

# DIVINE DELIVERANCE



A Study of the Book of Exodus  
by Sue LeBoutillier

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*❧ Exodus—Divine Deliverance ❧*  
*From Egypt to Sinai*

Dear Friend,

Thanks for joining us as we study this compelling narrative of God's deliverance of His covenant people from the grip of bondage in Egypt.

The book of Exodus is really a continuation of the previous book of the Bible —Genesis. In that study, we learned about the creation and flourishing of man, the generations from Adam to Abraham to Jacob, and we came to understand how and why the descendants of Israel had made their way from the land of Canaan (which God had promised as an inheritance) to the land of Egypt. The study in Genesis could be summarized with the subtitle, '*From Eden to Egypt*'.

Obviously, Egypt was not God's ultimate design for them as a nation. True to His word, He did not leave them there as orphans, but raised up a servant, at just the right time, to deliver them from the crushing grip Egypt had placed on them.

In this study, we'll trace the history of God's deliverance from Egypt to Sinai; from bondage to freedom; from darkness to the revelation of God's light. Along the way, we'll pause and reflect on how God is accomplishing the same work in our own personal lives.

Because our focus will be the geographical movement of Israel from **Egypt** to **Mt. Sinai**, this study will cover Exodus chapters 1-20. Exodus 21-40 are contained within the study entitled **Wilderness Way** which tells of the geographical movement of Israel from Mt. Sinai to the banks of the Jordan River and also includes the book of Numbers.

May the Lord richly bless you as you study His Word—

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## How to use this Bible Study

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*Divine Deliverance* is a women's Bible study which has been divided into nine weekly lessons with five days of study per week.

Whether you are meeting with a friend, a small group, or doing this study on your own, the following would be an ideal path:

**#1** Your first step will be to watch/listen to **Week One — Introduction**, either independently or with your group.

**#2** Begin **Week Two in your Study Guide**

- ◆ Read the assigned Scriptures and answer the questions each day. This Study Guide is intended to be completed independently **before** you watch the associated teaching. (Also note the *Questions for Thought and Discussion* at the end of each lesson. You won't want to miss them).
- ◆ Then watch/listen to that week's teaching using the links below. You can do this privately or with your group.
- ◆ Then discuss the week's lesson in your group and pray together about applying the passages to your lives.
- ◆ Repeat this process as you do all the weeks in your Study Guide.

One last reminder — be sure to approach each of the above steps with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to give you understanding and speak to your heart.

To watch the video teachings for this Bible Study go to:

[ccontario.com/womens-studies](http://ccontario.com/womens-studies)

or

[YouTube.com/calvarychapelontario](https://www.youtube.com/calvarychapelontario)

The best translation of the Bible is the one you understand the most easily and using more than one translation can be a great aid to your study! This study guide was created using the ESV (English Standard Version) which may be a helpful tool as you work through your study.



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## Preface

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The heartbeat of Exodus is that God proved Himself faithful to His own people whom He had chosen, and He showed Himself powerful to the rest of the world.

As we open this book, we find that Abraham's descendants had been held captive in the land of Egypt for over 400 years. That seems quite terrible if it were not for the fact that their circumstances had kept them in relative isolation and spared them from cultural contamination during that time.

Now, God's purpose was to remove them from the bondage and burdens of Egypt, and transform them from a simple mob of people, connected only by DNA, to a nation of priests who would proclaim God Himself to the whole world.

At the burning bush on Mount Sinai, God's own words to Moses open the scene with *step one*:

**3:10...*that you may bring my people,  
the children of Israel out of Egypt.***

And, at the burning mountain, which is Mount Sinai, God's own words reveal His *greater intentions* for Abraham's descendants:

**19:6...*and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests  
and a holy nation.***

## Week One — Introduction

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These pages are provided for taking notes during the **Introduction to Exodus** teaching.

The **author, style,** and **date** of Exodus:

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The intended **audience** for Exodus:

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The **central theme** of the first half of the book of Exodus (**Ch 1-20**):

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Review of the *generations* from **Adam** to **Abraham, Isaac,** and **Jacob**.  
How did the family of Jacob end up in Egypt?

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## Lesson One — Exodus 1-2

### God's Servant — Saved & Tested

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#### *Day 1:*

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☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 1** then focus on **verses 1-14**.

We mentioned in our Introduction that the phrase *sons of Israel* (v.1) meaning Jacob's most direct descendants, was now replaced with the phrase *people of Israel* beginning in v.7, meaning the entire nation. This replacement is found 105 times in Exodus.

From v.7-14, list all the words/phrases used to characterize the **quantity** of the *people of Israel*.

We're not surprised, because if we go back over some key passages in **Genesis**, we're reminded that God promised this very thing. Read these passages and note, 1) to whom God was speaking, 2) what He promised:

- Genesis 17:1-4
- Genesis 22:15-18
- Genesis 26:1-5
- Genesis 28:10-15
- Genesis 46:1-4

Because of the increase of the *people of Israel*, what was the Egyptian ruler's greatest fear? (v.10)



From **v.11-14**, list all the words/phrases used to describe the treatment of the *people of Israel*.

Pharaoh thought that forced labor would solve his problems and calm his fears but what was the actual result of his harsh treatment? (**v.12**)

How would you summarize these 14 verses in one or two sentences?

## *Day 2:* \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read **Exodus 1:15-22**

Since forced labor and harsh treatment didn't get Pharaoh anywhere, what was his next tactic? (**v.15-16**)

- The command given:
- The group it was spoken to:
- List the names of the two women mentioned:

\_\_\_\_\_

The midwives did not obey the king and we find their justification in **v.17** and **v.21**. What was the reason given for their disobedience?

How did God honor them for the value they placed on life? (**v.21**)

How do you reconcile their actions with passages like **Romans 13:1**?

Since Pharaoh's intended genocide at the hand of the midwives had failed; and since they even started having babies of their own, what variation on the plan did he institute next (**v.22**)?

- The command given:
- The group it was spoken to:

Can you imagine the fearful social climate that must have developed as Pharaoh mobilized the entire land of Egypt against the Hebrews?

- How do you think anyone would know for sure that a baby boy was Hebrew?
- Do you think this tempted the *people of Israel* to forgo observing the *sign of the covenant* on their sons? (**Gen. 17:10**)
- What would *you* have done?

One last comment about *the Nile*! Ancient Egypt considered *the Nile* its source of *life*. Without the flooding of the Nile — which brought both water and nutrients to the desert — the region could not have sustained human life, much less promoted its flourishing.

The decision on Pharaoh's part to turn that life-giving water into an instrument of death did not go unnoticed by God Almighty!

## Day 3: \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 2** then focus on **verses 1-10**.

As we turn to chapter 2, the focus narrows from the *people of Israel* to the life of one particular couple during those difficult days:

- Of what tribe were the parents of Moses (**v.1**)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Read **Exodus 6:20** to discover Moses' father's name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Read **Numbers 26:59** to discover his mother's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
his brother: \_\_\_\_\_ and his sister: \_\_\_\_\_
- How long did they hide the baby in their home (**v.2**)? \_\_\_\_\_

Moses' mother actually followed Pharaoh's instructions—*she threw her son in the Nile!* It's just that she happened to place him in a container first. Describe the container:

You'll remember from our study of Noah (*Divine Design*)<sup>1</sup> that God planned for Noah and his family to be kept safe during the flood by resting in the *ark*. The Hebrew word **tebah**, translated *ark*, literally means a *chest*. Guess what — the word *basket* in **v.3** is the very same word. We see again God's deliverance at work while the recipient is comfortably at rest within the treasure chest!

What do you think Moses' mother was hoping would happen?

What actually *did* happen (**v.5-6**)?

How do you think the princess immediately knew it was a Hebrew baby?

Summarize the quick thinking of Miriam in **v.7-9** and explain how her actions had a strong impact on the outcome of the entire situation:

What was the meaning of the name given to Moses?

Have you noticed that most of the people mentioned to this point have been women? God is the **Divine Deliverer**, but He allows willing people a *part to play* in His plan. From **chapters 1-2**, name as many women as you can and how they played a part in Moses' deliverance:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Now read Stephen's speech before the Jewish rulers in **Acts 7:17-22**. Note any additional insights you learn:

## *Day 4:* \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read **Exodus 2:11-22**

*"One day when Moses had grown up"* doesn't exactly tell us how much time passed. If you read **Acts 7:23-30**, you'll find out that Moses was approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

What does **v.11** indicate about Moses' understanding of his own ethnicity?

How do you think he came to know about his Hebrew roots?

Summarize **v.12-15** explaining the events that led to Moses' flight from Egypt:

In **v.14**, a Hebrew asked "*Who made you a prince and a judge over us?*" That wasn't the first time in Scripture that someone spoke prophetically in a snarky tone. Read **Genesis 37:6-8** to recall Joseph's dream. What similarities do you see between these two events?

Summarize the events that happened at *the well* in **v.16-20**:

Can you recall any other love stories from the book of Genesis that had their beginning at a well?

Who was given to Moses as his wife? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Moses name his first-born? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think that suggests about how Moses felt about his new life in Midian?

## Day 5:

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**Verse 22** had brought to a conclusion the first eighty years of Moses' life. The final verses of this chapter take us back to catch up on what had been happening in Egypt...

☞ Read **Exodus 2:23-25**

Meanwhile in Egypt...

- What had happened politically?
- What remained the plight of the *people of Israel*?
- What did they do that we had not read about until now?

