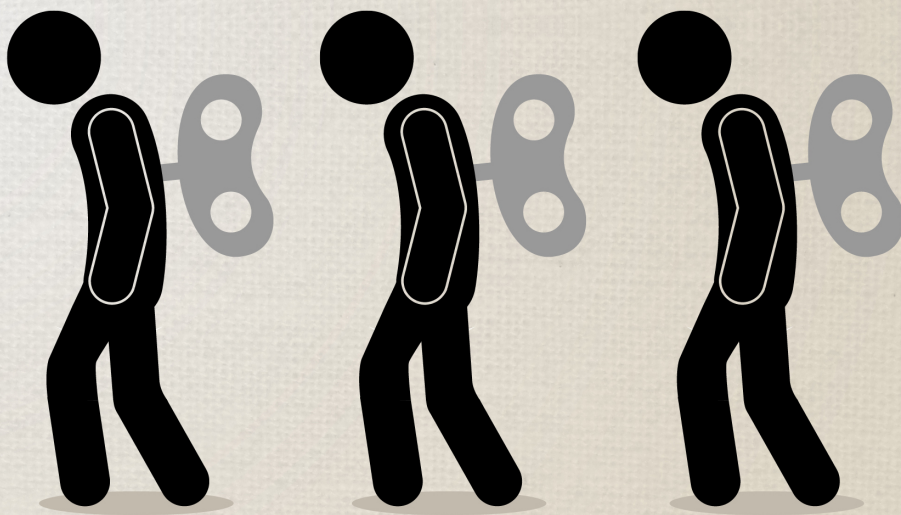


# TRAPPED?

FINDING GOD'S PATH TO  
FREEDOM IN YOUR LIFE



A STUDY OF EXODUS 1-15

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# TRAPPED?

Finding God's Path  
to Freedom in Your Life

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# I N T R O D U C T I O N

**Feeling trapped?** Are there aspects of your life that you cannot seem to get under control? Areas that now seem to control *you*? Perhaps it's a lie you keep believing, or an emotion that you're holding on to that now consumes you. Or maybe it's a pattern of destructive behavior that you feel powerless to stop. You are not alone. God's people have often found themselves in impossible situations...*humanly speaking*. That is most definitely how the Israelites felt while enslaved in Egypt. But slavery did not have the final word. The Exodus is a story of being rescued and set free! It is a magnificent picture of the gospel. In it we see the grace-saturated character of God, as he relentlessly pursues his chosen people. We see how God's strength is made perfect in our weakness and how his love shines the brightest in the darkness.

There are three overarching themes found in the Exodus story (and in all of scripture):

## **1. RESCUE - Salvation and Freedom from Bondage (Exodus 6:6)**

The people of Israel are trapped in a foreign land. They are desperate for a rescuer to free them from their bondage. God reveals himself as the "Great I Am" and with Fatherly compassion he proclaims, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them" (Exodus 3:7-8). With this promise, God sends Moses to rescue his people.

## **2. RELATIONSHIP - The Real Knowledge of God (Exodus 6:7)**

The repetition of the statement "I am the Lord" (6:2, 6:6, 6:7, 6:8, 6:29) is no accident or coincidence. It is God's way of continually supplying his people with the ultimate provision: his presence. He reveals himself as a good God who is totally sovereign and can deliver on his promise to set his people free from their Egyptian overlords. Our knowledge of God as Lord is inextricably linked to our freedom.

## **3. REST - Freedom and Peace (Exodus 6:8)**

God promises to give them the land that was promised to Abraham. It is the promised land filled with an abundance of provision, the most glorious of lands (3:17). For those who are in Christ, he is the peace we all long for. We can rest in him and have the hope of spending eternity with him.

The Exodus story offers the greatest foreshadowing of the ultimate rescue and redemption. As such, it is profoundly good news to captives, to those who are trapped because of sin—whether it is sin they have committed or sin that has been committed

against them. Unlike the early people of God (Hebrews 11:13-16, 27-28), we have the great privilege of knowing how the story ends, namely that Jesus would be how God would provide the ultimate redemption for his people. Now we can, and must, go back and read Israel's story through the lens of the cross. In doing so, the story of the Exodus becomes ours.

