

Hello!

We are so glad that you decided to join us in studying Exodus.

Exodus tells the story of God revealing Himself to His people, rescuing them from slavery, teaching them how to live and how to worship. The physical rescue of the nation of Israel from Egypt is used as a metaphor by New Testament authors, who reflect on how God ultimately rescues his people from slavery to sin by defeating the powers and authorities of this world. Join us to learn the lessons of this Old Testament book, and to understand how it points forward to Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Each week of our study we will take you on a journey from the text to today. This means that we will regularly guide you through four steps of biblical interpretation:

Step #1 - Lesson Preparation: LOOK at the text

- As you read through a chapter or two of Exodus at home in preparation for our weekly meetings, you will answer a series of Who / What / Where / When / Why / How questions which will help you investigate and understand what the author is trying to communicate in this section of the book. You will also have the opportunity to see how this passage connects to other parts of the bible, and to reflect on how this passage teaches you to worship God better.

Step #2 - LEARN from the text

- When we get together at our weekly meetings, you will examine the passage in more depth and from different angles along with your table group, to see what else you can learn about its meaning and its significance.

Step #3 - Teaching

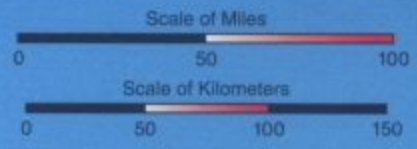
- One of our large group teachers will teach on the text, drawing out biblical themes and application points.

Step #4 - LIVE in light of the text

- After the time of teaching, you will have an opportunity to answer application questions at your tables. As we grow in our knowledge of God and his word, it should affect our attitudes and our actions. This discussion time will naturally lead into a time of prayer, since we need God's help to live as his people.

We're so glad that you are joining us on this journey, and look forward to learning from God and from each other as we study Exodus together.

Route of the Exodus



Lesson #1: INTRODUCTION TO EXODUS

The book of Exodus recounts the story of God interacting with one family. God REVEALS himself to them and allows them to know His character. He RESCUES them from slavery, provides for them in the wilderness, and teaches them how to live in RELATIONSHIP with him so that they can be a holy nation.

1. WHO is this family? What do we know about them at the start of this book?

Read Exodus 1:1-5 at your tables and answer the following questions:

- Who is the father listed in this passage?
- How many sons does he have?
- In total, how many family members are mentioned when the story of Exodus opens?
- Where are they living?
- What is this family called, collectively, as a group? (verses 6-7)

2. WHAT is the backstory of this family?

- Throughout the book of Exodus, God refers to himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These three men are the forefathers (patriarchs) of this family.
 - Abraham's story is recorded in Genesis 12 - 22. God called him away from worshipping idols, invited him into relationship with him, and gave him a son named Isaac.
 - Isaac's story is recorded in Genesis 23-27. Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau.
 - Jacob's story is recorded in Genesis 28 - 50. Jacob had 12 sons. One of his sons, Joseph, was sold into slavery in Egypt where he ended up rising to the position of Governor. The rest of the family eventually came to Egypt seeking grain in the midst of famine. They were reunited with Joseph and eventually moved to Egypt.

3. WHY is this family the focus of the book of Exodus? Why does God REVEAL himself and RESCUE the family so that they can be in RELATIONSHIP with him?

- Because of the covenant (agreement) God had made centuries earlier with Abraham. If we are going to understand the events in Exodus, we need to view them through the framework of this covenant.
- We will spend the remainder of our small group time familiarizing ourselves with the Abrahamic Covenant.

Read the following verses and list what God promises to Abraham in each section:

Genesis 12:1-3, 7	Genesis 15:1-7	Genesis 17:1-8

How could you group these promises into similar ideas? Try to combine them into 4 categories.

In Genesis 15:8, Abram asks God how he can be sure that God will keep his promises. In response to this question, God initiates a ceremony. We sign contracts today to indicate that we will honor their terms; how does God “sign” his covenant with Abraham?

- Read Genesis 15:7-21 and take notes on what happens.
 - What does God do?

- What does Abram do?

- What do God’s actions signify?

4. WHY are the people of Israel (Abraham’s descendants) in Egypt at the beginning of the book of Exodus?

- According to Genesis 15:13-16, what is the THEOLOGICAL reason they are in Egypt? What does God know, and what is He planning to do?

- What is the HISTORICAL reason they are in Egypt? What events caused them to move to Egypt? (Genesis 45:4-13)

- What does God know and what is He planning to do?

***?? Too confusing for people in the first lesson? I'm just trying to point out that people do things of their own free will / in response to situations / which fit into God's sovereign plan*

**Lesson #1: INTRODUCTION TO EXODUS
TEACHING NOTES**

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO EXODUS
LIVE in light of the text
Application

EXODUS 1-2

Lesson #2: SETTING THE STAGE

Chapter 1

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; 3 Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; 4 Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. 5 The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, 7 but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 9 “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, 16 “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” 17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. 18 Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

20 So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

Chapter 2

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

5 Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

8 “Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12 Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”

14 The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.”

15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. 16 Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father’s flock. 17 Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

18 When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, “Why have you returned so early today?”

19 They answered, “An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock.”

20 “And where is he?” Reuel asked his daughters. “Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat.”

21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. 22 Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

23 During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. 24 God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.

25 So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

EXODUS 1-2

Lesson #2: SETTING THE STAGE

LOOK at the text

LESSON PREPARATION

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage?

List everything you learn about the following individuals or groups.

- The people of Israel

- Pharaoh (the king of Egypt)

- The Egyptians

- The midwives (Shiphrah and Puah)

- God
- Moses
- Pharaoh's daughter

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize them?

- Exodus 1:1-22
- Exodus 2:1-10
- Exodus 2:11-22
- Exodus 2:23-25

Where do the events of these chapters take place?

- Exodus 1
- Exodus 2:1-10
- Exodus 2:11-22

When? Time is not recorded in these chapters, but other places in the Bible tell us how much time elapsed between Exodus 2:1 and 3:1.

- Read Acts 7:23-30. What do you learn from this passage?

Why are the people of Israel 'multiplying and growing strong' (1:7, 1:12, 1:20)? The reason for their fruitfulness is not explicitly mentioned in the text, but what is implied in this chapter?

Why do you think the text doesn't name the king, but names the midwives?

2. Whole Bible Connections

All people experience slavery. As we study the book of Exodus we will repeatedly draw parallels between the slavery of the Israelites, and the slavery that all of us experience: the slavery to sin. We will make this parallel comparison because this is modeled to us in scripture. The Biblical story centers around God REVEALING himself to people in order to RESCUE them from slavery to Egypt (in the Old Testament) and from slavery to sin (in the New Testament) and bring us into a RELATIONSHIP with him.

In Exodus 1-2 we saw how complete Israel's slavery was, and how powerless people were to break the chains of Egypt's oppression. Look up the following verses to see how sin is spoken about in parallel language in the New Testament:

- Romans 6:15-23
 - What is true of people without God's intervention?

 - What is true of people after God's intervention?

- Galatians 4:1-7
 - What is true of people before they trust in Christ? (v 3)

 - What is true of people who trust in Jesus for salvation? (v 4-7)

- Titus 3:3-8
 - What is true of people's default experience? (v 3)

 - What can be true of us because of the kindness and love of God? (v 4-8)

God heard, God remembered, God saw and God knew. (Exodus 2:24-25) Some people have the idea that God created the world and set it in motion, but is not intimately involved with people or creation. The first two chapters of this book directly oppose this idea: the Biblical author wants his readers to know, right from the start, that Yahweh is an immanent God which means he is present with his people, indwelling the universe he created.

Read the following scripture passages to see how various biblical writers reflect on this in stories and in letters.

- Genesis 16:1-14. The backstory of this passage is as follows: Hagar was an Egyptian woman who became Sarai's slave. Because Sarai was not able to have children, she suggested that her husband Abram have relations with Hagar so that Abram would have a son. When Hagar became pregnant, tension rose between Hagar and Sarai, and Hagar fled.
 - What does this passage teach about God?
 - What does Hagar name God?
 - How does knowing that God sees her situation affect Hagar?
- Psalm 139. What does David say about God? How complete is his knowledge of David?
 - List everything that God knows about David's private life (v 1-8)
 - List everything that God knows about David's public life (v 9-12)
 - List everything that God knows about David's days on earth (v 13-18)
 - What is David's response to God's intimate knowledge of him? How does it affect him?