There are four verbs in **v.24-25** that tell us how God Himself was impacted as His people cried out to Him:

- God \_\_\_\_\_ their groaning
- God \_\_\_\_\_ His covenant
- God \_\_\_\_\_ the *people of Israel*
- God \_\_\_\_\_

We regularly learn from Scripture that God is sovereign and He works on His own timetable. Yet, God often responds *when* and *if* His people cry out to Him. Read these verses and note 1) the situation, 2) the action on God's part in response to His people crying out to Him:

**Genesis 25:21—**

**Judges 6:6-8—**

1 Samuel 1:10-20—

2 Chronicles 7:14—

Acts 4:29-31—

*When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.*

**Psalm 34:17, 20**

### ☞ God's Unfolding Story of Jesus ☞

1. The *deliverer Moses* prefigures the *Greater-Deliverer Jesus*. Describe the similarities in the oppression toward infants during the time that both Moses and Jesus were infants (**Matthew 2:13-18**).
2. Do you think the prophecy mentioned in **Matthew 2:15** has any parallels with the life of Moses?
3. We learned in our lesson that Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness just prior to engaging in public ministry before Pharaoh. Can you think of a similarity in what Jesus did just prior to *His* public ministry?

## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. By the opening of Exodus, Israel had turned into a *great multitude*. That had been promised to Abraham and Isaac, yet they both had quite a time producing even one baby, let alone a *multitude*. God's promise was fulfilled in **His time** and **His way**. Is there a *promise* in your life that doesn't seem to be unfolding right now? How can you apply faith to wait for God's timing?
2. The midwives feared God more than Pharaoh! Are you facing pressure to do something against God's law? How does seeing God's protection on them inspire you?
3. Most of us aren't saving babies from genocide, but we *are* invited to participate in God's plan — perhaps in ways we don't easily recognize. How does the boldness of these women affect your view of what you are facing?
4. Is there some difficulty or anguish in *your* life? How has this passage inspired you to *cry out for help* (2:23)?
5. What does 2:25 mean as you apply those words to your life?
6. What aspects of God's character have been brought to mind through studying these two chapters?





## Lesson Two — Exodus 3-4

### God's Servant — Called & Equipped

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#### Day 1:

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☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 3** then focus on **verses 1-10**.

Last week's lesson spanned about eighty years and today's lesson covers only one conversation. That day, which began like so many others, changed his entire course of life. God has a tendency to speak to His people when they least expect it.

- What occupation had Moses taken up with his father-in-law?

What name was given for the *mountain of God* in v.1? \_\_\_\_\_

What is an alternate name for this *mountain* (Acts 7:30)? \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe the interesting sight that Moses saw:
  
- What was odd or unnatural about this sight?

When God spoke, what were His first words (v.4)? \_\_\_\_\_  
and what was Moses' reply? \_\_\_\_\_. Does that remind you of any other encounters that people had with God in the Bible? Explain.

- What specific thing did God instruct Moses to do in v.5, and why?

There's a striking similarity in the rhythm of God's speech here compared to the times He spoke to Abraham and Jacob. God never beats around the bush (*or the burning bush*), He gets right to the point:

v.6 I am: \_\_\_\_\_

v.7 I have: \_\_\_\_\_

v.7 I know: \_\_\_\_\_

v.8 I have come down: \_\_\_\_\_

v.9 I have also seen: \_\_\_\_\_

v.10 I will send you: \_\_\_\_\_

- In this initial encounter, as God revealed Himself visually in a flame and audibly in speech, what was the effect on Moses (v.6)?

Why do you think he responded that way?

## Day 2: \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read Exodus 3:11-22

They say *time heals all things*, but even forty years wasn't enough time for Moses to confront and conquer the insecurities he brought into Midian. After everything God said 'HE would do' (which you listed above), look how Moses responded (v.11) "**Who am \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ should go to Pharaoh.**"

In reading his response, we want to say: *Moses, it's not about you! It's about God's Plan!* But, you know what? We get it! We would have likely processed it the same way and had a similar response.

God's promise is so reassuring. What was His simple message in the beginning of v.12? \_\_\_\_\_.

What was the sign given to Moses (v.12)?

- The Place—
- The Purpose—

Moses' question in v.13 seems fairly legitimate. What piece of info did Moses feel he needed if he was to follow this directive?

What was God's answer (v.14)? \_\_\_\_\_

- Summarize what God instructed Moses to say once he returned to Egypt (v.15-18).
  
- What was to be the purpose of the *people of Israel* leaving Egypt (v.18b)?

This passage teaches us that ministry (even a special God-ordained ministry) may not always go smoothly, effortlessly, or quickly.

- ◆ Has that been your experience?
- ◆ Have you second-guessed the Lord's instructions when you've faced opposition?
- ◆ Does reading that God actually told Moses upfront that the king of Egypt would not let the people go (apart from an *Act of God*) put your situation into perspective at all?

From v.21-22 summarize the final outcome that Israel could expect:

## Day 3:

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☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 4** then focus on **verses 1-9**.

Chapter four begins in the middle of a conversation. Go back to **3:16** to refresh your memory about who Moses was instructed to go and talk to.

- From **4:1** record Moses' fear of how that meeting would play out:

God graciously and patiently began to show Moses a preview of His ability to produce miraculous signs with convincing power.

- Summarize the miraculous sign in **v.2-5**:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Summarize the second miraculous sign in **v.6-7**:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Summarize the additional miraculous sign that God simply told Moses about in **v.9**:

These signs were done in the presence of \_\_\_\_\_ as a preview of what God would do in the presence of \_\_\_\_\_ to prove that God actually did appear to Moses with this message.

How should this have calmed the fear Moses had built up that the *people of Israel* wouldn't believe him?

## Day 4:

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☞ Read **Exodus 4:10-19**

Moses' objection was rooted in insecurity and God trumped his feelings by telling him '*I will be with you*' (**3:12**). You may think Moses should have been excited at this point. Instead, what was his objection in **v.10**?

- How did God respond to that objection in **v.11-12**?
- Did Moses seem to listen to God? (**v.13**)

We know God's character — *slow to anger* — but I got the vibe from this passage that God came to the end of His patience! Summarize His solution from **v.14-17**:

As an interesting side-observation, go back through **v.1-17** and note all of the references to body parts (i.e. *hand* and *body* functions, *speech*). What do you make of that?

When Moses asked Jethro's permission for a trip to Egypt (**v.18-19**) how much of his interaction with Jehovah did he reveal?

## Day 5:

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☞ Read **Exodus 4:20-31**

This can be a tough passage to study, but we'll do our best!

- As Moses was heading to Egypt, who was with him (**v.20**)?
- In **v.22-23**, what adjective was used to describe Israel for the first time in this book?
- What was the ultimatum Moses was to issue to Pharaoh if he would not let God's *firstborn* go?

**Verses 24-26** present a weird and almost shocking side-note! After calling Moses into this ministry, why now did God seem to want to kill him? We'll unravel as best we can in our teaching time, but here are a few things you can dig out of this passage until then:

- First, read **Genesis 17:8-14**.
- Does Moses' *firstborn* seem to have been circumcised before they left for Egypt?
- What was the penalty in the above Genesis passage (**v.14**) for not circumcising their male children?
- Do you think that was part of the problem here?
- Do you think there was an important lesson that Moses absorbed through this episode? Maybe that's why it's part of our narrative?

Up until **v.27**, God had only mentioned Aaron's name, now he stepped into the picture. Describe Moses and Aaron's meeting:

- What type of travel had to transpire between **v.28-29**?

What are your observations about Aaron's character to this point?

What was the response of the elders to Moses and Aaron (v.31)?

- ...and the people \_\_\_\_\_
- ...they bowed their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

### ☞ God's Unfolding Story of Jesus ☞

We're looking for evidence of the unfolding story of Jesus in each chapter of the Bible.

- In **Exodus 3:14**, God revealed both His name and His eternal character when He told Moses, *I AM WHO I AM*.
- Read **John 8:56-59**. What is the relevance of what Jesus said and why did the Jews want to stone Him for it?

God told Moses: *Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'* Jesus said similar words in a different setting and with different phrases, but it always meant, *The Father has sent me to you to show what He is like:*

*I AM the bread of life;            I AM the light of the world;  
I AM the true vine;            I AM the gate for the sheep;  
I AM the Good Shepherd;    I AM the way, the truth, the life;  
I AM the resurrection and the life!*

## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. I've often used the phrase *hidden years* to describe long periods of time in the lives of people like Moses, Abraham, Joseph, and David, that God used to mold their character. Have you experienced *hidden years*? Are you in the midst of *hidden years*? What type of character molding is God still doing in your life?



2. Moses had some *history* in Egypt that didn't end well. God was now calling him to return with a new and different power source. Is there a place/time in which you have *history* and God is calling you to return with HIS source of power and declare who He is?
  
3. Moses spent 40 years in Midian tending sheep. The staff was an important tool for that task. Think about how God turned that staff from its occupational use toward Kingdom use. What experiences in your life is God turning to use for His kingdom?
  
4. Have you ever desired to know what God wanted you to do? You thought maybe if God told you plainly, everything would be solved and you could get on with your assignment. But perhaps God *has* made your assignment plain and you've responded, '*No, I won't.*' Think on this. Has God clearly spoken His instructions to you but you, like Moses, need to trust Him for the grace to obey?
  