Christopher J. H. Wright has this to say: "If you had asked a devout Israelite in the Old Testament period "Are you redeemed?" the answer would have been a most definite yes. And if you had asked "How do you know?" you would be taken aside to sit down somewhere while your friend recounted a long and exciting story—the story of the exodus. For indeed it is the exodus that provided the primary model of God's idea of redemption, not just in the Old Testament but even in the New, where it is used as one of the keys to understanding the meaning of the cross of Christ."

Exodus is more than one story of rescue; it also points to the ultimate rescue of God's people.

Wright continues: "[The exodus] points beyond itself to a greater need for deliverance from the totality of evil and restoration to relationship with God than it achieved by itself. Such a deliverance was accomplished by Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection."

The night before Jesus was betrayed he revealed that the first Exodus pointed to a new Exodus which would be fulfilled in him. N.T. Wright explains: "The meal itself [the Last Supper] said two very specific things. First, like all Jewish Passover meals, the event spoke of leaving Egypt. Second, however, the meal brought Jesus' own kingdom-movement to its climax. It indicated that the new exodus, and all that it meant, was happening in and through Jesus himself. Jesus intended this meal to symbolize the new exodus, the arrival of the kingdom through his own fate. The meal, focused on Jesus' actions with the bread and the cup, told the Passover story, and Jesus' own story, and wove these two into one."

Our prayer for this series is that we will all see afresh the loving-kindness of our sovereign God displayed in the gospel: because of sin we are all trapped, but through the person and work of Jesus Christ God has provided the perfect plan of salvation (Romans 8:2-3). The end result will be a deeper understanding of our freedom; we have been freed from our bondage to self, and we are now free to experience the deepest joy by living for God's glory.

We would like to thank Ryan Collman, Zach Simons, Mitchell Cooper, Brian Sullivan and Drew Farr for contributing through writing these studies as well as Brooks Potteiger, Johann Lilly, Ashley Eddy and Ryan Collman for editing the content.

# 1 | StudyOne

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## Finding Freedom in God's Story

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### **Exodus 1:1-7**

*But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.*

*-- Exodus 1:7 --*

# 1 | Notes

## Questions

1. When was a time that you experienced freedom through God's grace, goodness and faithfulness—particularly when you were unsure of your circumstances or how things would play out?

2. Discuss the main themes / ideas of this passage. How would you summarize it in your own words?

3. Read Genesis 12:1-3, 17:1-8 and 46:1-4. What does God promise to do through Jacob (Israel) and his people? How do these promises help make sense of this passage?

4. The book of Genesis (particularly ch. 12-50) reveals the brokenness and sin of Jacob's family (for example see Genesis 37:26-28 on how Joseph got to Egypt). Read about the attributes of God in Exodus 34:6-7. Why is it important and encouraging for us to know and see who God is rather than trying to be like the people God uses?

## Responses

## Questions

5. How does Exodus 1:1-7 point to Jesus, who came down to Earth to bring us into God's family and use us to make a great people through his life, death and resurrection (see Matthew 1:1-21, 1 Peter 1:9-10)?

6. Write down the words used to describe what happened to God's people in v. 7 and compare it to Genesis 1:27-28. How does this bring meaning and purpose to all of life?

7. Read Acts 2:41-47. What do we see happening in Jesus' church and what is the result (vv. 41, 47)? How can you and your group tangibly flesh this out and see "the Lord added to their number"?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests



# 2 | Study *Two*

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## Finding Freedom in Affliction

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### **Exodus 1:8-22**

*Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.*

*-- Exodus 1:11-12 --*

# 2 | Notes

## Questions

1. Where have you seen God work good and bring freedom out of hard circumstances?
2. Read Genesis 15:12-16. What does God tell Abram about his offspring? How does this begin to take shape in Exodus 1:8-22 (see also Exodus 12:40)?
3. What lengths does Pharaoh go to in order to keep power and control of his authority and God's people?
4. In what ways do you seek to keep power and control? How does trusting and relying on God's power bring true life and freedom vs. trusting in your own power?
5. What were the circumstances/ conditions for God's people under the rule of Pharaoh (v. 8-14)?