- V 6
 - V 17-18
 - V 23-24
- Hebrews 4:12-16. In light of the fact that God sees all...
 - What is the warning in this text?
 - What is the exhortation or comfort in this text? What should we do based on this knowledge?
- Think of a situation in which you have felt alone in your trouble, sorrow, grief, worry or anxiety. It can be something that you are experiencing which is troubling you now, or has troubled you in the past.
 - How does it change your perspective to meditate on the fact that God sees and he knows everything you are experiences, have experienced in the past and will experience in the future?
 - God doesn't simply see. As we will realize as we study the book of Exodus, he also acts on behalf of his people. How would this knowledge cause you to act in accordance with Hebrews 4:16?
 - What would it look like, for you, to approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that you may receive mercy and find grace to help [you] in your time of need?

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSON: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 1-2

Lesson #2: SETTING THE STAGE

LEARN from the text

IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. As this story unfolds in the following chapters, we are going to see God act in accordance with his promises to Abraham. List the 4 main categories of the Abrahamic Covenant (see page ____ in this workbook if you can't remember what they are) and rate the status of each promise (giving them a score out of 10) at the beginning of Exodus. What percentage of the promise is fulfilled? Explain why you give each promise it's score.

- Category 1 - /10 Why?
- Category 2 - / 10 Why?
- Category 3 - / 10 Why?
- Category 4 - / 10 Why?

2. This section of scripture sets the stage for a battle between two characters which will be played out over the next 15 chapters. It begins with a description of one person (1:8-10) and ends with the description of another (2:23-25). Paying attention to these verses helps to identify both the protagonist (the leading character) and the antagonist (the person who actively opposes or is hostile to the leading character).

- Who is the protagonist?
- Who is the antagonist?
- What events and comments in 1:1 - 2:10 hint at the fact that the protagonist will win the battle?
- Read Psalm 2: 1-6. How does this Psalm reflect the message of Exodus 1-2?

3. We sometimes gloss over the slavery experienced by the Israelites in Egypt because this story is familiar to us, and yet shudder when we think of the Holocaust.
 - When you read through the descriptions of their suffering in 1:8-22, 2:11 and 2:23, what are the similarities between what the Israelites experienced in these chapters and in 20th century Europe?

 - How long did the holocaust last?

 - How long are the Israelites oppressed in these two chapters? (see the answer to “When” in your lesson preparation if you have forgotten).

4. Although Moses isn’t the protagonist of Exodus, he is a major character.
 - When you think about the fact that Moses lived in Pharaoh’s palace from the age of 3 or 4 to 40, what is striking about the comments in 2:11?

 - Although he feels emotionally connected to his people, his identity has obviously been shaped by his time at court. How do the women in Midian describe him?

 - What do we learn about his personality and nature in 2:11-22? How is he naturally wired?

EXODUS 1-2
Lesson #2: SETTING THE STAGE
NOTES

EXODUS 1-2
Lesson #2: SETTING THE STAGE
LIVE in light of the text
Application

EXODUS 3

Lesson #3: GOD'S NAME REVEALED

Chapter 3

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

13 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

15 God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

16 “Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. 17 And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’

18 “The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.’ 19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. 20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

21 “And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. 22 Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.”

- Pharaoh

What events are recorded in this chapter? How would you summarize it?

What kind of response did God tell Moses to expect:

- From the Israelites
- From Pharaoh

Where does Moses meet Yahweh?

Where will Yahweh deliver his people from?

Where will Yahweh deliver his people to? How is this land described?

Where will the Israelites worship God once they have been delivered?

Why is Yahweh going to deliver the Israelites? List as many reasons as you can find in the text.

Why does Moses protest or question God's plan? What are his concerns?

2. Whole Bible Connections

When you are reading biblical narratives, it is a good practice to take note of the people and places mentioned by the narrator in each story and to investigate where they are mentioned in the rest of the Biblical story. This helps us to understand their significance.

- People - the Midianites. Look up the following verses to see who the Midianites are, and what role they have played so far in the Biblical story.
 - Genesis 25:1-6

 - Genesis 37:12-36 (v 28, v 36)

- Places - Mt. Horeb. Look up the following verses to see what will happen at Mt. Horeb in the future.
 - Exodus 3:12

 - Exodus 17:1-6

 - Psalm 106:19-23

 - 1 Kings 19:1-18

 - Acts 7:30 (What is another name scripture gives us for Mt. Horeb)

When you are reading Old Testament narratives, it is also a good practice to take note of the significance given to a specific text in the New Testament. You can do this by looking up the New Testament links mentioned in the margins or footnotes of an Old Testament text.

- We know that God introduces himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in order to remind the Israelites of the promises he has made to their forefathers, but Jesus gives this title additional significance in the gospels. According to Matthew 22:29-33, Mark 12:24-27, and Luke 20:34-39, what other theological truth does this introduction affirm?
- How does it challenge or encourage you to meditate on the truth that God is “not the God of the dead but of the living” (Matthew 22:33)?

To understand the significance of Exodus 3:21-22 let's return to God's covenant with Abraham. What did God tell Abraham about the future of his descendants in Genesis 15:12-14?

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSON: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 3

Lesson #3: GOD'S NAME REVEALED

LEARN from the text

IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Which of God's four promises to Abraham is the focus of this chapter?

2. There are two questions which generate the dialogue of Chapters 3 and 4, and which shape our understanding of the role of human leaders in fulfilling God's plans and purposes. We are going to look at both of them in detail below:
 - What are the 2 questions?
 - Question 1 Exodus 3:11 -
 - Question 2 Exodus 3:13 -
 - What does Question #1 reveal about Moses?
 - Skim through the following verses to identify other biblical characters who asked this same question:
 - Judges 6:14-16
 - 1 Samuel 9:15-21
 - 2 Samuel 7:1-9, 18
 - Jeremiah 1:1-8
 - What is God's answer to Moses' question (and to the other biblical characters)?
 - How does this answer challenge and/or encourage you?
 - Why does God choose to use 'unworthy' people? Look up the following verses to see how the Apostle Paul explains this concept in the New Testament.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:7

 - 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

- What does the answer to question #2 (v 14) reveal about God?
 - Look up the following verses to see what his name means:
 - Revelation 1:8 (read verse 4-8)

 - Revelation 4:8 (read verses 5-8)

 - Who else claims this name in scripture? Who else does it refer to?
 - John 8:58 (read verses 54-59)

 - Hebrews 13:8

EXODUS 3
Lesson #3: GOD'S NAME REVEALED
NOTES

EXODUS 3

Lesson #3: GOD'S NAME REVEALED

LIVE in light of the text

Application

EXODUS 4-5

Lesson #4: MOSES ENGAGES WITH THE MISSION

Exodus 4

¹ Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you’?”

² Then the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?”

“A staff,” he replied.

³ The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.”

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. ⁴ Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.⁵ “This,” said the LORD, “is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

⁶ Then the LORD said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

⁷ “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

⁸ Then the LORD said, “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. ⁹ But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.”

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

¹¹ The LORD said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD?¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

¹³ But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”

¹⁴ Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help

both of you speak and will teach you what to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. 17 But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it.”

18 Then Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, “Let me return to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive.”

Jethro said, “Go, and I wish you well.”

19 Now the LORD had said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you are dead.” 20 So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand.

21 The LORD said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. 22 Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, 23 and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.’”

24 At a lodging place on the way, the LORD met Moses and was about to kill him. 25 But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son’s foreskin and touched Moses’ feet with it.

“Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,” she said. 26 So the LORD let him alone. (At that time she said “bridegroom of blood,” referring to circumcision.)

27 The LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him. 28 Then Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say, and also about all the signs he had commanded him to perform.

29 Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, 30 and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, 31 and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

Exodus 5

1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.’”

2 Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.”

3 Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.”

4 But the king of Egypt said, “Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!” 5 Then Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working.”

6 That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people: 7 “You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. 8 But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don’t reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ 9 Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies.”

10 Then the slave drivers and the overseers went out and said to the people, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I will not give you any more straw. 11 Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.’” 12 So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. 13 The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, “Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw.” 14 And Pharaoh’s slave drivers beat the Israelite overseers they had appointed, demanding, “Why haven’t you met your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?”

15 Then the Israelite overseers went and appealed to Pharaoh: “Why have you treated your servants this way? 16 Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people.”

17 Pharaoh said, “Lazy, that’s what you are—lazy! That is why you keep saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’ 18 Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks.”

19 The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, “You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day.” 20 When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, 21 and they said, “May the LORD look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

22 Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? 23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”

EXODUS 4-5

Lesson #4: MOSES ENGAGES WITH THE MISSION

LOOK at the text

LESSON PREPARATION

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage?

List everything you learn about the following individuals or groups.

- Moses

- The LORD (Yahweh)

- The people of Israel

- The foreman of the people of Israel

- Pharaoh

- Aaron

- Zipporah

- The Egyptians (the taskmasters / servants of Pharaoh)

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize them?

