

**Worship Material**  
**God's framework for living**  
**Materials from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

Amazing God, you are our God,  
and we are your people, your children.  
Help us to learn your ways,  
that we may love you more dearly,  
and learn to live more truly,  
enjoying and sharing your abundant life  
with the whole planet.  
**Amen.**

**Read Exodus 20:1-17**

**Bible notes**

The people of God, which began with promises to Abraham, has grown into a nation descended from Isaac, Jacob and his 12 sons. The covenant between God and Abraham has, in part, been fulfilled: they are a multitude, although they have yet to be given the promised land. In the time of Abraham's great-grandson, Joseph, the tribe moved to live in Egypt but, some generations on, the Egyptians' fear of these foreigners means that they have been made into slaves. Under Moses' leadership and God's direction, with various plagues and the parting of the Red Sea, the tribe has been brought out of Egypt into the wilderness where God has miraculously provided food and water.

Now, at Mount Sinai, the people have been directed to purify themselves, to make themselves holy, so that they can meet with God. In that meeting God speaks the words of today's reading: the 'Ten Commandments'. The people of God are at the beginning of learning how to live as a free people, God's free people, no longer slaves, and living in step with God. God's covenant with them, as with Abraham, is that they are to walk before God and be blameless (Genesis 17:1).

The Ten Commandments form part of the 'instruction' or 'teaching' that God provides to help them know how to live out this covenant relationship. God has set them free; they need to live a godly life, and this is what it looks like. And that is: God first, God only, God as the sole focus of worship, the centre

around which their lives are shaped. Actions and choices have consequences, and to keep – or to break – this focus has consequences that roll on for generations. This is reflected in the way they are to treat each other: as God's people. God comes first.

### **Prayer**

Eternal God, we give you thanks that through the years,  
through the generations, through the changing seasons,  
you have been with humanity in the good, the bad and the ugly times.  
We give you thanks that your truth is  
unchanging, steadfast and reliable, upholding and supportive.  
We give you thanks that you are there for us in all aspects of our lives  
from the moment of our birth  
to the drawing of our last breath and beyond.  
We give you thanks that even when we seek things  
and possessions more than we ought, that still you stand beside us,  
walk with us, breathe with us, live within us.  
We give you thanks that you are the framework,  
the scaffold of our lives.  
To you be all praise and glory.

**Amen.**

### **A prayer to conclude**

Loving God, thank you for your gift of freedom.  
Thank you also for giving us guidance  
on how to be fully alive and loving.  
Be with us as we put your guidance into practice,  
and help us to enjoy sharing your beautiful world.

**Amen.**