

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Standing Stones

**Week 2: Salvation (Reconciling with God)**

**Exodus 24:4-8**

**Week of June 13, 2021**

**(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

God longs to have a relationship with His people, and He marks this defining moment with a never-ending covenant to signify our reconciliation to Him.

**Kicking it off:** Jeff mentioned tipping over some pillar candles at a wedding. What's the funniest thing you've ever seen go wrong at a wedding? (Or another special ceremony?)

### Discussion:

1. In Exodus 24:4, the Israelites have escaped from Egypt but haven't yet landed in the Promised Land. What's the significance of Moses setting up the pillars at the base of Mt. Sinai? What was taking place there?  
*"[Moses] got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel.*  
*"Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD."*
2. The nation of Israel knew the importance of animal sacrifice, representing our sin and God's cleansing. Why do you think God wanted his people to experience this ritual?
3. Read Exodus 24:7-8 (emphasis added below). What does the Book of the Covenant represent? How about the Blood of the Covenant?  
*"Then he took the **Book of the Covenant** and read it to the people. They responded, 'We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.'*  
*"Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the **blood of the covenant** that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."*
4. What does having a *covenant relationship* with God mean to you? Why do you think we should make Jesus the Lord and Leader of our lives — as opposed to just an initial encounter?
5. Read about the New Covenant that God has established through Christ (found in Hebrews 10:16). When we speak about Christ, how does the new covenant improve upon the older animal sacrifice system?  
*"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."*
6. What does the new covenant have to do with Communion? How does knowing Jesus actually died on a real cross — for you to live forever — make you feel? For more on this, read 1 Corinthians 11:25.  
*"In the same way, after supper [Jesus] took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"*

### Wrapping It Up:

Pray for God to remind you of the value of a never-ending covenant with you and your group members.

*Optional activity:* If you haven't done so recently, take a few minutes to share your faith journey stories, and talk about when Jesus first became the Lord and leader of your life. Alternately, share one person's story per week.