- Exodus 4:1-17
- Exodus 4:18-23
- Exodus 4:24-26
- Exodus 4:27-31
- Exodus 5

What were the three signs that God gave Moses to perform in order to convince the people of Israel that he was sent from God?

What causes the people to worship Yahweh at the end of Chapter 4?

What is at stake at the beginning of Chapter 4? What is Moses concerned about?

What is at stake at the end of Chapter 5? What is Moses concerned about?

Where does Aaron meet Moses?

Where are the Israelites scattered as a result of Pharaoh's commands?

Why is God angry at Moses in this text?

- Exodus 4:10-17

- Exodus 4:24-26
 - Wondering what this is about? We'll discuss this in our groups.

2. Whole Bible Connections

“Who gave man his mouth?” (4:11). I think all of us can relate to the fear that Moses expresses in Exodus 4:10-12: we are concerned that we won’t be able to communicate God’s words adequately.

- What is God’s answer to Moses?

- What is Jesus’ answer to all Christians?
 - See Matthews 10:16-20, Mark 13:9-11, Luke 12:11-2

- How are these answers a rebuke - to Moses and to us?

- How are these answers an encouragement - to Moses and to us?

- How should we live in light of this Old Testament and New Testament teaching?
What sort of attitude(s) should mark our service to God?

“I will harden his heart” (4:21). This is the first time we hear about God hardening Pharaoh’s heart. It will come up many more times in the coming sessions, so we won’t deal with it comprehensively at this point. To start mulling over this idea, however, read Romans 9:14-24 and list every possible reason that is given for why God may act in this way.

What is the purpose and expected outcome of God's signs?

- For what purpose does God give Moses the 3 signs to perform? (see Exodus 4:5, 8-9)
- It seems that this purpose was fulfilled (for at least a short time) because of what is recorded in Exodus 4:30-31. What do these verses say?
- In the New Testament, Jesus also comes performing signs.
 - Why do the gospel writers record his miracles? John 20:30-31
 - Read John 9:1-34 and note what happens when Jesus performs a miraculous sign.
 - Does everyone who sees the sign believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God?
 - What are the reasons that people give against Jesus' claim?
 - What are the reasons that people give to support Jesus' claim?
 - What explanation does Jesus give to why people respond differently to his signs (see John 10:25-30).
- What do your personal responses to the signs of Jesus recorded in the New Testament reveal about you? Are you one of his sheep?

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSON: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 4-5

Lesson #4: MOSES ENGAGES WITH THE MISSION

LEARN from the text

IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. **“The LORD met Moses and was about to kill him”**. What is this about??? Let’s see if we can piece together an hypothesis by reading and thinking through the following verses.

- Exodus 3:24-25. What does Zipporah do so that God will not kill Moses?
- Genesis 17:9-14. What is the command given to Abraham?

Who is it for?

What does it signify?

What is the judgement on those who failed to undergo this operation?

- Joshua 5:1-9. This story takes place 40 years after the story in Exodus 3. What needs to happen to the Israelite men before they can take over the promised land (as they begin to do later in that same chapter)?

Why had this surgery not been performed earlier?

Based on what you read in Genesis 17, why do you think they need to do this before they take the land?

- If we reflect on Exodus 4:24-26 in light of what we learn in Genesis 17 and Joshua 5, it seems that God wanted to correct Moses’ regard for the covenant before allowing him to deliver his people. If God had NOT confronted him, what might have been the effect on ...
 - Moses’ future commitment to God’s law
 - Moses’ credibility with the people
 - Is this ‘warning’ transferable to people in church leadership today? If so, how? (see James 3:1-2 for one idea)

2. When the Israelites are in distress in this Chapter 5, who do they appeal to?

Who do they blame?

Who should they have appealed to?

Who should they have blamed?

How is this applicable to your life?

- Have you ever found yourself appealing to friends & family members and blaming God for the situation you are in?
- What would it look like to redirect your appeal?

3. Put yourselves in the shoes of Moses and Aaron at the end of Exodus 5. They had followed through on God's commands and now things looked utterly hopeless.

- How does their experience parallel the experience of Jesus' disciples at his crucifixion, thousands of years later? (think through the gospel accounts, or read Luke 24:13-21)
- What do the disciples learn about God's power when they thought all was lost? (think through the gospel accounts, or read Luke 24:22-49)
- How is this applicable to your life?

- What does this text encourage you to do when it appears that circumstances are hopeless?

EXODUS 4-5

Lesson #4: MOSES ENGAGES WITH THE MISSION NOTES

EXODUS 4-5

Lesson #4: MOSES ENGAGES WITH THE MISSION

LIVE in light of the text

Application

EXODUS 6-7:7

Lesson #5: GOD PROMISES SUCCESS

CHAPTER 6

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.”

2 God also said to Moses, “I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself fully known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. 5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

6 “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. 7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. 8 And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.’”

9 Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.

10 Then the LORD said to Moses, 11 “Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his country.”

12 But Moses said to the LORD, “If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips?”

13 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron about the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he commanded them to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

14 These were the heads of their families:

The sons of Reuben the firstborn son of Israel were Hanok and Pallu, Hezron and Karmi. These were the clans of Reuben.

15 The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. These were the clans of Simeon.

16 These were the names of the sons of Levi according to their records: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. Levi lived 137 years.

17 The sons of Gershon, by clans, were Libni and Shimei.

18 The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. Kohath lived 133 years.

19 The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi.

These were the clans of Levi according to their records.

20 Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, who bore him Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years.

21 The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg and Zikri.

22 The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan and Sithri.

23 Aaron married Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

24 The sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah and Abiasaph. These were the Korahite clans.

25 Eleazar son of Aaron married one of the daughters of Putiel, and she bore him Phinehas.

These were the heads of the Levite families, clan by clan.

26 It was this Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions." 27 They were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing the Israelites out of Egypt—this same Moses and Aaron.

28 Now when the LORD spoke to Moses in Egypt, 29 he said to him, "I am the LORD. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you."

30 But Moses said to the LORD, "Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?"

CHAPTER 7

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. 2 You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. 3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, 4 he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. 5 And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."

6 Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded them. 7 Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh.

EXODUS 6-7:7

Lesson #5: GOD PROMISES SUCCESS

LOOK at the text

LESSON PREPARATION

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage?

List everything you learn about the following individuals or groups.

- The LORD (Yahweh)

- Moses

- Aaron

- The Israelites

- Pharaoh

- The Egyptians

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize them?

- Exodus 6:1-8
- Exodus 6:9-12
- Exodus 6:13-27
- Exodus 6:28-7:7

When did the events of these chapters take place? What kinds of clues can you find in the text as to its timing?

Why does Moses doubt that the mission will succeed?

Why do you think this text records so much about who Yahweh is and who Moses is, but doesn't even mention Pharaoh's name? He is simply called the "King of Egypt". (The answer isn't in the text :-) - think about it and see what you can come up with!)

Why is God determined to rescue his people? List all the reasons you can find in the text.

How does it encourage or challenge you to read about God's plan to rescue his people?

2. Whole Bible Connections.

The Levites. Exodus 6:13-27 establishes exactly who Moses and Aaron are: Aaron and Moses are the sons of Amram and his wife Jochebed (v 20), Amram's father was Kohath (v 18), Kohath was the son of Levi (v 16), and Levi was one of the 12 sons of Jacob. Their family lineage, beginning with Abraham, therefore goes: Abraham > Isaac > Jacob > Levi > Kohath > Amram > Aaron & Moses.

It is obviously important to the Biblical author that we know who they are! He repeats this fact several times in verse 26-27 alone. This biblical text teaches about the history of the Levites, but it's also important to know the future of this tribe. Examine the following verses to find out what will be unique about the tribe of Levi going forward:

- Number 1:1-4, 44-54
- Numbers 3:1-13 (read all of Numbers 3-5 if you want!)

- Numbers 8:5-26

- Numbers 18:1-7

- Numbers 18:20-24

- Numbers 35:1-8

In light of these verses, what is wrong with King Jeroboam's actions in 1 Kings 12:31? What does this action show about him?

Centuries later, in Malachi 2:1-9, God outlines the difference between a faithful priest and an unfaithful priest.

- What are the characteristics of a faithful Levite?

- What are the characteristics of an unfaithful Levite?
 - How will God punish an unfaithful Levite?

The role of the Old Testament Levites and priests foreshadowed the future role of Christ. What does Hebrews 7:23-28 and Hebrews 9:11-15 teach us about the most faithful High Priest of all?

“I will” Throughout scripture we see God promises to do things on our behalf. In this passage in Exodus, he is promising to save his people from slavery to Egypt. As we travel through the Old Testament, we see these promises repeated and redeveloped as God talks about saving us from slavery to the sin.

