

**May 10, 2026 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group**

**“The Way to Be a Slave for Life” – Exodus 21:1-11**

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

1. What is the section of verses beginning with Exodus 21:1 frequently known as?
2. What does this section contain (v. 1)?
3. What is the subject of the first grouping of verses (vv. 2-6)?
4. What was the length of time that the subject of verses 2-6 served (v. 2)?
5. Could a male slave who entered his years of service as a single man get married (vv. 3-4)?
6. What happened when the slave’s term of service was over if his master provided a wife for him (v. 4)?
7. What happened if the slave did not want to leave his master after his time of servitude was finished? Why would a slave want to do this (vv. 5-6)?
8. If a father gives his daughter as a servant/slave, what happened to her after the usual six-year term of service was completed (v. 7)?
9. What had to happen if the master of the girl who became his servant did not please him? Why (v. 8)?
10. If the female servant was given to the master’s son for a wife, how was she to be treated (v. 9)?
11. If the master married the female servant and also married another woman, what could the master not do to the first wife (v. 10)?

12. If the master did not continue to provide for the female slave who remained his wife after marrying another woman, what was the female slave (also now his wife) allowed to do (v. 11)?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

13. Do these “slave laws” embarrass you or make you uncomfortable? Explain.

14. Why was slavery allowed in Israel?

15. How was slavery/servitude different from the nations surrounding Israel?

16. Why would anyone in Israel want to be a slave/servant to someone?

17. How were family and marriage protected by these laws?

18. How do we know that the situation with the female given to a master was of a different sort than that of the male who entered servitude?

19. What is a “bondservant”? How does this concept relate to the Christian life?

20. How did these “slave laws” make slavery more humane?

21. How do these series of laws show the similarities and the differences between male and female?

22. How do you see shadows of the Gospel in these “slave laws”?