## Responses

## Questions

6. What are some things (even good things: job, kids, hobby, etc.) that you are enslaved to? How do they prevent you from fulfilling your calling to love and serve God (see also John 8:34)?

7. In this passage, we see Pharaoh in rebellion against God because he resents God's people, rejects God's promises and resists God's plans. In what ways have you / do you do this in your life?

Read Romans 5:6-11. How does this bring hope for you?

8. In what ways do hardship and suffering help us long for our Savior Jesus and the restoration of all things (also see Romans 8:18-30, Revelation 21, 1 Corinthians 15)? How can the group pray for you to have hope in your present hardships?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 3 | Study *Three*

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## Finding Freedom in God's Care

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### **Exodus 2:1-10**

*When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."*

*-- Exodus 2:10 --*

# 3 | Notes

## Questions

1. What was a time when you were delivered from an impossible circumstance?
2. Discuss the main themes / ideas of this passage. How would you summarize it in your own words?
3. Read Hebrews 11:23. What do we learn about Moses' parents from this passage and Hebrews? How does the birth of Moses (v. 2) reveal the power and faithfulness of God vs. the ineffective schemes and plans of man (vv. 1:16, 22)?
4. God utilized the river and the royal house (vv. 7-10), which were supposed to bring death, to bring life. How does this allow us to trust God to use all things for good (see also Romans 8:26-30)?
5. What do you struggle to trust God with (past, present and future)? How does that impact your day to day life?

## Responses

## Questions

6. Read Psalm 139. Dwell on the comfort of knowing that God is in control and has power over all things (even evil that people do). Discuss your thoughts with the group.

7. Read Deuteronomy 34:10-12 and Hebrews 3:1-6. What do we see about how God ultimately used this baby, and how does he point us to the ultimate savior Jesus (see also Matthew 2:13-18 for similarities between the birth of Moses and Jesus)?

8. God used the actions of many people to rescue Moses. What are some things God may be calling you to do to bring about good out of evil? How can the group pray for you to do this?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests



# 4 | Study *Four*

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## Finding Freedom in God's Mercy

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### **Exodus 2:11-25**

*During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.*

*-- Exodus 2:23-25 --*

# 4 | Notes

## Questions

1. When was a time you felt trapped after making a wrong decision?
2. Discuss the main themes / ideas of this passage. How would you summarize it in your own words?
3. What is the significance of Moses leaving the comfort, power and security of the palace and identifying himself with the Hebrews (people of God)? How does this point to Jesus (see Philippians 2:3-11)?
4. In what ways does Moses display a right motivation (vv. 11, 13) but a wrong action (v. 12)? What does it result in (vv. 12-15)?
5. In what situation(s) are you currently seeking to take matters into your own hands vs. patiently waiting and trusting in God's ways?

## Responses

## Questions

6. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25. How did Jesus' patience and obedience to God bring about life in the midst of suffering and injustice?

7. How would Moses' living (in the wilderness), family (as husband and father) and work (a shepherd) situations help him to grow? In what ways can God grow you in your current circumstances?

8. What do the people of God do in response to their slavery and oppression? How does God respond (vv. 23-25)? What do you feel enslaved to and trapped by? What would it look like to find freedom from it? What steps can you take? How can the group pray for you?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 5 | Study *Five*

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## Finding Freedom through Rescue

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### **Exodus 3:1-22**

*Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*

*-- Exodus 3:7-10 --*

# 5 | Notes

## Questions

1. Has God ever called you to do something specific? Expound.
2. Discuss the main themes / ideas of this passage. How does God reveal himself, his promise, and his purpose to Moses?
3. In the Bible, fire often represents God's glory, holiness and purity. Do you think people in our culture view God as holy? How does God's holiness lead us to understand our desperate need for God's mercy and forgiveness (see also Isaiah 6:1-7)?
4. Verse 6 says that Moses "was afraid to look at God" in light of his glory, holiness and purity. Discuss why fearing God is a necessary and good thing. Why is this hard or confusing for people in our culture? How does God respond to those who truly fear him (see also Revelation 1:17-18)?
5. In Exodus we see attributes of God's grace displayed through the rescue & redemption of His people. What specific attributes of God's grace do you see in vv. 7-12? How does this Old Testament story give us a picture of the gospel?