- Read Ezekiel 36:24-27 and list all the “I will” statements of God in this passage. What is He promising to do for his people?
 - Why does he need to do these things? What is wrong with people?
- Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-16. How does this passage relate to Ezekiel 36:24-27?
 - What is the role of the Spirit of God according to 1 Cor 2:12-14?
 - How do we ‘get’ the Spirit according Ezekiel 36:24-27?

- Read 2 Corinthians 4:4-6. How does this passage relate to Ezekiel 36:24-27 and 1 Cor 2:12-16?
 - What is the problem of people who don't understand that Jesus came to save us from slavery to sin?

 - What is the solution for people who don't understand that Jesus came to save us from slavery to sin?

 - How should this problem and its solution inform our actions? How should this information inform our prayers?

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSION: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 6-7:7

Lesson #5: GOD PROMISES SUCCESS

LEARN from the text

IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. As we work through the book of Exodus we want to continually keep the 4 big categories of God's covenant with Abraham in mind. We've seen that God is fulfilling his promise of people, and that He has spoken of bringing them to a land. What other aspects of the covenant are reintroduced in God's speech to Moses in Exodus 6:1-8?

2. God tells Moses that He will perform mighty acts in Egypt to serve 2 main purposes.
 - What is His purpose, for the Israelites (Exodus 6:7)?

 - What is His purpose, for the Egyptians (Exodus 7:5)?

 - What does His purpose for both of these groups teach you about His character and His priorities?
 - How is this truth transferable to us in 21st century Abbotsford? How does it shape our personal priorities? How does it shape the emphasis of our ministries?

 - How does this purpose relate to his covenant with Abraham?

3. Exodus 6:9-12 and 6:28-30 highlights the fact that Moses has not experienced much success and is still doubting his mission. Despite these reports, we can glean some hope from this chapter.

- What stops people from believing the word of the LORD in these passages?
 - How is this information instructive for us?

- What is the narrator's final report on Moses in this section?
 - How is the narrator's report instructive for us? What are we called to do when it seems that following God's commands doesn't produce the results we desire?

 - How does this challenge or encourage you?

EXODUS 6-7:7
Lesson #5: GOD PROMISES SUCCESS
NOTES

EXODUS 6-7:7

Lesson #5: GOD PROMISES SUCCESS

LIVE in light of the text

Application

EXODUS 7:8-10:29

Lesson #6: THE PLAGUES

8 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 9 “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake.”

10 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. 11 Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: 12 Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. 13 Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. 16 Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. 17 This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. 18 The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’”

19 The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs—and they will turn to blood.’ Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in vessels of wood and stone.”

20 Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. 21 The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

22 But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. 23

Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart. 24 And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water, because they could not drink the water of the river.

25 Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.

Chapter 8

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. 2 If you refuse to let them go, I will send a plague of frogs on your whole country. 3 The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. 4 The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.’”

5 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’”

6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. 7 But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

8 Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”

9 Moses said to Pharaoh, “I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile.”

10 “Tomorrow,” Pharaoh said.

Moses replied, “It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God. 11 The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile.”

12 After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh. 13 And the LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields. 14 They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them. 15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.” 17 They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came on people and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats. 18 But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not.

Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, 19 the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

20 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the river and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. 21 If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them.

22 “‘But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land. 23 I will make a distinction between my people and your people. This sign will occur tomorrow.’”

24 And the LORD did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh’s palace and into the houses of his officials; throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.

25 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land.”

26 But Moses said, “That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the LORD our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their

eyes, will they not stone us? 27 We must take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he commands us.”

28 Pharaoh said, “I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me.”

29 Moses answered, “As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the LORD, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only let Pharaoh be sure that he does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”

30 Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD, 31 and the LORD did what Moses asked. The flies left Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not a fly remained. 32 But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

Chapter 9

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, so that they may worship me.” 2 If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, 3 the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats. 4 But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.’”

5 The LORD set a time and said, “Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land.” 6 And the next day the LORD did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died. 7 Pharaoh investigated and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.

8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. 9 It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land.”

10 So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on people and animals. 11 The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians. 12 But the

LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

13 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, 14 or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. 15 For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. 16 But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. 17 You still set yourself against my people and will not let them go. 18 Therefore, at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm that has ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded till now. 19 Give an order now to bring your livestock and everything you have in the field to a place of shelter, because the hail will fall on every person and animal that has not been brought in and is still out in the field, and they will die.'"

20 Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside. 21 But those who ignored the word of the LORD left their slaves and livestock in the field.

22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt—on people and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt."

23 When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt; 24 hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. 25 Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields—both people and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree.

26 The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.

27 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned," he said to them. "The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. 28 Pray to the LORD, for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don't have to stay any longer."

29 Moses replied, “When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands in prayer to the LORD. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know that the earth is the LORD’s. 30 But I know that you and your officials still do not fear the LORD God.”

31 (The flax and barley were destroyed, since the barley had headed and the flax was in bloom. 32 The wheat and spelt, however, were not destroyed, because they ripen later.)

33 Then Moses left Pharaoh and went out of the city. He spread out his hands toward the LORD; the thunder and hail stopped, and the rain no longer poured down on the land. 34 When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts. 35 So Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.

Chapter 10

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these signs of mine among them 2 that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD.”

3 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, “This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship me. 4 If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. 5 They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. 6 They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians—something neither your parents nor your ancestors have ever seen from the day they settled in this land till now.’” Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh.

7 Pharaoh’s officials said to him, “How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the LORD their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?”

8 Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. “Go, worship the LORD your God,” he said. “But tell me who will be going.”

9 Moses answered, “We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the LORD.”

10 Pharaoh said, “The LORD be with you—if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. 11 No! Have only the men go and worship the LORD, since that’s what you have been asking for.” Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh’s presence.

12 And the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over Egypt so that locusts swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields, everything left by the hail.”

13 So Moses stretched out his staff over Egypt, and the LORD made an east wind blow across the land all that day and all that night. By morning the wind had brought the locusts; 14 they invaded all Egypt and settled down in every area of the country in great numbers. Never before had there been such a plague of locusts, nor will there ever be again. 15 They covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.

16 Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. 17 Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me.”

18 Moses then left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD. 19 And the LORD changed the wind to a very strong west wind, which caught up the locusts and carried them into the Red Sea. ²⁰ Not a locust was left anywhere in Egypt. 20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let the Israelites go.

21 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt.” 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. 23 No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind."

25 But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the LORD our God. 26 Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshipping the LORD our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship the LORD."

27 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go.28 Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die."

29 "Just as you say," Moses replied. "I will never appear before you again."

EXODUS 7:8-10:29
Lesson #6: THE PLAGUES
LOOK at the text
LESSON PREPARATION

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage?

List what you learn about the following individuals or groups.

**** This is a LONG section and lots of action with only a few places where the narrator gives us insight into emotions or motivations so limit yourself to writing down things that you learn that are new, or things that the narrator specifically notes about emotions or motivations. ****

- The LORD (Yahweh)

- Moses

- Aaron

- Pharaoh

- The wisemen / sorcerers / magicians

- The Egyptians

- The people of Israel

- The officials of Pharaoh

What are the plagues? List them in order & note any details that are unique or interesting to you as you read them.

	Description (What is the nature of the plague)	Unique or interesting details about this plague.
Plague #1		
Plague #2		
Plague #3		
Plague #4		
Plague #5		
Plague #6		
Plague #7		
Plague #8		
Plague #9		

What phrases are regularly repeated in this passage?

2. Whole Bible Connections

The Plagues. Having completed the LOOK section of our homework, we know one of the reasons that God sent the plagues: that the Egyptians and Israelites would know that He (Yahweh) is God, and that He has power over all the earth. In light of this information, how can we respond rightly as we reflect on the story of the plagues?

- Exodus 9:20-21
- Psalm 105 (what is the psalmist doing as he recounts the plagues)?

The book of Revelation which talks about a future judgement on evil draws heavily on imagery from Exodus.

- Read Revelation 9 and 16 and note the similarities between this chapter and the plague narratives in Exodus 7-10.
 - What plagues or acts of nature are mentioned in Revelation 9 & 16?
 - Who is protected from the plagues?
 - What is the “goal” of the plagues? (inferred from reading 9:20 and 16:9, 11)
 - Is this goal accomplished? How do you know?
 - What do people’s responses to the plagues teach you about human nature?
 - How does this knowledge of human nature inform and motivate your prayers for people who are not yet Christians?

