**MILESTONES**

**WEEK 4 DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**GOING TO THE MOUNTAINS**

**READ**

This week Scott continued our Milestones series by talking about Moses and the Law that was given to him for the Hebrew people. The most well-known portion of the Law is what we know as the Ten Commandments. The first four of these commands are about living in a right relationship with God. The following six are about being rightly related to other people. Some of these laws (like "do not murder") might seem obvious to us. But they are a reflection of what the Hebrew culture was like 3,000 years ago. It was a brutal time to be alive, and the statement "do not murder," was not as obvious to them as it seems to us today. When we fast-forward to Jesus, we see him replacing the Old Testament Law with His own.

***Matthew 22:37-40***

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself. All of the Law and Prophets hang on these two commands.*

These two commands, to love God and to love people, encapsulate everything that the old Law attempted to accomplish. In fact, the New Testament goes so far as to tell us that Jesus' new command actually replaces the entire old covenant.

***John 13:34***

*A new command I give you; love one another, As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

***Hebrews 8:13***

*By calling the covenant "new", he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.*

Jesus also explains that the way to succeed in this new covenant is to live in connection with him.

***John 15:5***

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

In the new covenant, we are to abide in Jesus. We can live in community with him so that our love for him, and his love for us is reflected in our relationships with others. This new covenant is not about following a set of rules, but about living in connection with God, so that his love guides our actions and interactions with the people in our lives.

**DISCUSS**

Just for fun, tell us about something you were once excited to own, that is now obsolete.

When you read or study the Old Testament, do you usually see the laws and commands as obsolete, as relevant to life today, or a mixture of the two?

How does the new command to love God and one another, make the old covenant "obsolete?"

Do you have a hard time with the New Testament idea that the Old Testament laws are no longer relevant for us?

If the Old Covenant has been replaced, why is the Old Testament part of our Bible? What is its value for us today?

How have you been doing lately when it comes to living in connection with Jesus? What are some areas where you can improve?

**PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP**

Pray that we will live our lives in community with Jesus. Pray that we will be people of prayer, and that our interactions with others would be characterized by the love of Jesus.

**PRAY FOR FCC**

Pray that we will be a church that above all else, reflects Jesus' love in every program, service, and event. Pray that we will also reflect God's love in our day-to-day lives.

**PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS**

Our high school team will be leaving soon to minister to and learn from a deaf community in the Philippines. We pray that in this time of learning exchange and ministry, our students would be encouraged to engage. We want them to learn from the deaf community in the Philippines, and then to engage here at home with people who are not typically abled. We pray that hearts will be opened and grow in this beautiful time to learn about each other’s culture and share in the love of Jesus. We pray for the work of Deaf Ministries International who serve the deaf through love, practical needs and education all over the world. Pray for DMI’s continued growth in identifying children in need and providing for them through teams and child sponsorship.