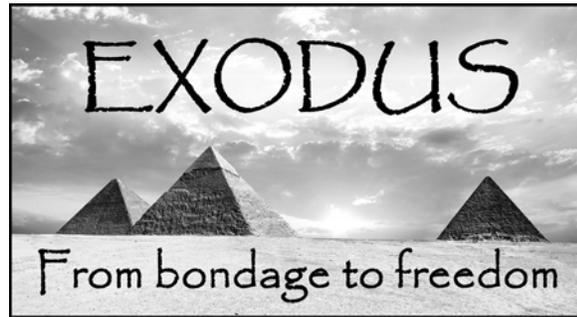


STUDY GUIDE

Week 1: Exodus 1-3 Egypt, Facing Our Fear

September 18, 2016



We are beginning an 8-week series that covers the Exodus to the Promised Land. This history is also a metaphor for our personal deliverance from bondage to freedom in Christ.

As you begin each day's study, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you what God is saying in His Word.

DAY 1: Read Exodus 1:6-14

1. What happened to Israel during their time in Egypt? How long were they there? (verse 6)
2. Describe the current situation of Israel presented in chapter 1, verses 8-14. What can you find out about slavery in Egypt at that time? How do we in the U.S. understand slavery? How do our own desires and addictions make us slaves? What can we do to be emancipated?
3. Who was the king at this time? (vs 8) What was his solution to too many Israelites? (verses 15-16) (You may want to use some of the resources to find out who the king is: Bible dictionary, Bible handbook, Bible commentary, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Bible history book, or Biblical Archaeology journal or website. Two time periods are generally given by Bible scholars as to when the Exodus occurred. This will be developed further in the leader's guide.)
4. When has a good situation in your life come to or ended up feeling like an entrapment? How did you feel?
5. What did the midwives do? What did they tell the king? (verses 17-21) When is it right to disobey the ruling authority? (see Daniel 1:3, Daniel 6, and Acts 4-5) What was the king's response? (vs 22)

DAY 2: Read Exodus 2

1. Exodus 2:1-10 – How was Moses rescued? By whom? Who gave Moses his name? What does the name mean? Who raised him? What did it mean for Moses to be raised in the Pharaoh's home rather than as a slave with his people? How does this prepare Moses for leading Israel?
2. Exodus 2:11-25 – What did Moses do? Why? Why did he run away? Where did he go? How long was he there (Acts 7:29-31)? What did he do there? How does this prepare Moses for what he will do for Israel?
3. What was happening in Egypt while Moses was gone? What was God doing at this time? (see verses 23-25)

DAY 3: Read Exodus 3 – The Call of Moses

1. In verses 1-3 – What was Moses doing? What unusual occurrence happened? What did Moses do?
2. In verse 4 – How does God call Moses? How does God identify Himself? (vs. 5) What is the significance of God using this name? What characteristics of God does this name reveal?
3. From verses 7-10 what was the purpose of God appearing? From verses 11 and 13 note Moses' responses. From verses 12-14, note God's promises
4. What were the details of Moses' mission? Note how the Egyptians will dramatically change their views of the Israelites, from treating them harshly as slaves, to treating them more generously. What may be the cause for the change? (verses 21-22)
5. Can you see God's presence in the events of Exodus 1-3? Who thought he was in charge? How did God turn events to His purposes?

REFLECTION/APPLICATION: Ephesians 4:1 claims that we all have been called of God to fulfill God's purpose, although our own calling is not as dramatic as God speaking in a burning bush. How did you sense God's call to you, as you chose a job or career or as you chose some kind of service to render in your church or community? Like Moses, we often try to give excuses for not following God's call. What kinds of excuses do we use? How has God responded to your excuses? How is God's call to Moses similar to or different from God's call to Abraham (Genesis 12), to Samuel (1 Samuel 3), and to the disciples (Luke 5).

DAY 4: Read Matthew 1

1. Compare Matthew 1 with Exodus 1-3. What are the characteristics of the womb? What happens during labor? Why must a baby go through labor to be born? How was Egypt like a womb for Israel?
2. In Exodus 1 – notice the shift from Israel growing and thriving to Pharaoh's persecution. What in your life keeps you from growing and thriving? What is your Egypt? What do you feel enslaves or entraps you?
3. Have you gone through an "Exodus" experience? Describe how you were liberated. This is a process - we experience different liberations at different times in our lives.

DAY 5: Compare Jesus' life in Matthew 1-4 with Moses' life in Exodus 1-3.

1. What similarities do you see?
2. In what way did Jesus become enslaved to lead us captives out of slavery and liberate us?
3. How do you see Jesus being sent to be our deliverer like Moses being sent to be Israel's deliverer?
(Read Romans 6:6-8 and 7:14-25)

DAY 6:

(If you have the book Leaving Egypt, read chapters 1, 2, and 3. If you do not have the book, consider how you might respond to these questions based on your own experiences and understanding.)

1. If you have the book *Leaving Egypt* by Chuck DeGroat, read chapters 1-3. What do you identify with in these chapters?
2. In a broad sense, this world we live in is our "Egypt" – our temporary home from which we will be delivered. In a more personal sense, DeGroat says that whatever keeps us from growing and thriving, or whatever enslaves and entraps us is our personal "Egypt". In the DeGroat book, Charles May is quoted as saying that we are all addicts (p. 38). How does this happen? (see pages 22-25) Can you think of a time in your own story, past or present, when you experienced the "enslavement" of an Egypt-like circumstance – perhaps in a relationship, a job, an addiction or a limitation?
3. DeGroat also writes that people in situations like slavery can become accustomed to their situation and not resist. As you have lived under the slavery to sins, how have you become accustomed to the situation and did not try to escape or resist? How have you tried to cope rather than trying to resist?
4. DeGroat (p. 46) writes that "Moses would become the man God chose to invite an embattled, enslaved, and oppressed people into a new life, to draw them out of darkness into light." In what ways is there a "Moses" in your life, drawing you out of bondage or oppression? Has there been a situation or struggle in your life where you needed someone else to "draw" you out and maybe even point out that you were indeed being oppressed by another person? Have you ever stepped in to report an injustice to a legal or professional authority who could change a situation in order to free someone who has become enslaved?
5. How do you relate to what DeGroat says in chapters 1-3? What don't you understand? What are your reactions to what he has written?
6. What have you read in these chapters that relates to a situation that is happening in our country or in the world today?