Magic Arts in the Bible. While the Bible proclaims repeatedly that God has ultimate physical and spiritual authority over the world (Ephesians 1:18-23), it also realistically acknowledges that counterfeit powers are at work. Read the following passages and, for each, note

- a) the magician's roles and powers and
 - b) their limitations
- Exodus 7-9

 - Genesis 41

 - Daniel 2

 - Acts 8:9-25

 - Acts 13:4-12

 - Acts 16:16-18

 - Acts 19:1-20

 - In light of all these scriptures...
 - What does the Bible affirm about the existence of 'magic' and spiritual powers in the world?

 - What does the Bible affirm about the power of God in comparison to the other powers?

 - How are these texts a warning to you?

 - How are these texts a comfort to you?

 - Based on these texts, how would you be able to differentiate between the work of demonic power and the work of God's power?

God's Judgement on the Wicked. The Bible also provides us with a realistic portrayal of our everyday experience in the world. It often seems that the wicked are winning, and that it is much easier and more beneficial to NOT follow God. To see people wrestling through this dilemma honestly, read Psalm 73 and answer the following questions:

- What does Asaph (the author of this psalm) assert as he begins to write?
- What does he admit immediately after verse 1? What is his temptation?
- Why is he tempted to envy the arrogant & wicked? (verses 2-14)
 - Can you relate to Asaph's frustration & temptation?
- How is his thinking corrected? (verse 15-20)
- What is Asaph doing in verses 21-22?
- After he has his thinking corrected, and is restored to God through confession, how does Asaph resolve to deal with this temptation in the future? What do you see him doing in verses 23-28?
 - How does this psalm encourage or challenge you?
 - Is there a specific situation which you need to bring before the Lord in order to regain perspective? How can Asaph's reflections in verses 23-28 instruct you as you work through this?

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSON: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 7:8-10:29

Lesson #6: THE PLAGUES

LEARN from the text

IN CLASS DISCUSSION

- 1. The Legacy of the Plagues.** Having completed the LOOK section of our homework, we know one of the reasons that God sent the plagues: that the Egyptians and Israelites would know that He (Yahweh) is God, and that He has power over all the earth. Look up the following passage to see how “successful” this plan is. Does God’s fame spread? What is the result?
- Joshua 2:1-12 (Events take place **approximately 40 years** after the plagues)
 - Who is the main character in this passage?
 - How did people in her town respond when they heard the news of what God did in Egypt, and what had happened since?
 - How does she respond to the Israelites and to God based on her knowledge of God’s power?
 - Joshua 9:1-27 The events in this story take place shortly after story in Joshua 2. In this passage, two different groups are said to know about what God did in Egypt, and they respond differently to the news.
 - What is the response of the kings who live west of the Jordan?
 - What is the response of the Gibeonites? (v 3-13, v 24-27)
 - 1 Samuel 4:1-11 (The events in this story take place **approximately four hundred years** after the plagues).
 - What do the Philistines know about the ark of the LORD’s covenant and His work in Egypt? (v 5-8)
 - What is their response to this knowledge (v 9-11)
 - Is this “victory” the end of the story? Skim through 1 Samuel 5: What happens next?

- In summary then, how “successful” was God’s plan to inform people through the plagues that He is Yahweh, the one who controls heaven and earth.
- Does this knowledge always end in obedience to Him and worship of Him? Why or why not?

2. Beginning with the plague on the livestock, God makes a distinction between the experience of his people and that of the Egyptians (Exodus 9:4 / Exodus 9:26 / 10:23). This is a theme throughout scripture. Look up the following Old Testament and New Testament texts which point forward to the day of God’s final judgement and fill in the chart below:

	On what basis does God make a distinction between one group of people and another in this text?	What are the benefits of being one of God’s people, and the consequences of not being one of God’s people?
Malachi 3:16 - 4:6		
Revelation 20:11 - 15		

- In light of all biblical teaching on this topic, there is one consistent exhortation: Judgement is coming, so take refuge in God! If you have time at your tables, read Psalm 94 together to see how Biblical authors repeatedly address this theme.

EXODUS 7:8-10:29
Lesson #6: THE PLAGUES
NOTES

EXODUS 7:8-10:29
Lesson #6: THE PLAGUES
LIVE in light of the text
Application

EXODUS 11:1-12:42

Lesson #7-PLAGUE #10

Now the LORD had said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely. 2 Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold.” 3 (The LORD made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh’s officials and by the people.)

4 So Moses said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5 Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. 7 But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.’ Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. 8 All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, ‘Go, you and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will leave.” Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

9 The LORD had said to Moses, “Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt.” 10 Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

Chapter 12

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the

members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

14 "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance. 15 For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.

17 "Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."

21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. 23

When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

24 “Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ 27 then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28 The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

29 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

31 During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. 32 Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.”

33 The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. “For otherwise,” they said, “we will all die!” 34 So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. 35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36 The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. 38 Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. 39 With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was

without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves.

40 Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. 41 At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt.42 Because the lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for the generations to come.

- Exodus 12:21-28
- Exodus 12:29-32
- Exodus 12:33-42

What saves Israel from the plague on the firstborn? What makes the LORD pass over their home?

- What would have happened if an Israelite family had failed to do what Moses commanded? Would they have been saved?
- So - was their salvation tied to their ethnicity or to something else?

Where do the Israelites begin their journey and where do they travel to?

When does the passover take place (which month & day)?

When do the Israelites leave Egypt? How long have they been there, and why is this information significant? (see Genesis 15:12-16)

Why is God performing this final plague? What motivation do you see in the text?

- 11:9
- 12:12

How important is it to God that the Israelites observe this feast annually? What warnings do you see in the text which helps you determine your answer?

How do you see people “taking refuge in God” in this text?

- The Israelites
- The Egyptians and other people groups (Exodus 12:38)

2. Whole Bible Connections

Firstborn son... The words “firstborn son” are packed with meaning in scripture. Legally, the firstborn son was the one who inherited the wealth and blessing of his father. How does this definition influence your understanding of the figurative use of this word in the texts below:

- Exodus 4:22-23.
 - What does God call Israel?
 - What does this mean?

- Luke 2:7 (read 1-7 for context)
 - Who is the firstborn in this passage?

 - This is obviously a physical references to the fact that he was the first son of his mother, but it's likely that Luke was also draw the reader's attention to the symbolic use of this word. Why might he want to do this?

- Colossians 1:15-20
 - Jesus is described as the firstborn twice in this passage.
 - Firstborn over _____
 - Firstborn from _____
 - What does this mean?

- Hebrews 1:1-9
 - Who is the firstborn in this passage?

 - What are his "rights" as the firstborn? What honor is due to Him?

Spend some time praising God that He gave his firstborn son so that we might become His children: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17

The mixed multitude... (Exodus 12:38). Many people have the impression that, because God chose to work through the family of Abraham (the nation of Israel) in the Old Testament, everyone else was excluded from His plan. If we read the biblical text carefully, however, we see that God consistently made provisions for foreigners to join his people.

Read the passages identified below and note what it teaches us about how the Israelites were to treat non-Israelites:

- Leviticus 19:33-34

- Leviticus 24:22

- Numbers 13:15 (read 6-15 for context)

- Deuteronomy 1:15-17

- Deuteronomy 24:14-17

- When Matthew records Jesus' genealogy (Matthew 1:1-16), he includes the names of 4 women, 2 of whom were not Israelites. Read the passages below and note how these women joined the people of Israel
 - a) What was their attitude towards God?
 - b) How did they demonstrate allegiance to him?

- Rahab - Joshua 2:1-21

- Ruth - Ruth 1:1-18 (you can read her whole story in this 4 chapter book if you want!)

- Non-Israelite men were also recipients of God’s grace in the Old Testament. Read 1 Kings 15:1-18 and record what this story tells us about Naaman.
 - Who is he?

 - What are the results of his encounter with Elisha?
 - Physically?

 - Spiritually?

 - Why does Jesus reference Naaman’s story in Luke 4:14-30?

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSION: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 11:1-12:42

LESSON 7: THE FINAL PLAGUE AND THE EXODUS

LEARN from the text

IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. In this chapter we are repeatedly told that this night is to be referred to as the LORD's passover (12:11, 12:27). The Israelites are rescued from slavery by an act of God's judgement, and are rescued from death when God passes over the homes marked with the blood of a lamb. This festival was celebrated for centuries, as the nation annually commemorated their release from Egypt.

With Exodus 11 and 12 still fresh in your mind...

- Read John 1:19-31.
 - What does John call Jesus?

- Read Matthew 26:1-30 at your tables.
 - What is the significance of Jesus dying during the Passover celebration?

 - In Matthew 26, what does Jesus say is the purpose of his blood being shed?
 - Why is it being poured out?