5. Do you wonder how events may have changed if Moses had been a bit quicker to believe God's ability to work through him rather than having to get Aaron involved? Can you relate? Have you sensed God had a ministry for you, but you tossed out objections and perhaps even lost some blessings or rewards because of it? How does this narrative change your direction right now?
  
6. We saw the importance for both Moses and his son in following God's commands if they wanted God's blessing. Is there any area of your life that you're seeking God's blessing, but have been lax in honoring His directives?



## Lesson Three — Exodus 5-6

### God's Ministry — Harder than Expected

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#### Day 1:

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☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 5** then focus on **verses 1-9**.

Think about the message that God presented to Moses, the personalized miracles, the arranged meeting with Aaron at the *mountain of God*, the presentation to the elders of Israel, and their response of sincere worship. Certainly, optimism must have been running high at the beginning of Chapter Five.

- Summarize Moses and Aaron's request to Pharaoh from **v.1**:
  
- Summarize Pharaoh's response from **v.2**:

Specifically, Pharaoh asked '**who is the \_\_\_\_\_?**' (Notice in your Bible, when the word *Lord* is in all caps, 'LORD', it represents the name Yahweh or Jehovah.) Pharaoh was asking, '*who is this new god that I haven't heard of and why should I do what he says?*'

- When Moses and Aaron asked again in **v.3**, what new information did they add?
  
- How did Pharaoh respond the second time (**v.4-5**)?
  
- Explain Pharaoh's new edict toward the Israelites in **v.6-8**:

- In **v.9** Pharaoh said that the *heavier work schedule* would prevent his enslaved people from being able to do what?

## Day 2:

☞ Read Exodus 5:10-19

Today's passage is mostly about Pharaoh's totalitarian strategy. From the context of this passage (and **v.6** above), let's try to identify what kind of people the **taskmasters** and **foreman** were. Do you think they were Israelite or Egyptian?

- **Taskmasters**      \_\_\_\_\_ Israelite              \_\_\_\_\_ Egyptian
- **Foreman**              \_\_\_\_\_ Israelite              \_\_\_\_\_ Egyptian

Notice how, in **v.12**, how Pharaoh's edict changed the day-to-day movements of Israel. How do you think Pharaoh's strategy to keep Israel busy and separated worked to his advantage?

Note the strategy for punishment (**v.14**) when they failed to meet their quota:

- Who was beaten?
- What emotional effect do you think this had on the entire community of Israel?
- What did the **foreman** do about their affliction in **v.15-16**?
- What was the final assessment after they complained to Pharaoh in **v.19**?

Can you see how effective Pharaoh's strategy was? It not only discouraged all of Israel, in setting them against one another, but it also initiated a blame game!

### Day 3:

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☞ Read **Exodus 5:20-23**

Today is an interesting study on how people often respond when dashed hopes are replaced with opposition.

- What were the foreman's accusations against Moses and Aaron (v.21)?

Compare this with the high hopes and worship from **4:31**.

- Explain what *had* changed between those two passages:
  
- Explain what *had not* changed between those two passages:
  
- What was Moses' response to the current affliction (v.22-23)?

The last verses of this chapter are so raw and honest. From Moses' perspective: 1) God had not done His part, 2) Moses' fear of failure seemed to have been confirmed, and 3) the sons of Israel seemed to be in worse shape than ever before.

But hang on...God did not leave His promises unfulfilled! In the next chapter, He will renew those promises and shower Moses with fresh vision and encouragement.

## Day 4: \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read **Exodus 6:1-9**

God knows our need for encouragement and He knew Moses' need as well. I love how God rushed in at this moment to remind Moses of what he already knew to be true about God's plan and to give Moses the encouragement that he needed.

From **v.2-8** fill in the "I" statements (like we did in Chapter Three):

v.2 I am: \_\_\_\_\_

v.3 I appeared: \_\_\_\_\_

v.4 I established: \_\_\_\_\_

v.5 I heard: \_\_\_\_\_

v.5 I have remembered: \_\_\_\_\_

v.6 I will bring you: \_\_\_\_\_

v.6 I will deliver you: \_\_\_\_\_

v.6 I will redeem you: \_\_\_\_\_

v.7 I will take you: \_\_\_\_\_

v.8 I will bring you: \_\_\_\_\_

v.8 I will bring you: \_\_\_\_\_

Have difficult circumstances or oppression caused *your* perspective of God's plan for your life to become clouded? Are you in need of some encouragement? Try this — write down four things you already know to be true about God's plan—but that you need to be reminded of:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

After Moses was encouraged by the Lord, he spoke to the people of Israel again in **v.9**. What was the collective response this time?

## Day 5:

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☞ Read Exodus 6:10-30

Having been encouraged from God's own words, but having received no affirmation from the community of Israel, God called Moses to do the job of a true leader and forge ahead with the ministry task he'd been given, regardless of who was there to support him.

What was Moses' objection to continuing this assignment? How did he describe his personal lack of ability in **v.12**?

*"I am of \_\_\_\_\_ lips".*

I find it ironic that someone who claims they can't speak well comes up with such an astute and poetic way of explaining their deficit.

- What do you think he meant by *uncircumcised lips*?

God was unmoved by Moses' objection this time. He affirmed His calling on both Moses and Aaron in a way that conveyed *'my plan is fixed—it will go as I intend'*. Explain God's change from **v.13** and **v.29**:

**Verses 14-25** digress to a brief genealogy affirming the heritage of the two men and their calling. Skip to **v.26** and list the men who were the object of this genealogy: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (Note in this verse they are listed here in birth order—important for lineages.)

Rueben, Simeon, and Levi are the first three sons of Jacob, but since we're only interested in Levi's line—no further family members are given here.

- List the three sons of **Levi** from **v.16**: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- List the four sons of **Kohath** from **v.18**: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- List the two sons of **Amram** from **v.20**: \_\_\_\_\_
- List the four sons of **Aaron** from **v.23**: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A clear lineage from Abraham to Moses and Aaron *was* and still *is* important; but God's choice in calling is equally important.

- What reminders about their *calling* do you see in **v.26-30**?

## ☞ God's Unfolding Story of Jesus ☞

Genesis geographically explains that man's need for deliverance from bondage to sin was rooted in **Eden (Genesis 3)** and culminated in **Egypt** — specifically "*a coffin in Egypt*" (**Genesis 50:26**). Throughout the Bible, Egypt is seen as a *type* of the world and Egypt's ruler is a *type* of the ruler of this world — Satan. The system of this world can retain us in slavery in similar ways that Israel was held by Pharaoh. This narrative drives home the point that this world does not readily let go of those it holds in bondage to sin. It is only through the *supernatural* work of Jesus Christ that we have hope to walk out of oppression and gain our freedom!

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore,  
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*  
**Galatians 5:1**



## ❧ Questions for Application and Discussion ❧

1. What similarities do you see between Pharaoh's strategy to subdue Israel and set them against one another in order to prevent them from worshiping God, and Satan's strategy in our lives?
2. When serving God turns out to be more difficult than expected, with much less affirmation than expected, how do you respond?
3. If you have children, have you found the ministry of motherhood to be more difficult, with much less affirmation, than expected? How does one press through those experiences?
4. In what ways do you see that our current church culture exploits the need for affirmation? In what ways can you fight that tide?
5. Have you ever engaged in the *blame game* like the Israelite foremen did to Moses? Explain how this narrative can help us with perspective and prevent us from misplacing blame and doing damage in the Body of Christ and in the local church.
6. Why do you think we expect serving God to be smooth sailing?
7. Moses' lineage wasn't from the firstborn son of Israel, yet God called him to a *special, unique* and *important* task. On this side of history, we think of Levites as being special but they gained that status *because* of Moses and Aaron. Perhaps *you* don't perceive your life or where you came from as anything special — and really none of us are — yet, God may be calling you to a *special, unique* and *important* task. Are you listening?



## Lesson Four — Exodus 7-10

### “You Shall Know that I Am the Lord”

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Our study format will be a bit different this week. We’ll study the first nine plagues on Egypt, with fewer directed questions and more space for your own observations. There’s a table on **p.42-43** to complete after reading about each plague. Visual charts can help us make better sense of a series of events than note-taking alone. (Information isn’t available for *every column* for *every plague*, so don’t get high-centered...just log what you do find)

There is a symmetry and balance for us to discover as we study these nine plagues. We’ll find three groups of three plagues:

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>
#1 Blood	#4 Flies	#7 Hail
#2 Frogs	#5 Animal Diseases	#8 Locusts
#3 Gnats/Lice	#6 Boils	#9 Darkness

In the first plague of each group, we read of an early morning confrontation with Pharaoh; in the second of each group — at his palace; and the third seems to carry no advance warning at all. The rhythm implies a sort of *morning, noon, and night* — no escape — cadence, even though these plagues happened over a year’s time.

*We are intended to see the nine acts as quite the opposite of chance or haphazard occurrence. They were designed and planned as a whole with the aim not only of edging Pharaoh to the point of releasing the people, but also proof to Pharaoh and Israel that the Lord is God! <sup>2</sup>*

#### Day 1:

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☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 7**.

God reviewed and reaffirmed His *calling* upon these two men in **v.1-9**:

- What was their assigned task?
- What could they expect as a response from Pharaoh?

- What would the Lord ultimately accomplish?
- What would be made clear to all of Egypt as a result?
- What was to be the object that God had chosen to work through?
- What were the age of Moses \_\_\_\_\_ and Aaron \_\_\_\_\_?

