

On Sunday we looked at Exodus 21-23, it's a long and difficult passage, with much that we may find hard to understand, or that we might struggle with.

I suggested four U's to look for to help us reflect on the passage:

God's law is:

- "Ubiquitous"- applying to every aspect of life
- "Universal"- intended to apply to every member of the community, and to protect the most vulnerable
- "Unique"- radically different from the culture in surrounding nations, calling God's people to live as a very different people to the world around them, imitating a good and holy God.
- "Unfeasible"- not a law that his people ever managed to keep, and yet even within this passage we see hints of how God will bring his people under his rule- his angel going before them in 23:20-33 and the master worthy of love in 21:1-11.

Here are some questions which may be useful, your group might want to read through the passage with them in mind and then discuss them together as a group:

- what do these laws reveal about God's priorities for his people, and the things he cares about? Which of these priorities are encouraging or challenging for you?
- Are there parts of this you find particularly hard to understand or accept? How should we respond when we find passages confusing?
- How would a nation that followed these rules have stood out from their neighbours?

You may want to discuss these or other questions as well:

- Jesus calls his followers to live "like a shining city on a hill", or in 1 Peter we are called to live such good lives amongst the pagans that they end up glorifying God, or asking the reason for the hope we have. What does that look like in a modern Christian context?
- What are the dangers for our hearts in reading passages of law like this? How do the cross and resurrection help us to deal with them?