 - What kind of slavery are we being rescued from as a result of his blood?

- Read Revelation 5:1-11
 - Who is worthy to open the scroll and why?

 - What did Jesus's blood "purchase"?
 - For what reason were the people "purchased"? What is their purpose?

 - For what purpose did Moses say God was rescuing his people? See Exodus 7:15, 8:1, 8:20, 9:1, 9:13 etc)

 - How does this purpose challenge or encourage you as you think about your life as a Christian?

With Exodus 11 and 12 in mind, read Luke 24:13-27 (focus on v27) and Luke 24:44-49.

- In the Old Testament, God commanded that they observe the Passover to remember their deliverance from Egypt.
 - What do Jesus' words in Luke's gospel add to this picture? What other purpose did the regular Passover celebration serve?

EXODUS 11:1-12:42

LESSON 7: THE FINAL PLAGUE AND THE EXODUS

NOTES

EXODUS 11:1-12:42
LESSON 7: THE FINAL PLAGUE AND THE EXODUS
LIVE in light of the text
In Class Discussion

EXODUS 12:43-13:16

Lesson #8-FEASTS: PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD

43 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “These are the regulations for the Passover meal:

“No foreigner may eat it. 44 Any slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him, 45 but a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat it.

46 “It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones. 47 The whole community of Israel must celebrate it.

48 “A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the LORD’s Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat it. 49 The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you.”

50 All the Israelites did just what the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. 51 And on that very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.

13 The LORD said to Moses, 2 “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

3 Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. 4 Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving. 5 When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: 6 For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the LORD. 7 Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. 8 On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ 9 This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. 10 You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year.

11 “After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, 12 you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. 13 Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

14 “In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’ 16 And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.”

EXODUS 12:43-13:16

Lesson #8-FEASTS: PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD

LOOK at the passage

LESSON PREPARATION

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage?

List everything you learn about the following individuals or groups.

- The LORD (Yahweh)

- Moses

- foreigners

- the people of Israel

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize them?

- Exodus 12:43-51
- Exodus 13:1-10
- Exodus 13:1-16

What does God command the people of Israel to do with every firstborn animal?

What does God command the people of Israel to do with every firstborn son?

Where must the Passover be eaten?

- Why do you think this is commanded?

When should the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread be observed?

- Over how many days?
- What are they to do everyday?
- What are they to do on the seventh day?

Why is a foreigner not allowed to eat the Passover until he has been circumcised?

Why is God instituting the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread? What does the text say is his motivation for doing so?

Why is God going to bring them into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites? (Exodus 13:5)

- What does Deuteronomy 7:7-11 add to this picture?

Why is God asking them to sacrifice the firstborn animals and redeem the firstborn sons?

2. Whole Bible Connections

Consecration of the Firstborn son. The practice of consecrating the firstborn animal and firstborn son to the Lord is first mentioned in Exodus. Look up the following texts to see what else you can learn about the purpose and practice of this consecration.

- Exodus 22:29-30
- Deuteronomy 15:19-23

- While all firstborn sons are to be presented to the Lord, this doesn't mean that they all become priests. How is this idea developed and explained in Number 3:1-13?

- The only New Testament reference to this passage is found in Luke 2. Skim through the entire chapter and take note of verses 21-24.
 - What is this chapter about?

 - Why do you think Luke is drawing attention to the fact that this firstborn was consecrated to the Lord?

“In the days to come when your son asks you...” All the feasts and festivals instituted in the Bible have a future focus: They are instituted to remind future generations of God's RESCUE of his people throughout history so that they will stay in RELATIONSHIP with him.

Read the following passage and take note of the “5 W's and H” for each: Who is being addressed? What are they supposed to do? Where? When? Why? How?

- Deuteronomy 6:1-12

- Deuteronomy 11:18-28
 - How do these verses challenge you?

Various commentators draw attention to the symbolism of the “sign on your hand and reminder on your forehead” (Exodus 13:9,16, Deuteronomy 6:8, 11:18). GK Beale explains it this way, “The “forehead” represents [a person’s] ideological commitment and the “hand” the practical outworking of that commitment.”¹

- In other words, the retelling and recounting of God’s words and his saving acts in history, is intended to shape both our thinking and our actions. How does this challenge or encourage you personally today?

In light of these instructions, read Joshua 2:6-15 (especially v 10-15). What does this text tell us? Which generations have failed to follow God’s instructions?

Read Psalm 78 and focus on verses 1-8.

For what reason, according to Asaph, should teach the next generation about the Lord?

- 78:6
- 78:7
- 78:8

Make a list of people you know in the “next generation” (your kids / grandkids / nieces or nephews, children or grandchildren of your friends, younger people whom you know). Based on Psalm 78, how can you pray for each of them today?

¹ Beale, G. K., & McDonough, S. M. (2007). [Revelation](#). In *Commentary on the New Testament use of the Old Testament* (p. 1130). Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, UK: Baker Academic; Apollos.

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSON: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 12:43-13:16

Lesson #8-FEASTS: PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD

LEARN from the text

IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. The Passover transformed. Why don't Christians celebrate Passover?

Last week we read Matthew's account of Jesus celebrating the Passover, and focused on the symbolism of Jesus being the Passover Lamb. Today we will focus on how Jesus transformed the Passover celebration for Christians.

Read Luke 22:7-20.

- Where does Jesus say the Passover will find fulfillment?
 - What does this mean? Has this already happened?

 - The book of Hebrews is written to Jewish people who had become Christians but were tempted to turn back to Judaism in order to avoid persecution. Throughout the first 10 chapters, the author continually reminds his readers that Jesus has come to fulfill all the rituals, sacrifices and festivals of the Old Testament.

What does Hebrews 9:8-10 tell us about the purpose of the Old Testament sacrificial system, food laws and festivals?

Do they still apply to us? What clues are in this text?

- Going back to Luke 22. Why does Jesus instruct his followers to drink from the cup and eat the bread? What are they specifically doing when they follow these instructions?

In his letter to the Corinthian church, Paul recounts these instructions.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

- What does Paul say they are doing when they follow these instructions?

In order to quickly summarize then, let's compare Passover and Communion

- What event was remembered in the Passover celebration?
- What event is remembered in the Communion celebration?
- What was the present and future focus of Passover? Why did the people of Israel regularly celebrate it?
- What is the present and future focus of Communion? Why do Christians regularly celebrate it?
- What are we specifically looking forward to and waiting for as we celebrate Communion?

2. Conditions on Celebration

- In the Old Testament, what was required by a foreigner before he took part in the Passover meal?
- What would be the New Testament equivalent? (Think through the instructions we regularly give at church when we take communion? What 2 things do we ask people to consider before they take communion?)

3. The value of rituals.

- What is the benefit of regularly celebrating Communion?
- What could be a potential pitfall of regularly celebrating Communion?
- What has been your experience with 'ritual and tradition' in the Christian church (both positively and negatively)? Is there anything that you have found helpful to keep celebrations from becoming routine?

EXODUS 12:43-13:16

Lesson #8-FEASTS: PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD

NOTES

EXODUS 12:43-13:16

Lesson #8-FEASTS: PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD

LIVE in light of the passage

Application

EXODUS 13:17-15:21
Lesson #9-THE RED SEA

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” 18 So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.”

20 After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21 By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ 4 And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” So the Israelites did this.

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!” 6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. 7 He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8 The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. 9 The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. 11 They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

13 Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

15 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. 17 I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24 During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25 He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.”²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 30 That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 31 And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

15 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.

Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.

2 “The LORD is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

3 The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

4 Pharaoh’s chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.

The best of Pharaoh’s officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.

5 The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.

6 Your right hand, LORD,
was majestic in power.

Your right hand, LORD,
shattered the enemy.

7 “In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.

You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.

8 By the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up.

The surging waters stood up like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy boasted,
‘I will pursue, I will overtake them.

I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them.

I will draw my sword
and my hand will destroy them.’

10 But you blew with your breath,
and the sea covered them.

They sank like lead
in the mighty waters.

11 Who among the gods
is like you, LORD?

Who is like you—
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?

12 “You stretch out your right hand,
and the earth swallows your enemies.

13 In your unfailing love you will lead
the people you have redeemed.

In your strength you will guide them

to your holy dwelling.

14 The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will grip the people of Philistia.

15 The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling,
the people of Canaan will melt away;

16 terror and dread will fall on them.

By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone—
until your people pass by, LORD,
until the people you bought pass by.

17 You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance—
the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling,
the sanctuary, LORD, your hands established.

18 “The LORD reigns
for ever and ever.”

19 When Pharaoh’s horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. 20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron’s sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. 21 Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.

Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.”