Summarize the meeting with Pharaoh described in **v.10-13**:

We're ready to begin studying the series of plagues, but first there are some repetitive phrases to point out.

The first repetitive phrase is in chapter six when God told Moses to speak this to Israel. From **Exodus 6:7**, complete this phrase: ***"...I will be your God, and you shall***

\_\_\_\_\_ "

In these chapters, God says the *Egyptians* will ultimately know that **He is God (7:5)**. Watch for this phrase to show up three times in these nine plagues and underline them.

Next, write out the first six words from **v.14**:

\_\_\_\_\_

Skim all of the plagues and underline that same phrase at the beginning of each one (through chapter 11).

Finally, from **v.19**, note these two words: ***"Take your \_\_\_\_\_ and stretch out your \_\_\_\_\_..."*** You'll see a variation of that same command from God in many of the plagues.

☞ **First Plague:** Read **Exodus 7:14-25**. As you read through the text, simply make observations about the conversations, the actions, the re-actions, the effect on the people, etc. (The chart for the 1st plague is already filled in as an example for you.)

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*Day 2:*



☞ **Second Plague:** Read **Exodus 8:1-15** List your observations and fill in the chart.

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☞ **Third Plague:** Read **Exodus 8:16-19**. List your observations and fill in the chart.

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*Day 3:* -----

 **Fourth Plague:** Read **Exodus 8:20-32**. List your observations and fill in the chart.

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 **Fifth Plague:** Read **Exodus 9:1-7**. List your observations and fill in the chart.

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 **Sixth Plague:** Read **Exodus 9:8-12**. List your observations and fill in the chart.

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*Day 4:*

☞ **Seventh Plague:** Read **Exodus 9:13-35**. List your observations and fill in the chart.

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☞ **Eighth Plague:** Read **Exodus 10:1-20**. List your observations and fill in the chart.

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## Day 5: \_\_\_\_\_

☞ **Ninth Plague:** Read **Exodus 10:21-29**. List your observations and fill in the chart.

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### ☞ **God's Unfolding Story of Jesus** ☞

The first nine plagues made a clear statement that the God of Israel was greater than and triumphant over every god of Egypt. As we pause the narrative here until next week, the momentum on the stage is building for God's final revelation with the last plague. He will reveal that, not only was His own figurative firstborn son (Israel) going to be released from the bondage of the idolatrous system of the world, but it would happen by the figurative sacrificial blood of His True Firstborn Son Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that God is a jealous God and this part of history shows us that He will eventually make sure everyone knows that **He is God**.

*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:10-11*

### ☞ **Questions for Application and Discussion** ☞

1. It's clear God gave Moses a task to complete for His Kingdom. We read nine times, "*the Lord said to Moses*" — all Moses had to do was obey what God told him each time. God gives us instructions for the task we've been given as well. How does this inspire you to be a listener of God's instructions for your tasks? How do you hear His voice?



2. From beginning to end, the final outcome of Moses' task took the better part of a year. That required perseverance and faith. Does that understanding equip you for one of your own tasks that is requiring perseverance and faith? How can you endure a lengthy task with frequent opposition?
  
3. Our chart showed that, when Pharaoh *did* soften slightly toward God's instructions, it was only with compromise — "*I'll obey God on my own terms.*" Are you doing that in some area of your life? Are you obeying God only with compromises? Does seeing this in Pharaoh stir up Godly conviction for your own life?
  
4. The words *Pharaoh* and *hard-hearted* seem to belong together. What are the characteristics of a *hard-hearted* person? How about a *soft-hearted person*? How would people describe you?
  
5. The plagues may have been a direct triumph over the gods or goddesses that Egypt trusted for security (*see p.44*). The first commandment in **Exodus 20:3** is "***You shall have no other gods before me.***" Interesting isn't it? What part of our current world system have you been tempted to place your security in? If God sent a plague over it today, what would that mean in your life?
  
6. Think about these lengthy plague narratives that Moses recorded by the guidance of the Holy Spirit—all the mighty acts of God to bring release and freedom for His children. What are the mighty acts of God in *your* life? Have you been inspired to write a lengthy record? Prepare to share at least one thing God has done for you to release you from the grip of bondage.

## The Ten Plagues on Egypt

	Describe the Plague	Was Pharaoh given a warning? When/Where?	Did the magicians duplicate? (yes/no)
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Nile turned to blood (rivers, canals, ponds, pools)</i>	<i>v. 15 In the morning at the Nile</i>	<i>Yes</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>			
3 <sup>rd</sup>			
4 <sup>th</sup>			
5 <sup>th</sup>			
6 <sup>th</sup>			
7 <sup>th</sup>			
8 <sup>th</sup>			
9 <sup>th</sup>			
10 <sup>th</sup>			

## From Exodus Chapters 7-12

Did the plague affect Israel? (yes/no)	Describe Pharaoh's answer or compromise to Moses' request:	Describe Pharaoh's response to the plague:
<i>Yes</i>		<i>v.22 His heart remained hardened, wouldn't listen, went back to his house</i>



## Lesson Five — Exodus 11-13

### Saved by the Blood of the Lamb

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#### Day 1:

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☞ Read **Exodus 11**.

- In **v.1** what did God promise would happen as a result of the next plague and how was this plague different than the rest?
  
- In **v.2** what instruction was Moses given?
  
- In **v.3** what was the favor-rating among the Egyptians toward the people of Israel at this point?

Go back and read **Exodus 7:1-5**. Do you have the phrase “*the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD*” underlined? (noted on p.36)

It’s as if the first nine plagues were a necessary prelude to God’s final act. **Exodus 7:4** said: *Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my people out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.* God intentionally *designed* their *deliverance* and planned for things to unfold in just that way.

Back to **chapter 11**. Summarize what Moses told the people in **v.4-8**

- About the plague to come:
  
- About the distinction:
  
- About the response of Egypt:

## Day 2:

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☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 12** then focus on **verses 1-28**.

As *New Testament Christians*, this chapter is such a delight to study, since we know so much more about the *end of the story*. It makes the set-up at the *beginning of the story* even richer.

None of the first nine plagues carried an instruction for Israel to *do anything* to protect themselves. But before this final pestilence, came a lengthy set of instructions. The people needed to believe those instructions, obey them, and personally participate in order to be spared. The symbolism in those instructions teaches us so much about **God's Plan of Redemption and His Unfolding Story of Jesus**.

- How was the Hebrew calendar reset by this event (v.2)?
- Summarize the special instructions regarding the lamb (v.3-6).
- Explain the timing of the lamb's captivity and death (v.2, 6).
- What was to be done with the blood of the lamb (v.7, 22)?
- What was the purpose of the blood on the doorposts (v.13)?

- What was to be done with the flesh of the lamb (v.8)?
- What do you think the purpose was for *eating in haste* (v.11)?

In light of our observations on the first nine plagues, what do you think about the statement in v.12, *'and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord'* ?

At v.14, we switched from instructions about what Israel was to do at the moment, to instructions on how they should remember this event in the future. Nothing says *'this absolutely WILL happen'* more clearly than God issuing instructions for what future memorials should look like, even before the event itself actually happens.

The **Feast of Unleavened Bread** was the first memorial or feast that God had instructed up to this point in the narrative of the Bible. What was the main point of the Feast?

From v.15-20 list details about what this future feast was to look like:

- The day of the month it would begin:
- The length of the feast:
- Which of the days were holy assembly days:
- Why do you think God instructed: *"None of you shall go out of the door of his houses until the morning."* (v.22)?

Write out the response of the people of Israel in **v.27**: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Compare with **4:31**.

God's plan could have called for Israel's deliverance right after **4:31**. Instead, His plan included plenty of time for Israel's faith and patience to be tested, for Moses to grow in leadership, and for Egypt's idols to be judged. God planned the *long version* for their deliverance. Is God working the *long version* in some area of your life as well?

"God's Unfolding Story of Jesus" on p.53 continues our study of how the Passover Lamb points to Jesus, the Lamb of God.

### Day 3: \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read **Exodus 12:29-51**. (Be sure to fill in your chart on p.42-43 with details of this tenth plague)

- What word is repeated four times in **v.29** to describe *who* was struck down?

Review these passages and explain the significance of that choice:

**Exodus 1:22**

**Exodus 4:22-23**

- What types of things did the people of Israel have in their possession as they left Egypt? What do you think God's purpose was for those items?
- What was Pharaoh's attitude in the midst of this plague and how was it different from the other nine plagues (**v.30-33**)?

Note the number of people who left Egypt (**v.37**) \_\_\_\_\_

Note the number of people who entered Egypt (**1:5**) \_\_\_\_\_



What conclusion can you make about the years Israel spent in Egypt?

Note the length of their bondage in **v.40**: \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 41** tells us that God led them out of Egypt *on that very day*. This reminds us that God is in control, God is watching, God has a plan and it will unfold in His time and in His way.

Read a companion passage in **Galatians 4:4**. How do you see that God repeated the same timing with Jesus' birth?

How might He be repeating the same thing with something *you* are waiting for?

**Verse 38** says "*a mixed multitude also went up*". There were *sons of Israel*, probably *sons from mixed marriages*, and likely *sons of other people groups*, including Egyptians. Clarity and instruction for this mixed situation is given in **v.44-49**.

- What was the provision that allowed someone to take part in Passover meals?
- Why do you think this was listed as an important criteria?

## Day 4:

☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 13** then focus on **verses 1-16**.