## Responses

## Questions

6. In response to Moses' objection to God's call (vv. 10-11), God graciously says, "But I will be with you." Read Matthew 28:18-20 and discuss how we are like Moses in response to our call to make disciples. Jesus says that he "will be with us always." How does this free us to joyfully trust and obey him?

7. Both the scriptures and history testify that God uses unqualified people to accomplish incredible things for his mission. How does this passage encourage you to know that God can use you for his mission (even with your doubts)?

8. What is God calling you to do? How can he use you in his mission? How can the group pray for you to find or carry out your calling?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests



# 6 | StudySix

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## Finding Freedom in God's Empowering

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### **Exodus 4:1-17**

*But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."*

*-- Exodus 4:10-12 --*

# 6 | Notes

## Questions

1. Describe a time when you felt extremely unqualified for a task. What thoughts went through your mind? How did you ultimately respond to the situation?
2. Discuss the main themes / ideas of this passage. How would you summarize it in your own words?
3. Talk about how you have struggled trusting and/or believing God's word in the past.
4. In vv. 2-9, God gives Moses three signs. What was the purpose of these signs (v. 5)? In a similar way, discuss how baptism and communion are signs that encourage us to believe God's promises.
5. God responds to Moses' continued doubt with three rhetorical questions (vv. 10-13). How does this passage help us understand that God will equip us to do what he calls us to? How have you experienced this?

## Responses

## Questions

6. Why do you think God uses people like Moses, who have little confidence in their own abilities? Who gets the glory? How does a humble confidence in God redirect our trust from personal ability to God's equipping?

7. How can we look to Jesus for our confidence? How did Jesus model this in his life (see Hebrews 4:14-5:9)?

8. Share with your group one way you can serve God that would cause you to totally depend on his equipping. How can the group pray for you to do this?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 7 | Study Seven

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## Finding Freedom through Worship

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### **Exodus 4:18-31**

*Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.*

*-- Exodus 4:29-31 --*

# 7 | Notes

## Questions

1. Think of a time in your life when you received news that brought you hope. Discuss your experience with the group.

2. Read Exodus 4:18-31. Summarize in your own words God's interaction with Moses and Aaron.

3. God reminds Moses of his call before Pharaoh, and foretells his response saying : "I will harden his heart." What does this mean? Do you think this makes God unjust or unfair?

4. Read Romans 9:14-21. What reason does Paul give for God hardening Pharaoh's heart (v. 17)?

5. Read vv. 29-31 again. What does this text tell us about God's concern for the affliction of his people? How can this bring us hope?

## Responses

## Questions

6. How did the people respond to the message of hope Aaron delivered (v. 31)?

7. How does the person and work of Jesus give you hope in the midst of trials?

8. The people believed they would be delivered, which led them to worship. How does this example of faith challenge and encourage you in the midst of current trials you are facing? How can the group pray for you?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests



# 8 | Study *Eight*

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## Finding Freedom in Brokenness

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### **Exodus 5:1-23**

*Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."*

*-- Exodus 5:1-2 --*

# 8 | Notes

## Questions

1. Think of a time when you had a burden placed upon you that you thought was unjust. How did you react?
2. Discuss the main themes / ideas of this passage. How would you summarize it in your own words?
3. In v.1, Moses and Aaron speak on behalf of God by saying, "Thus says the Lord..." What does this tell us about the things they are telling Pharaoh? What kind of authority do these words have? How can you compare this with what Pharaoh says in v.10?
4. What is significant about what Pharaoh says in v. 2? What is God's response to this (see vv. 7:5, 8:22, 9:14 and 10:2)?
5. How do people in our culture resist God? What are some things you have heard people say or do in reaction to the message of the gospel? In what ways was Jesus rejected in his day, despite the mighty works he performed?

## Responses

## Questions

6. In vv. 15-16, the foremen of Israel refer to themselves as Pharaoh's servants. What is significant about this? How does the story of the Exodus reveal Israel's true identity in light of who God is? In what ways has God's work in your life shown you who he really is?

7. Moses responds to God in v. 22. Why do you think he responds the way he does? Would you have responded the same way? What part of the story is he not trusting in (think of the previous chapters in Exodus)?

