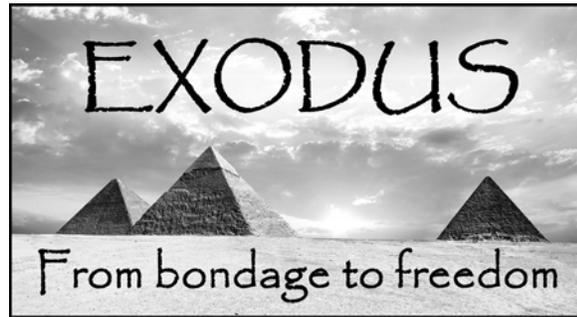


# STUDY GUIDE

Week 2: Exodus 5-12  
**Exit Strategy**

September 25, 2016



As you begin this study, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you what God is saying in the book of Exodus.

## **DAY 1: read Exodus chapter 5 through chapter 7:6**

1. When Moses and Aaron come to Pharaoh to tell him that the God of Israel says to let the Israelites go to worship Him, what does Pharaoh say? (5:2) What does he do? (5:6-9)
2. Notice the encounters in 5:10-21 – The slave drivers with Israel  
Israel with Pharaoh  
Israel with Moses and Aaron  
Pharaoh clearly resisted the appeals from God through Moses and Aaron to let the Israelites go. In what ways do we also resist God's appeals for us to escape from our bondage to sin?
3. God's promises to Moses and Israel are restated in 5:22-6:12 – write them down.
4. In 6:26-7:6 – Who will be the spokesman? Why? What does God say to Moses in 7:1? What does God tell Moses will happen? How do these divine promises reflect the character or characteristics of God?

TO DIG DEEPER: Read Exodus chapters 7-12 – A study on the 10 plagues – as you read, describe each plague God brought on the Egyptians.

1. Which plagues did not affect the Israelites themselves, only the Egyptians?
2. How do the plagues reveal God's power over creation, a power more significant than the power of Pharaoh's magicians who tried to replicate some of the plagues?
3. How can the individual plagues be seen as direct attacks on the gods of Egypt? (Look up in a Bible handbook, Bible dictionary or Bible commentary about the gods of Egypt.)
4. What did the Israelites (through Moses and Aaron) want from Pharaoh that he was not willing to grant them?
5. Why did God bring these plagues on Egypt? (see Exodus 7:1-5; 7:16-17)

6. How were the plagues a response to what Pharaoh was thinking and saying? (see Exodus 5:2)
7. Several times, Exodus reminds us that Pharaoh's heart was hardened, even after seeing God's power displayed in awesome ways. When have our own hearts been hardened against God or when have we demonstrated our own stubbornness, despite clear evidence that God is in control?
8. At a couple of points, Pharaoh seems willing to compromise (Exodus 8:25; Exodus 9:27; Exodus 10:11), but later changes his mind. In what ways do we try to bargain with God to escape God's punishment for our sins?
9. The plagues remind us that God's power rather than our own is necessary for deliverance from bondage. How has this lesson been revealed in your own life?

**DAY 2: read Exodus 12**

1. Read Exodus 12:1-3 – describe the establishment of the Jewish Calendar by God. If you have a Study Bible, Bible handbook or Bible dictionary, look up Calendar or Jewish Calendar and write down what you find out about it.
2. Read Exodus 12:1-11 – write down the details of the Passover Feast. What other feast is celebrated at this time? For how many days?

Now read 1 Peter 1:19, Hebrews 4:15 and Hebrews 7:27 – how does Jesus fulfill the Passover?

3. According to Exodus 12:12-13, why was the blood to be put on the door frames?

Read Leviticus 17:10-12 – why does God declare blood sacred? According to Hebrews 9:12-14 why was it important for Jesus to shed His own blood?

4. Exodus 12:14-20 – describes the Feast of Unleavened Bread; note the details of this feast. In 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Paul talks about yeast – how does it affect the dough? How does he apply this to our lives as Christians? What specific things does he describe as yeast in our lives? What is the bread without yeast?