There are two important concepts in these verses— the importance God placed on the ***Firstborn*** and on the ***Feast of Unleavened Bread***. We'll organize our thoughts along those two lines.

### ***The Consecration of the Firstborn:***

- What special importance did God place on those who were born first — both man and beast (**v.2, 11-12**)?

If a firstborn had not sheltered *under the blood of the lamb* on Passover night...

- what would have been their condition?
- To whom would they owe their lives?
- What were Israelite fathers to explain to their sons (**v.14-16**)?

What additional understanding comes from:

**Colossians 1:18**—

**Revelation 1:5**—

### ***The Feast of Unleavened Bread:***

Most of these verses restate what we've already studied, so let's turn our attention to the symbolism of leaven itself.

- What is the important instruction at the end of **v.3**?
- How important was it for them to rid themselves completely of leaven (**v.7; 12:15, 19-20**)?

Read **1 Corinthians 5:6-8**—

- Since the leaven causes bread to rise and increase in volume by means of decay...
- Since leaven is therefore a symbol in the Bible of the presence of and increase of sin in our lives...
- Since Jesus, our Passover Lamb, was sacrificed to deliver us from bondage to sin...
- What do you think should be our modern-day counterpart to the Israelites' removal of leaven from their homes during this feast?

## *Day 5:* \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read **Exodus 13:17-22**.

I've always loved these verses. I have dates beside many sections of Scripture in my Bible — the date here is 8/07 and I remember why. It was a sweet exhortation that a missionary wife gave to a small group of us that I'll never forget. I hope you have dates or notes beside *precious-to-you* Scriptures as well.

This section highlights *our expectations* and *God's sovereign work*.

What two phrases in **v.17-18** make you think Israel *expected* to leave Egypt and take **The Way of the Sea** (check out the map on p.7) which was the direct path to Canaan that hugged the Mediterranean?

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God even gave His own reasons—what were they?

Our expectations can be our undoing! We form expectations from observing other people's lives, or allowing sentimentality to rule, or being too pragmatic, or too idealistic. When God leads us down a different path than we expected our response might now be great!

Are you on a different path than you expected right now? Do you look around sometimes and ask, *how did I get here?* If so, you probably have a pulse and are normal just like me. But God is *with us!* He is in our midst.

From **v.21-22**, the two manifestations of God's presence were:

- The pillar of \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_
- The pillar of \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_
- What part of their day is not covered by God's presence?
- What part of *your* day is not covered by God's presence?

Have you thought about that before? Once we're saved by the blood of the Lamb, God gives us the gift of His presence to be with us. One of the elements is **fire**, which often represents God's presence. Think back to the **burning bush** on Mt. Sinai when God first appeared to Moses. Think forward to the **fire and smoke** on Mt. Sinai when God would reveal His law.

Speaking of **fire** — Read **Acts 2:1-4** which recounts the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in people who had put their faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Passover Lamb.

- What was the initial manifestation of God's presence upon them?

Consider today God's presence *with you*, by day and by night. How does this change your mental and emotional state today?

## ☞ God's Unfolding Story of Jesus ☞

We sing in church about the Lamb of God and we say we are *saved by the blood of the Lamb*. The John the Baptist was actually the first person to rightly call Jesus, **The Lamb of God**.

Read **John 1:29**. The Passover Lamb in the narrative in Exodus is a symbol of Jesus Christ — God's True Passover Lamb. New Testament writers understood this well. Read these passages related to both the Passover narrative and our lives today and prepare to discuss:

**1 Peter 1:18-19.**

**Revelation 5:6-14.**

Read **Matthew 26:17-19**. What connection do you see between the timing of the Exodus Passover Lamb and Jesus, the Lamb of God?

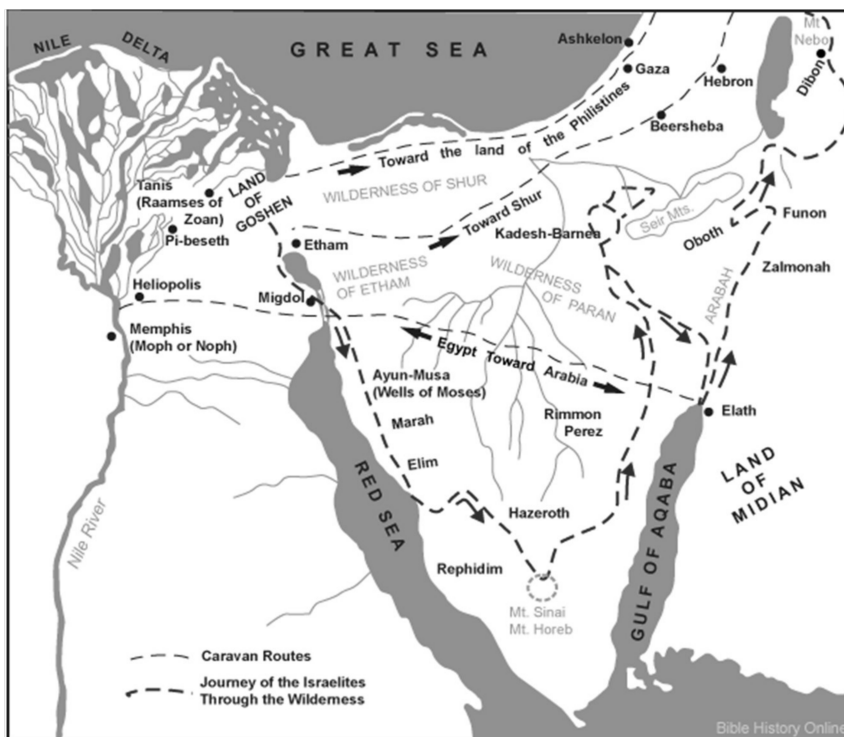
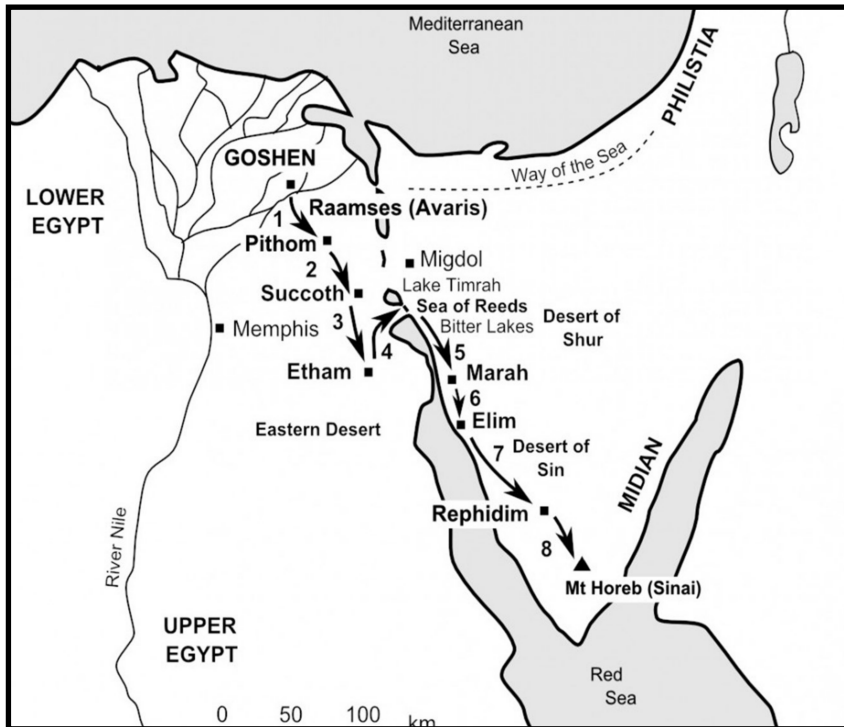
The celebration of Passover seemed to be an important command, so why don't we Christians celebrate this today? (Read **Matthew 26:26-29**.)

The Hebrew calendar was reordered at Passover so that its beginning would commemorate the death of the Passover Lamb. Is there another calendar in history that was reset with a similar event?

## ☞ Questions for Application and Discussion ☞

1. By this point in the story, the Egyptians responded favorably to Moses and yet Pharaoh remained hard-hearted and blind. How can pride in our own lives cause us to be blind to situations that soft-hearted people seem to grasp? Have you experienced this?
2. **Exodus 12:36** says *the people of Israel plundered Egypt*. They left with jewelry, clothing, fabrics, and all kinds of supplies in order to have when they would need to build the tabernacle out in the wilderness. God supplied everything they would need to worship Him from their Exodus. A good question at this point would be, *'what has God supplied you that is intended to be used in your worship of Him'*? Are you using those raw materials for God's purposes or for your own purposes and pleasure?
3. The celebration of Passover was primarily one of *remembrance* — they remembered together how God had *delivered them from bondage*. Our celebration of communion is primarily one of *remembrance* — we remember together the sacrifice of Jesus. What would an individual *remembrance* of how God saved *you* look like?
4. Use some of the vibrant symbols in this narrative in your prayer life this week:
  - Thanking Jesus for being *your* personal and sacrificial Passover Lamb
  - Ridding your heart and home of the decaying work of sin (yeast)
  - Remembering what He has done for you — how He has delivered you personally







## Lesson Six — Exodus 14-15

### Deliverance Completed — Journey Begun

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#### *Day 1:*

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☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 14** then focus on **verses 1-9**.