8. In what ways are you not trusting God in the hard situations of life? How can the group pray for you to look at who God is and what God has done to find hope?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 9 | Study *Nine*

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## Finding Freedom in God's Promises

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### **Exodus 6:1-30**

*"Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.'"*

*-- Exodus 6:5-7 --*

# 9 | Notes

## Questions

1. What are some things/events in your life that you think about to help remember the faithfulness of God?
2. Discuss the main themes / ideas of this passage. How would you summarize it in your own words?
3. In v.1, God says he is going to deliver his people from Egypt through the actions of Pharaoh. If you were Moses, what would you be thinking at this point? Would you have hope or despair?
4. Why do you think God recounts his relationship to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to Moses? What would be the significance of this? Discuss the idea of a covenant and what it means for God to have a covenant with his people.
5. Why is it important to have a proper understanding of God's identity and of your identity in Christ? How does it inform your faith?

## Responses

## Questions

6. In v.5, God says that he hears the groans of his people. Is this comforting to you? In light of Moses speaking these words to Israel, they still did not listen to him. Why do the people of Israel trust God more after experiencing his redemption?

7. God promises to bring freedom and new life with him to his people through rescuing them. How can we experience the same kind of freedom and new life with God through faith in Christ?

8. What are some practical ways you can experience who God is on a daily basis? How can the group pray for you to experience who God is in order to strengthen your trust in him?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests



# 10 | Study *Ten*

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## Finding Freedom through Obedience

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### **Exodus 7:1-13**

*Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as  
the LORD commanded them.*

*-- Exodus 7:6 --*

# 10 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. When was the last time you had a very clear leading from the Holy Spirit to go do something you knew would be very difficult, or knew wouldn't end well at all?

2. Discuss the main themes / ideas of this passage. How would you summarize the passage in your own words?

3. The Lord tells Moses in v. 1 that he has made him "like God" to Pharaoh. What does that mean (see also Acts 14)? How do you think Moses felt after God told the details of all that would happen in vv. 2-5?

4. What does it say about God's call on our lives that Moses was in the latter third of his life when this all took place? Does this bring you hope or despair? Why?

5. Should Pharaoh have asked for a miracle? Would you have asked for one (see also Matthew 12:38-39)?

## Responses

## Questions

6. What would be some modern-day, gospel-driven throw downs like the one in vv. 10-12? What are some things that God might be calling you do to in order to make Jesus known amongst the people around you?

7. Pharaoh had a lot to lose in this encounter with Moses and Aaron. How difficult would it be for you to let go? What did he have to gain by the encounter?

8. What does it look like to put the power of God on display in your day-to-day life? How can the group pray for you to do that?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 11 | Study *Eleven*

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## Finding Freedom in God's Authority

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### **Exodus 7:14-11:10**

*Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let my people go, that they may serve me."'"*

*-- Exodus 8:1 --*

*(repeated throughout the passage)*

# 11 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. The story of the Ten Plagues and the Exodus has been a popular Sunday school/church story for a long time. Prior to the sermon on Sunday, what had you been taught some of the main points were? What were your impressions of the "God of the Exodus"? Share your history with this text with the group.
2. How would the first plague have affected the country as a whole and the individual Egyptians?
3. Pharaoh asks Moses and Aaron to intercede with the Lord on his behalf in Exodus 8:8. How is he answered? What is his reaction?
4. What convinced the magicians to change their minds in Exodus 8:19? What are some reasons people change their minds about God today?
5. What kind of compromise does Pharaoh offer in Exodus 8:25? Why does he do this? Why isn't it accepted?

## Responses

## Questions

6. By the time the eighth plague has ended, what has become of Egypt's economy? If you're the common person, what's your reaction to these events (i.e. "Let 'em go!" or "shake fists toward the sky")? What does this say about your heart?

7. According to Exodus 11:9, why didn't Pharaoh listen to Moses or believe the signs he had asked for? What does that say about God's behind-the-scenes work in history, or even today? How does God's story of redemption, as lived out in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, show God's sovereignty over human history?

