

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SESSION I: THE WAY THE LORD OUR GOD IS NEAR US

In the first session, we learned that God is near, and He (and his Law) is good! (Deut 4:7-8) What could be better news for a broken and “wonky” world?

No news could have been sweeter to a powerless slave class like the Israelite people. Having no power, they were invited into a treaty with the God of the universe. Through that treaty, they were elevated to the position of God’s “Segullah” (Treasured possession) and given the role of God’s priests sent out into the world as priests to create justice in the world. The scriptures reveal that these “10 Words/Commandments” were given primarily to explain the Standard (Tasddiq) by which they would be priests and flourish in their new lofty position.

To better understand the role of the law, this “standard” can be best understood by breaking it into two tables.

The First Table (1-4):

The standard for relating and drawing near to God.

The Second Table (5-10):

The standard for relating and drawing near each other.

Questions:

- How does understanding the context of the law as a “treaty” that invited enslaved people to become God’s treasured possessions and priests change the way you view God, yourself, and his Law?
- How is this different than our Western view of law and order? How is it similar?