These passages inspire us to pull out a map and trace the movement of Israel — problem is — we can't be absolutely sure of the locations. But I placed two maps on the opposite page to suggest a couple of routes. The main difference is that one route places Mt. Sinai in Arabia while the other places it in the Wilderness of Paran (or Egypt).

The instructions God gave to Moses in these verses seemed on the surface to be a crazy scary military strategy!

- Describe, in one phrase, Israel's position in **v.2**:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Explain God's purpose in placing them in that position (**v.3**):

(Mark that familiar phrase near the end of **v.4** that expresses what God wanted through this whole deliverance episode.)

- Describe Pharaoh's military and movements from **v.6-9**:

...and we'll leave the story hanging there for today.

Certainly there are parallels to our Christian lives — Who did Israel belong to? Was it not the Lord? Yet Pharaoh was still determined to overpower them and claim them for himself.

- Who did we say Pharaoh is symbolic of?

- Read **1 Peter 5:8**. How does this present scene bring a greater understanding to the exhortation Peter made to Christians (those who had already been saved by the blood of the Lamb)?

## *Day 2:*

☞ Read **Exodus 14:10-20**.

Today's passage has four distinct parts. Let's summarize each of them:

- From **v.10-12**, describe Israel's criticism directed at Moses:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- From **v.13-14**, describe Moses' response back to the people:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- From **v.15-18**, describe God's exhortation to Moses:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- From **v.19-20**, describe the movement of the angel of God:

It's completely understandable that Israel **feared greatly**. That's how people respond in impossible circumstances — it's how you and I naturally respond when we're wedged between difficulties.

Moses was the voice of faith:

- don't lean on your own understanding people!
- don't lean on your own ability to fight back!
- look for what God is going to do!
- watch for God's grace in your situation!

That is good advice for impossible situations we face in life as well!

Why does God allow us to become figuratively *backed up to the Red Sea*? **Our Good and His Glory!** In Israel's case, they needed to begin the process of learning to trust their God. And God wanted his glory to be revealed not only to Israel but also to the Egyptians.

***Faith that is not tested does not mature!***

Underline the phrase we meet again in **v.18** that tells God's intention for the world to know that *'He is the Lord'*.

I love how Moses told the complaining people they had said quite enough. His words were: *you have only to be silent now (v.14)*. Then, God was the One who prepared them for action.

Which of these perspectives resonate with you lately?

- Have you needed to be reminded to *stop talking and trust God*?
- Have you needed to remind someone else to *be silent* now and trust God in this situation?
- Have you needed to listen to God for His action plan? (hear Him say *do THIS*)?

One benefit of these narratives is that they stand as vivid examples for us today of the situations we face in our lives. Our salvation is only the beginning of the journey — just as it was for Israel.

## Day 3:

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☞ Read **Exodus 14:21-31**.

Some people call this the eleventh plague on Egypt. It sure seems that way. What's clear is we see God deliver Israel *through the waters*. First, they were saved by the **blood** (Passover) and now the **water** (Red Sea). Let's note some details from the text and then we'll fit this passage into the *Unfolding Story of God's Plan*:

- Explain Moses' part in this deliverance.
- What phrase indicates this wasn't a small amount of water? (v.22)
- Describe the crossing of **Israel**.
- Describe the crossing of **Egypt**.
- Why do you think the Egyptians pursued them into the sea?

Similar to some of the earlier plagues, the Lord made a distinction here between Egypt and Israel. The waters of the Red Sea became, at the same time, a method of **deliverance** for God's people and a method of **judgment** for those opposed to God.

What parallels exist between this and another judgment by water found in the narrative of Noah and the Flood?

Read **1 Corinthians 10:1-2**. It seems clear that this IS to be an example and a picture for us. God WILL reveal His glory to all people and we WILL have a choice to humble ourselves, trust in what GOD will do and rest. Or we can harden our hearts (like Egypt and the people in Noah's day) and walk in pride and unbelief. Both groups will go through the waters but they will go through very differently. Which group are *you* a part of?

### *Day 4:* -----

☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 15** then focus on **verses 1-21**.

A major theme in Exodus is God declaring HIS glory—to *everyone*!  
A major theme in today's passage is people declaring God's glory—among themselves and to God!

Here we find the first recorded *song* in the Bible. Both Moses and Miriam sang in response to God's grace. Every believer should sing in response to God's grace in their life as well!

- Which phrase in this *song* stands out to you as significant and why?

*Who is like you O lord, among the Gods!  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
Awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders!*

**Exodus 15:11**

If you were to sing a song about a specific deliverance God had worked in your life, what kind of phrases would it include?

Have you been inspired to sing to the Lord through today's reading? I hope so. I know that I have!

## Day 5:

☞ Read **Exodus 15:22-27**.

These seven verses might make more sense with our passage next week, but we'll stay true to the chapter divisions and get a little preview of the *Wilderness University* to come.

- How far did Israel journey into the wilderness? (v.22)
- What was their most looming problem at this point? (v.22-23)
- How did they respond to this problem? Who exactly were they grumbling against? (v.24)

...do you see a pattern forming here?

- What was God's *physical* solution to the problem? (v.25)
- What seemed to be God's lesson for them to learn? (v.26-27)

- Who would they need to respect and listen to in order to *listen to the voice of the Lord?* (v.26)

Read **Matthew 17:5**. What Old and New Testament dots does this connect?

Read **Psalms 139:23-24**. How does the Psalmist welcome these testing times from the Lord?

I hope we are all brave enough to welcome a situation like this in our lives.

### ☞ **God's Unfolding Story of Jesus** ☞

We know, from this side of the cross, that **Jesus** is our **mediator** between God and man. He came to us both *fully God and fully man*. Notice here how Moses began to portray that symbolism at the Red Sea.

- As he **represented Israel**, God rebuked *him* for the complaints of the people in v.15 '*why do you cry out to me?*' (there was no indication Moses was crying — he was encouraging — the people were crying).
- As he **represented God**, the power and strength of God worked through him to perform mighty works of God.

It's as if, in Moses, we catch a glimpse of a God/man that we will understand much better once the *authentic* God/man is revealed.

## ☞ Questions for Application and Discussion ☞

1. If you are *born-of-God*, you belong to God; yet there can be people, consequences, and habits from your former life that may rise up to reclaim you from time to time. Is there a lesson from this chapter that may help you when you sense that happening?
  
2. Has God brought you to a place recently where it feels as though the *Red Sea is before you* and the *Egyptian army is behind you*? Health? Finances? Relationships? What have you learned from this lesson to apply to your situation?
  
3. How are you better equipped, from these chapters, to minister to someone else who is pinned between seemingly impossible situations in life?
  
4. After the crossing, the *testing* of the Lord begins (v.25). The episode at Marah might be considered *Question #1* on the *Wilderness Exam*. Israel's grumbling revealed their true answer.
  - Has this been your true nature?
  
  - How does this inspire you to change?
  
  - What specifically does a person need to do in order to get a grip on the habit of grumbling and complaining?
  
  - Do you have a history of some personal victory over grumbling and complaining in your life to share?





## Lesson Seven — Exodus 16-18

### Wilderness University

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Maybe you can guess why I titled this lesson, *Wilderness University*. School is often identified by test-taking. Good teachers have a sixth sense about how their students will do on a *test* — they're usually right. The student is often the one who discovers the truth about their actual comprehension after they've experienced the test.

When God led Israel *out* of Egypt...

- First, He led them *by the way of the wilderness (13:18)* on a path they didn't expect — and they learned that God would be their guide.
- Then, He arranged a frightening military pursuit: *I will harden Pharaoh's heart and he will pursue them (14:4)* — and they learned that God could provide a way of escape when there seemed to be no way.
- Then, He led them another step into the wilderness and they experienced thirst because of bitter water — and they learned that God could cleanse bad water and lead them to good water.

Now we'll read about their next lessons...and I'm sure that, through *their testing*, we'll be able to see a reflection of *our own* lives in the mirror.

#### *Day 1:*

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- ☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 16** then focus on **verses 1-10**.
- How long had Israel been in the wilderness? (Hint: Review **12:2, 6, 12, 51** if necessary to remind yourself of when they left Egypt.)
- Make a short list of what they had seen God do for them in that amount of time:

- How was their short-term memory holding up? What was their current attitude in this passage and how was it expressed?
- What was Moses' response to their complaining and accusations? (v.8)

Remember, Israel was in *Wilderness University* and their current test revealed their natural inclination. I believe it can reveal our natural inclinations as well. When we're not happy with God, we're usually not happy with God's leaders and our discontent is often misdirected to them in words of grumbling, complaints and accusations.

Are you a leader in some capacity? Have you experienced this yourself? Even if you're not an official leader in your local church, you're likely a leader in some regard. For example, if you're a mother, you've probably noticed that *when your kids aren't doing well with God, they're also not doing well with YOU!*

Is there anything in this section that gives you insight as to how you might handle those types of situations differently? How do you guard against taking it too personally?

The words ***grumble / grumbling*** are key themes in this chapter. Starting with **15:24**, find all of the expressions of ***grumbling*** and mark them in your Bible.

## Day 2:

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☞ Read **Exodus 16:11-36**.

- Even though Israel had grumbled against God's representatives, what was God's gracious answer to their current need? (**v.4, 12**)
  
- What details do you observe about God's provision?
  