8. Why do so many people harden their hearts to God's working or leading? How do you harden your heart to God?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests



# 12 | Study *Twelve*

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## Finding Freedom in the Sacrifice

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### **Exodus 12:1-32**

*The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.*

*-- Exodus 12:13 --*

# 12 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. Think of a time when someone or something else took the fall for you, and you were let off the hook.

Discuss your experience with the group.

2. Throughout Israel's history, the celebration of "the Passover" has played a central role in their worship of God. Why was it so important for Israel, and what does it teach us about God?

3. This final plague (death of the firstborn) is different from the other nine, in that Israel had to follow some specific instructions in order to avoid the same fate as the Egyptians. Why didn't God simply send the destroyer only to the Egyptians?

4. Why did God require that each household in Israel use the blood of a male lamb "without blemish" (v. 5)? Why is this significant?

5. In John 1:29, Jesus is called "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," alluding to this story of the Passover. How does the Passover point ahead to Jesus?

## Responses

## Questions

6. We are not Hebrews living in Egyptian captivity, yet this text is relevant to us. How does it reveal our need for deliverance? From what? As Christians, how does God deliver us?

7. Why was it important to Moses that the Passover be celebrated forever and taught to coming generations (vv. 24-27)? What does this teach us about our stewardship of the gospel message?

8. What is your personal response to this event (the Passover) that is so rich with symbolism, significance and mercy?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 13 | Study *Thirteen*

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Finding Freedom through Grace

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## **Exodus 12:33-51**

*All the people of Israel did just as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. And on that very day the LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.*

*-- Exodus 12:50-51 --*

# 13 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. Remember fire alarms in grade school and college? As you found yourself hurrying down the hall toward the exit, what were your thoughts? Fears/concerns?
2. In much the same way that a fire alarm allows little time for preparation, Israel's deliverance out of slavery was sudden and swift. How does this tie into the passage's continued emphasis on "unleavened bread" (remembering what God did)?
3. How would you have felt as an Israelite who had just received news that you were leaving Egypt and didn't have time to prepare yourself for wherever you were going?
4. Verse 42 says that this was a "night of watching." What does this mean? What similarities can you find between this "night of watching" and the night of Jesus' birth (our celebration of Christmas)?
5. Read John 19:28-37, 1 Peter 1:18-19. How does Jesus' death show that he is the fulfillment as the true / perfect Passover Lamb?

## Responses

## Questions

6. The good news of the gospel says that Jesus was sent by the Father to deliver us from sin and death. In your own life, how have you experienced specific deliverance (or an “Exodus”) from something that used to enslave you?

7. Where in your life do you find yourself “working off a debt” towards God, instead of allowing yourself to be cleansed only by Jesus, the true Passover Lamb? How can you develop a healthy rhythm of relying on God’s grace instead of your works?

8. How can you be better about helping others find freedom from the slavery of sin? How can the group pray for you to carry this out and be bold in doing so?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests



# 14 | Study *Fourteen*

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## Finding Freedom in Remembering

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### **Exodus 13:1-16**

*Then Moses said to the people,  
"Remember this day in which you came out  
from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for  
by a strong hand the LORD brought you  
out from this place. No leavened bread  
shall be eaten."*

*-- Exodus 13:3 --*

# 14 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. Think of an aspect of history that you and/or your family celebrate each year. What reason do you have for this celebration? Why has it become an annual event?
2. The people of Israel are given a number of commands in Exodus 13:1-16, the first of which is to "Consecrate to [God] all the firstborn." What does this mean, and why is it important to God that Israel obey?
3. Why does God require a consecration of only the firstborn and not of all Israel and their possessions? How would this have been understood in their day (think of the idea of an 'heir' in a patriarchal society)?
4. Throughout the Exodus story there is an emphasis on sharing God's mighty works with the generations to come (vv. 8, 14). Whether you have children or not, how will you go about teaching the next generation in your life about God's grace?

## Responses

## Questions

5. In this passage, the firstborn of humans and donkeys are “redeemed” rather than sacrificed to the Lord (vv. 13, 14). What does it mean to “redeem” something? How is this a celebration of God’s grace?

6. Read Hebrews 3:1-6. Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt, but it was clear that this was “by the Lord’s strong hand.” How is Jesus the greater and truer “Moses”?

