

May 3, 2026 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

“The Right Way to Make the LORD’s Altars” – Exodus 20:22-26

Questions for Younger Ones (ages 5-18) to Answer from the Text:

1. What did the Israelites experience for themselves at Mount Sinai (v. 22)?
2. What did God tell the people that they must not make (v. 23)?
3. What were the Israelites allowed to construct (v. 24a)?
4. If they constructed these objects, how were they to be made (vv. 24a, 25a)?
5. What would be offered at these places the Israelites made (v. 24a)?
6. If the Israelites constructed an altar of stone, what were they forbidden to do in constructing it? Why (v. 25a)?
7. Where might the Israelites construct these objects (v. 24c)?
8. What would be the result if they obeyed God in these instructions (v. 24d)?
9. When the Israelites built these objects, what were they not allowed to construct along with them (v. 26a)?
10. Why did God give this prohibition (v. 26b)?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

11. How would you reconcile the permission to make altars in various locations (Exodus 20:24-26) with the prohibition in Deuteronomy 12 against constructing altars at any place except the one place where God would choose to make His dwelling place?
12. What besetting problem likely carried over from this permission in Exodus 20:24-26?
13. What is the crucial contrast the LORD God highlights in Exodus 20:22?
14. What important principle concerning worship does Exodus 20:22-23 establish?
15. What ancient Church Father failed to fully appreciate Exodus 20:22 when he argued that the incarnation of Christ allowed for images to be used in worship?
16. What type of reasoning justifies not making gods or images of materials such as wood, paper, or canvas and not just of silver or gold?
17. Which traditions in Christianity have historically employed images and icons in their worship?
18. Why is the making of any so-called image or picture of our Lord Jesus contrary to the principle of Exodus 20:22-23?
19. Israel was permitted for a time to build altars in places where the LORD God manifested His presence. Where does God manifest His presence today?
20. Why is regular, consistent corporate worship important and necessary as compared to an intermittent or sporadic worship of the Lord by His people?