- What instructions went with it? (**v.16, 19, 23-26**)
  
- How did God display His *stamp of approval* on the words that Aaron spoke to Israel? (**v.10**)

Now we come to a **Three-Question Obedience Exam** for Israel:

**#1** What was the instruction given in **v.16**?

Did Israel obey? (**v.17**)

yes

no

What was the result? (**v.18**)



## Day 3: \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 17** then focus on **verses 1-7**.

**Acts 14:22** tells us, '*through many trials we will enter the Kingdom of God*', yet it's difficult for us to believe God would actually *lead us* into trials. We usually chalk up our difficulties to either: 1) Satan sniffing out and exploiting some breach in our defense; or 2) a mistake on our part (*I must have done something wrong*).

Although each of those *may be* to blame at times, this passage should help us learn that God Himself is our guide through *Wilderness University* and He may lead us into trials the same way He led His people Israel to a trial without water in order to provide for them.

How was the next test in *Wilderness University* set up in **v.1**?

What was Israel's response to this test? (**v.2-3**)

We've already studied *grumbling* at length, so let's focus on a different aspect today. Write out the last six words from **v.2**:

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Wilderness lessons teach us about **God testing us** and **us testing God**. The later is mentioned twice in today's reading (**v.2** and **v.7**). Let's investigate what it means to test God.

- How was it expressed in **v.7** and what did they mean by that?
- How is it expressed in your life when you face similar experiences?

When was the last time you faced something difficult and thought,  
*“Is God really with me — If God were really with me,  
why would these bad circumstances be happening to me?”*

In the midst of that trial, you may have begun to withhold your faith in God until *after* He produced some relief. If so, you were *testing God*, putting Him on probation until you could view HIS answers to YOUR test.

Read **James 1:2-12** and consider how a response to trials is possible without putting God to the test. What are some keys you see?

How does the present story of Israel heading to the land of promise show an illustration of the above passage in James?

### *Day 4:* \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read **Exodus 17:8-16**.

Simply *being* at a University doesn't produce a good education. The value of the education develops while a person is attending classes; listening to the teacher's instructions; studying, applying, and being continually tested on the lessons they are exposed to.

Today's passage shows us *yet another* class and accompanying test at the Wilderness University—this time it was a test that would affect their future success.

From **v.8-11**:

- Name the enemy that came to face Israel:
- What well-known Bible character was suddenly mentioned here without previous introduction?
- How did Moses' staff play a visible part in this battle?
- Describe the contrast between what Joshua was doing in this battle and what Moses was doing:

It hadn't been that many days since the Egyptians had threatened God's people. In comparing those two threats — the Egyptians and the Amalekites, describe the similarities of attack and differences in God's instructions to the people:

Similarities                      Differences

Had the **Egyptians** conquered Israel, they would have returned to the slavery of their past; had the **Amalekites** conquered Israel, it would have threatened their \_\_\_\_\_. (See question #6 in the Discussion Section)

- While the battle was raging on the plain below, describe the scene on the hill: (**v.9-12**)



What personal lessons can you glean from that scene?

The final verses speak of remembrance again. It seems that every time God did something significant in their lives, He wanted them to really remember it!

- Summarize the instructions from **v.14-16**:

What comes to mind today that God would have *you* remember?

## Day 5:

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🔗 Read **Exodus 18**.

There may be leadership lessons in this chapter that the Holy Spirit would minister to you, but we're going to hone in on the case study of one man, who was *outside of the people of Israel* but who pressed in to know Jehovah God.

Jethro, Moses' Father-in-Law, came to the wilderness where the Hebrews were camped. From **v.1-8**:

- Who did Jethro bring with him?
- What had Jethro heard even before he met up with Moses?
- What was Moses and Jethro's conversation like?

- From **v.9-12**, How did Jethro process what he heard and whom did he attribute Israel's deliverance to?
- What words and events make you think that Jethro believed *unto salvation* at this point?

I absolutely adore stories we find in Scripture like Jethro, Rahab, and Ruth; stories that describe those *outside of Israel* who press in and find their salvation in the God of Israel. Maybe it's because I've always felt a bit like an outsider myself and I'm so grateful that God allowed *me in!* What are your thoughts on the narrative of Jethro?

### ☞ God's Unfolding Story of Jesus ☞

God instructed some of the manna to be preserved in the ark. That was an effective way for God's miraculous provision to live on in the community consciousness of Israel for centuries to come. When Jesus miraculously multiplied bread for the masses to eat, the link was undeniable for the Jews. Read **John 6** for interesting parallels to our current passage. This text is where Jesus, near another Passover celebration, shared these words:

*"It was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven,  
but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.  
For the bread of God is he who comes down from Heaven  
And gives life to the world. I am the bread of life,  
whoever comes to me shall not hunger,  
and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*

Isn't it interesting that the first two tests in the Wilderness had to do with hunger and thirst? God was unfolding a roadmap to Jesus even then. Jesus is our **Bread of Life**, Jesus is our **Living Water**, whoever comes to Him need not continue in spiritual hunger or thirst!

## ☞ Questions for Application and Discussion ☞

1. The people of Israel exaggerated the ease of their former life while complaining against Moses and Aaron. What could be the cause of Christians today similarly recalling their *former life* differently than it really was?
2. What counsel would you give someone who has developed a habit of grumbling against God by grumbling against His leaders?
3. Most women love security. We crave the assurance that today's needs *and* tomorrow's needs are guaranteed to be met. How does the principle of *daily bread* seen here affect your cravings?
4. Is the Holy Spirit bringing to your mind some instruction of the Lord that you have been ignoring or testing to see if it's really important? How does this lesson inspire you to simply obey?
5. Is there a particular trial in your life that you have been *praying away*? Perhaps you've been begging God to eliminate this trial, rather than asking God to help you (or them) grow and learn to trust God more. How does **James 1:2-4** inspire you to *grow through the problem* rather than *go from the problem*?
6. Like Israel, *you* are on your journey with the natural and spiritual gifts God has given you for use in His Kingdom. Threats similar to the Amalekites can come into your life to threaten your future as well. If there is a current battle along your journey right now, what does it look like and how are you battling? How do you need to change your battle strategy?



## Lesson Eight — Exodus 19-20

### The Character of God

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This is the final stretch for our Bible study entitled *Divine Deliverance*. In these final chapters, we'll see the fulfillment of the sign God gave Moses in **3:12** that Israel would be delivered from Egypt and would *serve God on this Mountain*. And we'll gain the first glimpse into the character and holiness of God from His own mouth in a setting so awesome that Israel would never forget their encounter with God.

**Chapter 20** belongs to both the *story of deliverance*—slavery to freedom; and also to the *story of worship*—the Mountain of God to the Temple of God. Since we have to divide long books into sections, this is an excellent place for an intermission until our next Bible Study — the Wilderness Way.

#### Day 1:

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☞ Read the entire chapter of **Exodus 19** then focus on **verses 1-8**.

Verses **3-8** tell of Moses' first ascent (of three in this chapter) up to the Mountain of God. There are three main elements God wanted Moses to tell Israel:

- From **v.4**—what had they witnessed?
- From **v.5**—what were they to do?
- From **v.5-6**—what would be the benefit?

When God called Israel a *Kingdom of Priests*, don't think of the familiar Levitical priesthood. Rather, He was using the term to describe how His chosen people would *minister* the knowledge of God to a world who did not know Him — so that world *would* come to know Him.

Read **1 Peter 2:5, 9**. Explain how Peter used this term in a similar way to anyone who would believe and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.

- In **v.8**, How did the people respond to what God had just spoken to them?
- Do you think they would stay true to that response?

## *Day 2:*

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☞ Read **Exodus 19:9-25**.

You can feel the anticipation build through the remainder of this chapter. In preparation to hear God's Word, the Lord told Moses to **go to the people and \_\_\_\_\_ them (v.10)**.

- Look up the word *consecrate* in a dictionary. What is the meaning?

In order to help Israel set themselves apart and prepare for this event...

- What type of cleansing was instructed?
- What were the relational boundaries?
- What were the physical boundaries?

- What do *you* think the purpose was for these instructions (which came with consequences for disobedience)?

Use this space to describe the scene on the third day when God descended on the mountain. (There's enough room for a sketch — which would really help you create a picture in your mind)

Read **Hebrews 12:18-29**. The writer is obviously recalling images from Mt. Sinai, yet we read instructions for *us* in **v.28-29**. How should we now worship God?

Are there specific adjustments you would like to make in *your* worship?

*Our God is a consuming fire!*

**Hebrews 12:29**

## Day 3: \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read **Exodus 20:1-11**.

In **v.24** of the previous chapter, Moses made his third ascent (with Aaron) to meet God on Mt. Sinai. This was the very beginning of the *giving of the law*, which would continue for the next eleven chapters.

*The Law* can mean a handful of things: like *America* can mean one of two large continents, or it can mean a group of states united to form a country. *The Law* can mean the ten commandments, the civil law, the ceremonial law, or *all* three of those portions of the law.

We'll use our final days to study the Ten Commandments. The reason I feel it's important to end our study here is because of the first commandment in **v.3**: "***You shall have no other gods before me***".

Was this not one of the major accomplishments of the Exodus? God redeemed His firstborn AND He triumphed over the gods of the Egyptians, so they would *know* He Is The Lord! It makes perfect sense to give a command to those He redeemed so they would not become entangled once again with any god that would steal their affections.

As we study these ten commandments, let's resist thinking of them as a list of rules to make people acceptable to God. That was never the intention. Rather these commands...