7. Share of how you have experienced redemption in your life. What are your rhythms of celebration and remembrance of that redemption?

8. How can your celebration of grace and redemption bring hope to others? In what practical ways can you connect your story to the story of others in need of grace?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 15 | Study *Fifteen*

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## Finding Freedom in God's Guidance

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### **Exodus 13:17-22**

*And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.*

*-- Exodus 13:21-22 --*

# 15 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. Think of a time when God delivered you and guided you through a tough situation. What did you learn about yourself and about God?
2. How does God's guidance reveal his compassion for his people? How has God protected you from the temptation to return to the slavery of 'your Egypt' instead of following his guidance?
3. Why do you think the Israelites would have preferred to go back to Egypt vs. going to war with the Philistines? How do we see God considering the desires and fears of his people in his guidance? Why do you think he does this? Since God had already delivered Israel from Egypt, why do you think Israel was still fearful?
4. What forms of slavery has God delivered you from? What are some of the idols in your life that you no longer serve because Jesus has taken their place?

## Responses

## Questions

5. How does v.19 reveal the covenant faithfulness of God? How does his covenant faithfulness to his people impact how you view your circumstances?

6. After the Exodus from Egypt, God's Spirit leads his people through manifesting as a pillar of cloud and fire. In the same way that God's Spirit led Israel after the Passover, how does God's Spirit lead Christians after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the true Passover lamb?

7. What are some practical ways that you can allow the Holy Spirit to guide you? What are some rhythms or practices you need to implement in your life to do so?

8. Where do you presently need God's guidance in your life?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests



# 16 | StudySixteen

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## Finding Freedom in Salvation

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### **Exodus 14:1-31**

*Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.*

*-- Exodus 14:31 --*

# 16 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. Think about a time when you felt like you were backed into a corner, but in the end the situation worked out. What were some of the factors at play? What was your response?

2. In this passage, we see how God is intimately involved in the lives of his covenant people. How does this bring us comfort? How can we trust in him, but also make sure that we are living in accordance with his will?

3. In vv. 2-4, what does God have Moses and Israel do that seems like a bad strategic move? How does God work things out for his glory?

4. Israel has just been brought out of Egypt, and they are now trapped in the wilderness by the sea. How do God's actions in this passage (and in the rest of Exodus) build trust between Israel and God (v. 31)? Why do you think God is building his trust with Israel? What is in their future?

5. God putting his power on display brings people to knowledge of him (v. 4, 18). How can reflecting on his power bring you to a greater understanding of who he is?

## Responses

## Questions

6. Even though Moses is God's human agent, God is the one working and orchestrating everything in this story. What does this tell us about God? What does this tell us about our mission on earth?

7. This story is all about God's miraculous work of redemption. Discuss with the group ways God has redeemed his people throughout history. How is his redemptive work fulfilled in Jesus?

8. In v. 31, we see Israel believing God because of his great work. How does their attitude change over time (See Numbers 14)? How do our attitudes toward God change over time? How does reflecting on God's story of redemption challenge ours and Israel's attitude?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 17 | StudySeventeen

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## Finding Freedom in Worship

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### **Exodus 15:1-21**

*Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name."*

*-- Exodus 15:1-3 --*

# 17 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. Think about a time when you couldn't stop praising something or someone (could be anything). What made you respond in a such a way?
2. Why do you think Israel responded to their exodus out of Egypt and passing through the sea with song? What does their response say about their experience and relationship with God?
3. What attributes of God are described in this passage? Discuss their significance with the group.
4. What verse in this song stands out to you? What does it tell you about God and about yourself?
5. How is God's power put on display by this song? How have you seen his power put on display in your life? How do we see his power on display by the cross?

## Responses

## Questions

6. Why is reflecting on God's works beneficial (see 2 Corinthians 10:7 and 2 Peter 1:12-15)? What are some ways you and the group can reflect on what God has done and is doing?

7. In v. 21 the women of Israel sang and danced because God "had triumphed gloriously." What should our response be to God? To the Gospel? How can this bring us joy?

8. What is lacking in you finding joy in God's work (particularly in Jesus)? How can the group pray for you and encourage you to continually find joy in God and what God has done for his people?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests