

# QUESTIONS FOR PART 1: THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Old Testament Segment 1: The Pentateuch

These writings, also known as the Books of Moses, combine stories and laws to chronicle the formation of the nation of Israel.

### QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

*Explore one of these readings before moving on to the next video segment.*

→ **Adam and Eve.** Read chapters 2 and 3 of Genesis.

- What's the main message of this famous story for you?
- What part of these two chapters do you connect with the most?

→ **The Ten Commandments and the Law.** Read Deuteronomy 5:1—6:9. The Ten Commandments were first given to Moses at Mt. Sinai just after the Israelites' dramatic Exodus from Egypt. But about forty years later, as their wilderness wanderings neared an end, Moses reminded them of those commandments.

- How do you respond to the Ten Commandments? Do you find them rather easy to follow or difficult?

In Deuteronomy 6:4–9, Moses also mentioned one more command, which the Jewish people call the Great Commandment or the *Shema* (meaning "hear"). Still today, the Jewish people often place the words of the Shema on their door and touch it as a reminder before leaving the house every day.

- How fully are God's words woven into your life? How do you "hear" God as you go through your day?

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

→ **Your Reactions.** Based on what you've just read:

- What surprises you, pleases you, or interests you?
- What is being revealed about (1) God; (2) humans; (3) the relationship between God and humanity?
- What, if anything, has become a little bit clearer for you? What, if anything, challenges you?

## WHEN YOU HAVE MORE TIME ...

→ **The Joseph Saga.** Read Genesis 37–45 (but, to keep the focus on Joseph, you can skip chapter 38). This extended story touches on many life experiences like using your gifts, being a dreamer, family feuds, betrayal, second chances, faith in God, and forgiveness. A great read when you get time.

→ **Moses and the Liberation of the Jews.** Read the first 15 chapters of Exodus. The Joseph story got the Israelites down to Egypt, where they later became slaves. Here's how they got out. You'll find details of Moses and the burning bush, the epic struggle with Pharaoh, the plagues, and the crossing of the Red Sea. Read it all for yourself. Take special note of the Passover, which prefigures the power of the blood of another perfect Lamb to come. And notice the very first thing the Jewish people did once they were free.

- How do you celebrate the amazing things God has done for you?