As the Jews prepare their homes for Passover, all leavening (which is often used metaphorically as sin) is removed. How do you use the season of Lent to allow God to “create in me a clean heart” (Psalm 51:10)? Did you ever give up something for the season of Lent as a sacrifice to the Lord? Was this giving up rather trivial or was it more significant? Why? Do you see parallels with that practice and the abstinence from leavened bread? Why or why not?

5. What does Exodus 12:26-27 say the Passover means?

### **DAY 3: read Exodus 12**

1. Read Exodus 12:12-13 – what is God going to do? Why? Now read Exodus 12:29 – what did God do?
2. What was the response of the Israelites? (Exodus 12:28, 50)
3. What was the response of Pharaoh? (Exodus 12:30-32)
4. What was the response of the Egyptians? (Exodus 12:33-36)
5. The final terrible plague finally broke through to Pharaoh and the Egyptians. As you think about your own exodus from slavery to sin, what broke through to you in a powerful way?

### **DAY 4: read Exodus 12**

1. Read Exodus 12:37-41 – refer to the map from week 1; note on it what the text says about the travel route of the Israelites.
2. Approximately how many Israelites leave Egypt? (note that this is comparable to the current population of the Columbus metropolitan area) What did they take with them?
3. In verse 38 – who else went with them?
4. From verse 40, how many years were the Israelites in Egypt? What did the Lord do?

### **DAY 5**

1. Exodus 12:43-49 gives special regulations for the Passover. Write them down. From John 19:36, how does Jesus fulfill this?
2. In verse 50, who did what the Lord commanded?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-33. Now compare the Passover feast (Exodus 12:1-11 and 43-49) with communion.  
What conclusion(s) do you draw from these 2 commemorations?
4. How does the celebration of the Lord's Supper help us to understand how we are delivered from our bondage to sin? Just as God's power was used to free the Israelites, how does God's power free us? How can this be applied to the things in our lives that enslave and entrap us, keeping us from growing and thriving in Christ?

## **DAY 6:**

*(If you have the book Leaving Egypt, read chapter 4. If you do not have the book, consider how you might respond to these questions based on your own experiences and understanding.)*

1. On page 59 DeGroat writes, “The story of redemption, which is really the whole story of the Scriptures, is an excruciatingly long, tumultuous narrative full of resistance, battle, defeat, exile, reunion, and rebellion – stretched out over centuries. Couldn’t it be simpler somehow?” Why is the way of trust both so difficult and so appealing? How is this way different from the way you’ve lived your life?
2. Ponder your life and some of the struggles you have experienced with sin. How does the deliverance of Israel at Passover aid you in your understanding of redemption? Do you struggle with the fact that it isn’t simple? Why is leaving our own “Egypt”, the things that ensnare us, so difficult? What helps in the struggle?
3. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for many years, and it is possible that they had gotten used to their situation. Likewise, trapped in our own “Egypt,” we experience a loss of our true identity and become disconnected from God. Often we are unable to leave Egypt on our own because, as humans, we are victims of our sinful nature, uncontrollable circumstances, and outside influences that seek to enslave us. We become powerless in our situation, discouraged from attempting change because of our cruel bondage. Have you experienced a sense of powerlessness in your “Egypt”? How has this impacted your sense of value, worth, and significance? How do we get the courage to break from this “normalcy” and seek real deliverance from the power of sin? (see Leaving Egypt, chapter 2).
4. DeGroat seems to compare Israel’s coping with their situation of slavery and our own coping with our life of bondage to sin. Instead of seeking escape, we try to cope with our sin, our enslavements, our entrapments. We look for ways to numb the pain; we seek emotional “bandaids.” These bandaids can take the form of intense busyness, trying to constantly please people, insistently portraying success, or anything else that keeps the pain or weariness at bay. How has this been evident in your life?
5. The old hymn is sung: “What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”  
Israel showed faith in God by following His directive to paint their doors with the blood of an unblemished lamb. Do you believe that blood is necessary? Why?