- display God's character,
- show what He values and what He hates, and
- teach us about man's sinfulness and our need of a Savior.

To help us think through each command this way, I've prepared a chart on **p.82-83**. We will complete the chart as we study each of the commandments.

- In the brief preface to the commands in **v.2**, God expressed *who He is* and *what He had done*. Why do you think those are two important elements to set the stage?



**1st Commandment (v.3):** fill in the chart —  
(see also 20:22-23)

**2nd Commandment (v.4-6):** fill in the chart—  
(see also 34:14; Duet. 6:15, 32:21, 1 Cor. 8:4-6)

- How long do you think it took Israel to recognize their sinfulness in regard to the first two commandments? (hint: Exodus 32)

**3rd Commandment (v.7):** fill in the chart—  
(see also Lev. 19:12, Ps 139:20)

**4th Commandment (v.8-11):** fill in the chart—  
(see also 31:15)

This command was intended to remind them of how God delivered them from bondage when work was thrust upon them 24-7 and rest was not found. Observing the seventh day in *rest and worship*, in the same way their Creator observed the seventh day of creation, would be a reminder to them of *Who* redeemed them and why.

Note: In the new covenant, our Sabbath rest is found in the *finished* work of Jesus. While taking one day in seven for physical *rest and worship* is healthy, God is not requiring us to keep an ordinance but rather to place our rest in Jesus Christ. (**Col. 2:16, Heb. 4:1-11**)

What relationships do you see expressed in Commandments 1-4?  
(circle)

Person-to-God

Person-to-Person

**Day 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

☞ Read Exodus 20:12-17.

**5th Commandment (v.12):** fill in the chart—  
(see also Prov. 20:20; Eph. 6:1-2)

**6th Commandment (v.13):** fill in the chart—  
(see also Gen. 9:6)

**7th Commandment (v.14):** fill in the chart—  
(see also Lev. 20:10, Matt. 19:1-12, Heb. 13:4)

**8th Commandment (v.15):** fill in the chart—  
(see also 22:1-4)

**9th Commandment (v.16):** fill in the chart—  
(see also Lev. 19:16)

**10th Commandment (v.17):** fill in the chart—  
(see also Duet. 5:21, Heb. 13:5)

What relationship do you see expressed in Commandments 5-10?  
(circle)

Person-to-God

Person-to-Person

Command	Description of Command
1st	<i>You shall have no other gods before me!</i>
2nd	
3rd	
4th	
5th	
6th	
7th	
8th	
9th	
10th	

- Read **Galatians 3:11**. What do you learn about keeping the Law?
  
- Read **Galatians 3:24-26**. What do you learn about the purpose of the Law?
  
- Read **Matthew 5:17**. What do you learn about Jesus' obedience?

Again, the point of the Ten Commandments is *not* to give a list of qualifications to make us acceptable to God. It's given to point out transgression. And yet, if a society *does* adhere to the principles found in the law, it makes for a happy and ordered culture. Dismissal of these commandments leads to chaos and ultimately anarchy.

Revelation of God's Character	What Does He Love/Hate

If a New Testament study related to the law sounds intriguing, you may want to check out our Women of the Word Bible study **The Way of Jesus—Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount.** There are some fascinating parallels between Jesus' mountaintop words to His followers and God's mountaintop instructions to Israel!

## *Day 2:*

---

☞ Read **Exodus 20:18-21**.

One reason this is such a fabulous place to bookend our study is the chilling response of Israel to God's presence and His voice.

- Describe their collective response in **v.18, 21**:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What phrase is repeated in both those verses related to their distance from God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What was their suggestion for the only way they wanted to hear from God in the future in **v.19**?

Isn't that exactly what Jesus accomplished when He came to earth?

People stood far off	—	God came near in Jesus Christ
People couldn't hear God	—	God spoke through Jesus Christ

In the story of the Exodus, Moses once again took on the role of a go-between, an intermediary between God and the people. And this too was intended to point man's thoughts in the direction of the Greater-Intermediary to come.

## ☞ God's Unfolding Story of Jesus ☞

With the events at Mt. Sinai fresh in our mind, let's get some New Testament perspective by reading and comparing our present text with two passages that have a direct relationship to **Exodus 20**.

First, read what the Holy Spirit inspired the author of Hebrews to say in **Hebrews 12:18-25**.

- They stood in the shadow of the physical Mt. Sinai; cloaked in a tempest of smoke and fire,
  - which points us to the greater Mt. Zion, the city of the Living God; cloaked with festal angels.
- They heard Moses the mediator of the Old Covenant—who wrote on tablets of stone,
  - which points us to Jesus Christ, the mediator of the New Covenant—who writes on our hearts.
- They begged that God would *speak no further messages* to them because they couldn't bear it,
  - which points to a time *before the resurrection* when Peter said "*Lord, to whom shall we go—you have the words of eternal life!*" (**John 6:68**)
  - and a time *after the resurrection* when Jesus spoke to his followers for 40 days about the kingdom of God. (**Acts 1:3**)

The clear message is summarized in **v.25**: "***See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.***" God made this all very clear for us—we are certainly a people without excuse!

The law of God is the way of life he sets before those whom he has saved, and they engage in that way of life as a response of love and gratitude to God their Redeemer. The grace that saves preceded the law that demands.<sup>2</sup>

Next, let's note God's impeccable timing left for us to discover in the Book of Acts as the Spirit of Jesus returned to indwell men's hearts. And let's appreciate the parallel with our present scene at Mt. Sinai.

To unravel the timing—the first words of chapter 19 tell us exactly when Israel came to the base of Sinai: *“On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of Egypt”* We know they left Egypt at the Passover, so this narrative added seven weeks to that date.

A little later in Exodus, God gave instructions for a festival called the **Feast of Weeks** to happen annually on that date. The first day of that festival was called **The Day of Firstfruits**. By New Testament times, the Jews had renamed the festival **Pentecost** coming from the Greek term for fiftieth. Are you still with me here?

Now, if we turn to **Acts 2**, we read about the disciples gathered at **Pentecost** — 50 days after Passover — the same time on the Jewish calendar when the people of Israel were gathered at the base of Mt. Sinai.

Let’s look at what happened so we can absorb and appreciate the link between those two events:

- The Law was given on Mt. Sinai (**Ex. 19:1**)
  - The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost (**Acts 2:1**)
- Israel was the firstfruit of those to be a *Kingdom of Priests* (**Ex.19:6**)
  - The disciples were the firstfruits of many future sons to receive the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38-39**)
- God descended on Mt. Sinai in fire (**Ex 19:18**)
  - God descended with tongues of fire at Pentecost (**Acts 2:3**)

God could have chosen any day He wanted for believers to first receive the Spirit of Jesus, but the image of the flaming fire and the timing on the Jewish calendar had to be undeniable for the Jews at the time and a great wonder for us, as we read the account through New Testament eyes.

*For the law was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

**John 1:17**

## ☞ Questions for Application and Discussion ☞

1. Israel was not to take their meeting with God casually. Because of Jesus, we may now approach the Throne of God at any time. Does reading a passage like this make you wonder if we've become guilty of *too casual* of an approach? Explain.
2. Even in the story of the Exodus, God redeemed His people *first* and gave them His law *second*. Why do you think it's so common for people to get those mixed up and think that somehow we are saved by keeping the law?
3. Both the 1st & 2nd commandments speak of *other gods* intruding in the rightful place of God Almighty in our worship. What *other gods* have become alluring in our culture? What steps does a wise Christian take to keep those things from being worshiped?
4. What would you say if someone asked if you keep the Sabbath? (meaning resting from your work and worshipping on Saturday.)
5. Do you think there is anything significant about the first commandment in the *person-to-person* section (*5th commandment*) being directed toward family relationships?
6. Would you agree with this statement: "*If a person has not been broken by the first nine commandments, it is the tenth that will unveil the dire reality of sin in our heart?*" Why or why not?
7. What is your favorite passage from this entire study?





## References

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## Women of the Word Bible Studies

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The following WOW Bible Studies written by Sue LeBoutillier are available through the **Calvary Chapel Ontario bookstore**, and through our online store at **[www.ccontario.com](http://www.ccontario.com)**.

- **Genesis**— Divine Design, From Eden to Egypt
- **Exodus** —Divine Deliverance, From Egypt to Sinai
- **Numbers** —The Wilderness Way, From Sinai to the Jordan
- **Joshua** —The Path of Promise, From the Jordan into Canaan
- **Judges** — A Time of Turning
- **Ruth** —Rescue and Rest
- **1 Samuel** — The Coming King
- **2 Samuel** — The Reigning King
- **1&2 Kings (Part One)**— Solomon and the House of the Lord
- **1&2 Kings (Part Two)**— Learning from Leaders
- **Esther**— When God Works in the Shadows
- **Jonah** —The Call of Compassion
- **The Way of Jesus** —The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew)
- **Simply Jesus** —The “I AMs” of Christ (John)
- **Acts** —Walking in the Spirit, The First Days of the Last Days
- **Galatians** —Finding Grace in a Demanding World
- **Ephesians** — Finding Purpose in a Confused World
- **Philippians** —Finding Joy in a Disjointed World
- **Colossians** —Finding Stability in a Changing World
- **Titus** —While We Wait
- **James** —Real Faith for Daily Life
- **1 & 2 Peter** —Hope, Holiness and Humility in a Hostile World
- **1,2,3 John** —Light, Love and Logic, Lessons from the Apostle John