EXODUS 13:17-15:21
Lesson #9:THE RED SEA
LOOK at the text
LESSON PREPARATION

1. 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

Who are the main characters in this passage?

List everything you learn about the following individuals or groups.

*** Find your answers for this section from 13:17 - 14:31. We'll work through Exodus 15 separately in the "Whole Bible Connections" section ***

- God / the LORD (Yahweh)

- Moses

- The Israelites

- Pharaoh

What do you notice if you compare Moses' response to the people's complaints in Exodus 14:11-14 with his response in Exodus 5:20-23?

- How is his response different?

- Why is his response different?

Where do the Israelites travel? What place names are mentioned?

When does Pharaoh have a change of heart?

- How many days "leave of absence" had Moses asked for from Pharaoh in Exodus 5 and 8?

- Do you think this is the first time that Pharaoh realized that the Israelite departure was not temporary?

Why, according to God, does Pharaoh have a change of heart?

- What is God's purpose in hardening Pharaoh's heart?

How did the outcome of these events affect the thoughts and actions of the people of Israel? (14:31-15:21)

How should reading and reflecting on this story affect us now? What should it cause us to think and to do?

2. Whole Bible Connections

The Bones of Joseph (Exodus 13:19). Why did Moses carry the bones of Joseph with him out of Egypt? Let's read the backstory...

- Who is Joseph? (If you don't remember, read the history of Israel on page ____)

- Read Genesis 50: 1-14
 - What did Joseph and his brothers do with Jacob's (their father's) body when he died?

 - Why did they do this?

- Read Genesis 50:15-26
 - What did Joseph tell his brothers to do with his body when he died?

 - Why? What reason did he give?

- Read Hebrews 11:21-22
 - What does this account of Joseph add to the story? What did his request regarding his bones represent?

- Read Joshua 24:31-32
 - What does this account add to the story of Joseph's bones?

- Why do you think that the authors of Genesis / Exodus / Joshua and Hebrews all included this story when they wrote about the history of Israel?

Songs of Worship in Response to God's actions

In Exodus 15, Moses, Miriam and the people of Israel sing a song of worship in response to God's actions. This is a common practice of God's people: you will see this happen repeatedly as you read through the narratives of the Old Testament. If you read through the book of Psalms, you will also note that many of the titles of the psalms include a description of the situation which influenced their writing (eg Psalm 3: A Psalm of David when he fled from his son Absalom).

Take some time to meditate on Psalm 15: read it silently, read it out loud, think through each image and what it is teaching you about God.

- What does this song teach you about God? List what you learn, and then turn this into adoration / confession and supplication in the chart on the following page.

- If you want to hear more of Moses' perspective on God as expressed in song, read and meditate on Psalm 90.

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSION: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 13:17-15:21
Lesson #9:THE RED SEA
LEARN from the text
IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. The Bible is clear that one of God's main priorities is bringing glory to himself. When we read verses like Exodus 14:4 and 14:17-18 without having our minds and imaginations shaped by an understanding of God's character as described in His word, we can mistakenly understand this as arrogance on God's part. In our experience, if someone glorifies themselves, they do so by demeaning others or refusing to acknowledge the rights or contributions of others.

What happens, though, when God is glorified? Does this result in a "better" or "worse" situation for people and for creation? Does God's glory enhance or diminish human flourishing? Read the following passages and take note of the state of the world when it is full with the knowledge & glory of the LORD:

- Isaiah 11:1-8

- Revelation 21:1-8

- Revelation 22:1-5

The LORD being glorified is bad news for some, however. According to Exodus 14, Isaiah 11 and Revelation 21, who 'suffers' when God is glorified?

- You don't have to answer this next question in the group, but it's necessary for you to think through the implications of this knowledge as you consider your own future.
 - *What does this knowledge mean for you, personally? Based on what you read, do you look forward to God's glory filling the earth or does the knowledge of what this entails fill you with fear? Are you on God's side?*

There are going to be several more references to God's glory in the book of Exodus so if you still have questions regarding his glory, write them down here and come back to them in a few weeks!

2. When the Israelites are in the tight spot between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea, they accuse Moses and God of having evil motivations. What do they say?

To refresh our own memories, what is God's actual motivation for bringing them out? Why is he doing this? Exodus 2:24-25, Exodus 3:16-17, Deuteronomy 7:6-8

3. We have mentioned several times in the past few weeks that God's delivery of the Israelites from physical slavery in the Old Testament foreshadows God's delivery of all people from slavery to sin in the New Testament.

How "total" is God's defeat of the Egyptian army in Exodus 14:23-31? What does the text say?

What is the role of the Israelites in their own rescue?

Read Ephesians 1:18-23. How "total" is God's defeat of the spiritual powers over this world?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What is our role in our rescue?

EXODUS 13:17-15:21
Lesson #9:THE RED SEA
NOTES

EXODUS 13:17-15:21
Lesson #9:THE RED SEA
LIVE in light of the text
Application

EXODUS 15:22-17:16

Lesson #10:GRUMBLING IN THE DESERT

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) 24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”

25 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. 26 He said, “If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

Chapter 16

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. 2 In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. 3 The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. 5 On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” 8 Moses also said, “You will know that it was the LORD when he

gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”

9 Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

10 While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

11 The LORD said to Moses, 12 “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

13 That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. 16 This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.’”

17 The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. 18 And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.

19 Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.”

20 However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

21 Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. 22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. 23 He said to them, “This is what the LORD commanded: ‘Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a

holy sabbath to the Lord. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.’”

24 So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. 25 “Eat it today,” Moses said, “because today is a sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today. 26 Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.”

27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. 28 Then the LORD said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? 29 Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out.” 30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

31 The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey. 32 Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I brought you out of Egypt.’”

33 So Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come.”

34 As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved. 35 The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan. 36 (An omer is one-tenth of an ephah.)

Chapter 17

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?”

3 But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

4 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

5 The LORD answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

8 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.”

10 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.”

15 Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. 16 He said, “Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the LORD, the LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.”

What events are recorded in these chapters? How would you summarize them?

- Exodus 15:22-27
- Exodus 16
- Exodus 17:1-7
- Exodus 17:8-16

What do the Israelites do when they encounter bitter water at Marah and no water at Rephidim?

What does Moses do in the same situations?

- What is the difference between these two responses?
- What is your default response when you are in a difficult circumstance?

What does Moses teach them about the nature of their grumbling in 16:6-8?

- How is this instructive to you? When you are grumbling about other people or about your circumstances, who are you ultimately grumbling against?

What are God's instructions regarding the manna?

What does God teach the Israelites regarding the Sabbath?

Where did the Israelites travel? List all the place names mentioned in this text.

When did the Israelites set out from Elim?

When was this story written? Or **when** was additional information added or edited? Exodus 16:34-35 gives us two hints that the book of Exodus, in its final form at least, may not have been recorded around the campfire each night. What do you notice in these verses?

Why does God tell the Israelites to only gather enough manna for the day? What does the text say he is doing by asking this of them?

Why were they supposed to preserve an omer of manna in a jar?

- We have seen this motivation already in our study of Exodus. What does this command remind you of?

Why does God tell Moses to write on a scroll after the battle with the Amalekites?

How do these passages talk about the glory of the Lord? How / when will the Israelites see the glory of the Lord? What will be the sign(s) of his glory?

How would you answer the question the Israelites ask in Exodus 17:7? What evidence would you refer to when answering this question?

2. Whole Bible connections

Who were the Amalekites? Why is this story important?

The story of the Amalekites attacking the Israelites in the desert is referenced several times in the Old Testament, and plays a major role in God's rejection of Israel's first king. To see how this story is woven through the narratives, look up the following passages.

- Amalek is first mentioned in Genesis 36:12,16. In which genealogy is his name recorded (eg who is his forefather Genesis 36:1, 9, 15)?

- So, what is the relationship between the Amalekites (whose ancestor is Esau) and the Israelites (whose ancestor is Jacob)? Are they simply chance acquaintances engaged in a desert battle?

- Read Deuteronomy 25:17-19.
 - What details are added to the story in this account of the battle?

 - What are God's commands to the people of Israel?

- Read 1 Samuel 15.
 - How did King Saul lose God's favor as a result of his interaction with the Amalekites?

Manna. How does Jesus use the story of the manna in the wilderness to teach the people in his day?

- Read John 6
 - In verses 1-15 Jesus provides people with bread in a remote area. What similarities do you see between this story and the story in Exodus 16?

 - Later on, in verses 25-59, these same people come looking for him.
 - John 6:26 - 31. What does Jesus know they want from him ?

 - John 6:32-40. What does he say they should want instead?

 - John 6:41-58
 - What was the end result of their ancestors eating manna?

