

# Exodus 1-20



# Slavery

## Exodus 1:1-2:10

### Getting started

*Read Exodus 1-5*

Starting to read Exodus is a bit like walking in half way through a movie.

Verses 1-5 talk about the sons of Israel who went to Egypt... Who are the sons of Israel and what do we know about them already from the book of Genesis?

*Draw a family tree from Abraham to the sons of Israel.*

*Read Genesis 1:28. Read Genesis 17:3-6. How does this help us understand Exodus 1:6-7.*

In Exodus Chapter 1 Pharaoh tries three things to stop the growth of the Israelites. Read chapter 1 and fill in the following table.

Pharaoh's Action	Does it work? How might the Israelites be feeling after this event?
1	
2	
3	

It is into this world of babies being thrown into the Nile River that we are introduced to a particular family with a baby boy.

Read Exodus 2:1-4.

*What do you think it would have been like to live with a baby hidden in your house?*

*Why is it that she eventually stops hiding him and puts the baby into the river? (Check with Hebrews 11:23 for some extra insights!)*

Read Exodus 2:5-10.

*What happens to the baby boy and what is surprising and what is unsurprising about this?*

How do you think the nation of Israel should respond to the situation in Exodus 1?

Read Exodus 2:23-25

*What is Israel's response to their situation?*

*What is God's response?*

## **What does it mean for us?**

There is a big tension in Exodus chapter 1 between God's promises seeming to not matching the experience of God's people.

Do you ever feel that your experience does not match God's promises?

How? What can we do about it?

## **Pray**

Ask God that when times are hard, his promises might speak to us loudly and not be drowned out by our experience of suffering.

# Moses tries to save

**Exodus 2:11-25**

## Getting started

What has happened so far in Chapter 1 of Exodus?

How would you describe:  
the situation of God's people?

the situation of Moses?

## Scene 1

Read Exodus 2:11-12

What does Moses do and why? What does this teach us about Moses?

## Scene 2

Read Exodus 2:13-15

What does Moses do and why? What does this teach us about Moses?

## Scene 3

Read Exodus 2:16-22

What does Moses do and why? What does this teach us about Moses?

From what we see in Chapter 2, is Moses going to be able to rescue Israel? Why or Why not? What is Moses lacking?

Can you think of any instances in Jesus life where he wanted to help people but could not?

What things in this world would you most like to change but are unable to?

### **Read Acts 7:20-29 and Hebrews 11:24-26.**

How does this help us understand Moses actions?

What is the significance of the name Moses gives his Son. (cf Genesis 17:8, 23:4 and 28:4)

Read Hebrews 11:13-16 and 11:39-12:3.

What encouragement does this passage have for us?

### **Pray**

That as we look at God's people in the Old Testament and their endurance in opposition, it would encourage us to persevere.

# God Calls Moses

## Exodus 3

### Getting started

Around the group and see if anyone knows what their name means.

Who do you tell your name to. When do you use your name and why?

Read all of Exodus chapters three and four, and think about what is your overall impression of God, of Moses, and of God's people.

How does God introduce himself to Moses and what reaction does this produce in Moses? (Exodus 3:5-6)

What does God say he has done and will do? (Exodus 3:7-10)

4. List the excuses which Moses gives to God and note God's response.

Moses excuse

God's response

Exodus 3:11-12

Exodus 3:13-22

Moses excuse

God's response

Exodus 4:1-9

Exodus 4:10-12

Exodus 4:13-17

What sorts of excuses do you come up with for not doing what God wants you to do?

Why do we sometimes disobey God even when we know disobedience is futile?

Why do you think God reveals his name to Moses?

What impression do you get of God from these verses?

We learn many things about God in these verses pick one characteristic about God that stands out to you from these verses. In what ways do you see this revealed in Jesus?

How should this characteristic shape the way we live?

How should this characteristic shape the way we view and behave towards ourselves, each other, the people we work with, our friends and family?

Pray

Thank God that he is a personal God who is concerned about our lives. There may even be some specific life struggles that you like to share and talk to God about.

# The God who is determined

Read Exodus 4:18-31

In these verses Moses tells Jethro, Aaron and the Israelite elders about God's plan to rescue Israel from Egypt. In each case what is the reaction to the news?

Read Exodus 5:1-21

What is Pharaoh's reaction to Moses' request?

