**OCF Small Groups:** passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.

## Exodus 20:4-6

(Sunday, September 24)

1. What is your favorite image (e.g. painting, picture, landscape, natural wonder, etc.)? Explain why it's your favorite.

2. Many Christians today would interpret idols or "images" kind of figuratively and say this includes things like money, pleasure, etc. But the issue in Exodus 20:4 seems to be making an image to facilitate the worship of YHWH. Is this a valid interpretation? Why or why not?

**3.** a. Why did God forbid the use of a "carved image, or any likeness of anything" in worship? Why are they not appropriate for the worship of YHWH?

b. Do you think Exodus 20:4 means God is "off limits" for the visual arts (painting, sculpture, and so on)? Why or why not?

4. a. What reasons does God give for prohibiting worship of images?

b. What does it mean that God is a "jealous God"?

c. How is his divine jealousy similar to jealousy in human relationships? How is it unlike human jealousy?

- 5. a. How else can one make an image of God other than with a physical object? What are some of the "images" in our day and age?
  - b. What images compete for your worship?

c. How are we tempted to follow or worship them? What makes these images appealing to us?

6. In her Exodus study, Dr. Carmen Imes writes this: "In the BibleProject video on the image of God, Tim says that the temple doesn't have an image or idol of God in it because God has already made humans as his image. When we show allegiance to anything other than God, we not only rob God of the praise he deserves, we also diminish ourselves as those made to represent God. "

a. What does it mean for you to be created in God's image? In what way do we "diminish ourselves"?

b. What does the coming of Jesus as the true "image" of God introduce to humanity? Explain the significance.