God cares about our relationships with one another. Do we treat each other with fairness and kindness? Do we admit it when we have hurt them, willing to make compensation or receive punishment when we have grievously harmed them, even when done accidentally? We may not follow those specific laws written specially for the nation of Israel in that particular culture, time and place. But may we see God's Word and precepts as the outflow of the heart of God who wants us all to live life to the full, growing in Christlikeness. Then our obedience to Him will be from the heart. Not because we have to but because we want to.</p>
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APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	What is God saying to you concerning how you should treat others? Is there someone you need to make amends with? Pray for the Holy Spirit to enable you to do so.
Youth:	How do you view rules and regulations? What is the Lord saying to you on obeying His Word from your heart?
Child:	Is there a rule that your parents have set you that you find difficult to obey? Share with them why you find it difficult. Pray together with them and ask God to help you obey from your heart.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Thank You God for Your Word. Thank You for Your heart for people especially for those who may have been unfairly treated or have been injured by others. Holy Spirit, help us to always show love and kindness to all those around us.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.