How does Pharaoh's reaction confirm that God is in control (look back at 3:18-19)

What effect does Pharaoh's reaction have on the Israelites?

In what ways do hard times sometimes cause you to get angry with...

a) other people?

b) God?

Read Exodus 5:22-7:7

8. In these verses God reaffirms his intentions. What will this mean for

a) Israel (6:6-8)

b) Pharaoh (7:2-5)

To finish

Pick one characteristic of God that you've learnt from these verses. In what ways do you see this characteristic revealed in Jesus? In what ways should this characteristic shape the way we live.

Pray

Give thanks that as Christians we will "know" God as our saviour on the Day of Judgment

# The God who is boss

## Getting started

Where do people try to look for or expect to see God's 'power' today?

Read Exodus 7:8-8:19

What miracles does God perform in order to try and force Pharaoh to free the Israelites?

How do these verses describe Pharaoh's response?

What does the competition between Moses & the magicians show us about God?

Read Exodus 8:20-9:7

What further miracles does God perform in order to try and force Pharaoh to free the Israelites?

How do these verses describe Pharaoh's response?

What happens to the Israelites during these plagues? What does this show about God?

Read Exodus 9:8-10:29

What further miracles does God perform in order to try and force Pharaoh to free the Israelites?

How do these verses describe Pharaoh's response?

What are some of the reasons that we "hardened our heart" against God?

## **To finish**

Pick one characteristic of God that you've learnt from these verses. In what ways do you see this characteristic revealed in Jesus? In what ways should this characteristic shape the way we live.

## **Pray**

Pray for a soft heart which is humble and obedient before God.

# The God who saves

Getting started

Have you had an especially important event in your life? What was it and what made it so important?

Read Exodus 11

1 What final plague is God going to bring on Egypt?

2. What effect will this plague have on

a) Pharaoh

b) Israel

Read Exodus 12

3 Why do you think God wants the Passover to be the start of each year? (v1)

4. According to 12:21-23 what caused God's judgment to "pass over" a house?

5. In what way does your answer to Question 4 remind you of what happened when Jesus died on the cross?

6. As well as being set free what else happened to the Israelites in 12:33-36?

7. Why do you think its important for foreigners to become Jews in order to share in the celebration of the Exodus?

To finish

Pick one characteristic of God that you've learnt from these verses. In what ways do you see this characteristic revealed in Jesus? In what ways should this characteristic shape the way we live.

Pray

Give thanks that, through Jesus' death as our Passover lamb, we have been set free from sin and death and have been made rich with spiritual blessings.

# The God who is patient

Getting started

“Of all the things in life, contentment is the most elusive.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement. Why?

Read Exodus 16

1. What does Israel complain about in these verse?
2. What does God do in response?
3. Why do you think God solved Israel's problem the way he does?

Read Exodus 17

4. What does Israel complain about in these verse?
5. What does God do in response?
6. Why do you think God solved Israel's problem the way he does?

Read Exodus 17:8-18:27

7. What things threaten Israel in these verses?

8. How are these threats solved?

9. How is God involved in the solutions?

To finish

Pick one characteristic of God that you've learnt from these verses. In what ways do you see this characteristic revealed in Jesus? In what ways should this characteristic shape the way we live.

Pray

Give thanks for God's loving patience with his children.

# The God who is holy

Getting started

In what ways can we be too casual in the way we treat God? What is the danger of this?

Light from the Word

Read Exodus 19

1 What HAS God done for Israel?

2. What does God expect of Israel?

3. What is God's plan for Israel?

4. How is the holiness of God reflected in v9-25?

5. What special role is Moses to have for Israel?

Read Exodus 20

6. Why do you think its significant that God says v2 before he starts to give his commandments?

7 In the 10 commandments, what things are said about how Israel are to treat God and what things are said about how Israel are to treat each other.

8. “The 10 commandments are irrelevant to us nowadays. They were given to Israel but we dont have to become an Israel to be one of God’s people anymore.” What is true and what false about this statement?

To finish

Pick one characteristic of God that you’ve learnt from these verses. In what ways do you see this characteristic revealed in Jesus? In what ways should this characteristic shape the way we live.

Pray

Ask for the obedience and endurance to live a life worthy of the salvation that you have received in Christ.