 - What will be the end result of all who eat the bread of life?

 - What does this mean? How do we get access to this 'living bread'?

 - John 6:60-70
 - How does Simon Peter demonstrate his dependance on the living bread?

 - Do you have the same attitude towards Jesus as Simon Peter? Why or why not?

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSON: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 15:22-17:16

Lesson #10:GRUMBLING IN THE DESERT

LEARN from the text

IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. **Manna.** We noticed when we went through the LOOK section for this text that manna was given to the people of Israel for two reasons: to provide for their physical needs and to test their willingness to obey God's commands and rely on him.

- How and in what ways did they fail the test?

- What does their failure reveal about them? What were they looking to for "security" and provision rather than relying on God?

- Read Matthew 6:9-13. How does Jesus reference the lesson of this story in his prayer?
 - How does Jesus' prayer challenge or encourage you? Are you content with daily bread, or do you crave more security?

- Read Luke 12:13-21.
 - Why is this parable told? What is Jesus warning people against?

 - What should the rich fool have done with his surplus instead of building bigger barns?

- Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-15. In this passage, the Apostle Paul is encouraging the Christians in Corinth to give money to help the Christians in Jerusalem. He references Exodus 16:18 in his argument. What does he suggest the story of the manna should teach us...
 - About God?

 - About our responsibility towards others?

How would you summarize the teaching on money and possessions found in these three passage?

2. **Massah & Meribah.** These place names go down in infamy in the Bible: you will want to remember them because they are repeatedly referenced in both the Old and New Testaments.

- Read Psalm 95
 - According to verses 8 - 11, what were the end results of the grumbling at Massah and Meribah?

 - According to verses 1-7, what should God's people do instead? List every positive command found in these verses.

 - Which of these commands most challenges you?

 - How does verse 7 serve as both a comfort and a warning?

- If you have time at your tables, feel free to look up parallel passages in Hebrews 3:7-4:13 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.
 - What other lessons do these authors draw from the story of Massah and Meribah?

EXODUS 15:22-17:16
Lesson #10:GRUMBLING IN THE DESERT
NOTES

EXODUS 15:22-17:16

Lesson #10: GRUMBLING IN THE DESERT

LIVE in light of the passage

Application

EXODUS 18:1-27

Lesson #11-MOSES AND JETHRO

Now Jethro, the priest of Midian and father-in-law of Moses, heard of everything God had done for Moses and for his people Israel, and how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

2 After Moses had sent away his wife Zipporah, his father-in-law Jethro received her 3 and her two sons. One son was named Gershom, for Moses said, "I have become a foreigner in a foreign land"; 4 and the other was named Eliezer, for he said, "My father's God was my helper; he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh."

5 Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, together with Moses' sons and wife, came to him in the wilderness, where he was camped near the mountain of God. 6 Jethro had sent word to him, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons."

7 So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent. 8 Moses told his father-in-law about everything the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the LORD had saved them.

9 Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians. 10 He said, "Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. 11 Now I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly." 12 Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law in the presence of God.

13 The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. 14 When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

15 Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will.¹⁶ Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God’s decrees and instructions.”

17 Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. ¹⁹ Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him. ²⁰ Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. ²¹ But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. ²² Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. ²³ If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.”

²⁴ Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. ²⁵ He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. ²⁶ They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

²⁷ Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.

What events are recorded in this chapter? How would you summarize it?

- What did Moses tell Jethro about his experiences so far?
- What did Jethro observe about Moses' leadership?

Where are the Israelites when this meeting takes place?

When had Moses sent Zipporah away (18:2)? Is there an answer to this question in scripture? Why or why not? (Try to reason this out and see what you come up with!)

Why does Jethro, a priest of Midian, offer a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God?

- What does this story have to do with the promises made to Abraham?

Why does Jethro say that Moses' practice of hearing disputes is not good? What is Jethro worried about?

How many people are travelling with Moses? (If you don't remember, turn back to Exodus 12:37-38).

How (on what basis) does Jethro say that Moses should choose leaders? What character traits should he look for?

2. Whole Bible connections

“Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods.” In Exodus 18:11, when Jethro hears the story of how God has delivered Israel, he affirms God’s pre-eminence over all the other nation’s gods. God had told Pharaoh: “I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Exodus 9:15-16

By demonstrating his power and authority, Yahweh is fulfilling his promise to bless all the nations of the world through Abraham: when foreigners understand who He is, they put their trust in him.

Approximately 1000 years after the events of the Exodus, the Israelites are in dire straits once again. They did not follow God’s commands when he finally brought them into the promised land, and after warning them to repent for centuries, God allowed them to be captured by the Babylonians. The book of Daniel reaffirms that, even though they are now in exile (removed from the promised land), the LORD is still greater than all other gods, and that this knowledge can transform the nations. Read the following texts to see this idea re-established.

- Daniel 4 - This chapter is written by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.
 - How does he begin to tell the story?

 - What is the first event that he recalls?

 - What is Daniel’s (Belteshazzar) advice to him in light of this event?

 - Do you think he initially followed Daniel’s advice? What do you see in the text which help you answer this question?

- What is God's purpose in punishing Nebuchadnezzar?

 - What action restores his sanity?

 - List everything that Nebuchadnezzar learned about God as a result of this event.

 - In light of Nebuchadnezzar's testimony, spend some time praising God for who He is.
-
- Daniel 6
 - What is the setting of this story?

 - Who are the characters?

 - What conflict sets this story in motion?

 - How does Daniel respond to King Darius' decree?

- How does King Darius respond to Daniel's arrest? Why do you think the author includes verse 14? What is beyond the king's power?

- What does King Darius say to Daniel immediately before and after the night spent in the lion's den?

- What is the end result of this event? How does this story impact people from all nations?

- Nebuchadnezzar affirms that God does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. How can this knowledge fuel your prayers?

- King Darius' decree affirms that this truth about God is a public truth: it impacts and has implications for people in 'every part of [his] kingdom'. If Yahweh actually is the living God who endures forever, all people will have to give an account to him someday. How can this knowledge fuel your prayers?

3. Reflection

ADORATION: What can you praise God for, based on this text?	CONFESSON: What might you need to confess to God, based on this text?	SUPPLICATION: What can you ask God for, based on this text?

EXODUS 18:1-27

Lesson #11-MOSES AND JETHRO

LEARN from the text

IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Exodus 18 is the final chapter in the first section of Exodus. As we move into Exodus 19 the shape and emphasis of the narrative changes dramatically. This chapter 'bookends' the themes begun as the story opened. Look up the verses below and see if you can come up with the one word or idea which is featured at the beginning and ending of these 18 chapters.

- Exodus 2:17
- Exodus 2:19
- Exodus 3:8
- Exodus 5:23
- Exodus 6:6

- Exodus 18:4
- Exodus 18:8
- Exodus 18:9
- Exodus 18:10

And the answer is

2. If you did the Whole Bible Connections section of your homework, you will note that Jethro was one of many foreigner leaders who seems to come to faith in Yahweh. How is he a model for us to emulate?

- What does Jethro do first? Exodus 18:9
- What does he do next? Exodus 18:10-11
- And then what? Exodus 18:12
 - How are these three responses instructive to us? How should we be shaped by Jethro's responses to God's deliverance?

3. Jethro helps Moses begin the transition that will be necessary as the book of Exodus continues. In Chapters 1-18 God has RESCUED his people and as the book continues He will outline what it looks like to live in RELATIONSHIP with him, in light of their salvation. This is not something they will know how to do instinctively: they need to be taught.

Keeping this idea in mind, what role does Jethro envision for Moses?

What role does Jethro envision for those who Moses appoints to lead his people?

- Read Acts 6:1-7
 - What is the problem here?

 - What priorities are “the Twelve” (Jesus’ disciples) being pulled between?

 - What do they decide to do?
 - What is the role “The Twelve” will continue to have?
 - What is the role of the other leaders?
 - On what basis are the other leaders chosen?
 - Does this “criteria” sound familiar after reading Exodus 18?

- People in the church often get stuck thinking that they need to figure out their “spiritual gifts” before they serve. When we look at scripture, however, we don’t see Paul telling people like Timothy and Titus to identify those in their churches with specific spiritual gifts! What do we see instead? What are they to supposed to evaluate?
 - 1 Timothy 3:1-12

 - Titus 1:5-9, 2:1-10

- Pulling this all together, what do Exodus, Acts, 1 Timothy and Titus all affirm about what we should look for when we choose leaders for God’s people?

EXODUS 18:1-27
Lesson #11-MOSES AND JETHRO
NOTES

EXODUS 18:1-27
Lesson #11-MOSES AND JETHRO
LIVE in light of the text
Application

