

EXODUS

THE GOD WHO RESCUES

SESSION OBJECTIVE: EXODUS PT. 1

To reflect on the first eighteen chapters of the Book of Exodus.

Looking Back at Exodus, Pt. 1

Every week, at the end of each study guide, I have included some takeaways in order to summarize the scope of the text at hand. As we wrap up the first part of The Book of Exodus (chapters 1-18), I thought it would be helpful to include all of the takeaways for review. As you read these takeaways, my prayer for you is that you will recall all of the wonderful aspects of this study, and be blessed again by God's goodness to His people.

WEEK 1 (1:1-7)

1. Exodus begins by highlighting the families who went with Jacob into Egypt at the end of Genesis.
2. Because of their continual obedience, they increased, multiplied, and filled the land.

WEEK 2 (1:8-22)

1. The new king in Egypt did not "know" Joseph and was afraid of the growing numbers of the Hebrews.
2. The king first devised to enslave the Hebrew people in order to slow down their multiplying numbers.
3. The king then asked the midwives to kill all of the male-born Hebrew babies.
4. The king finally asked every Egyptian to join in the genocide by throwing all of the male-born Hebrew babies into the Nile.

WEEK 3 (2:1-10)

1. Two Levites have a son who they keep hidden for a time and then send down the river in a basket for fear that he will be killed by the Egyptians.
2. The baby ends up in the hands of Pharaoh's daughter, who has pity on him.
3. The baby's sister suggests to Pharaoh's daughter that he be cared for by a wet nurse, and ends up back in the arms of his own mother for a time.
4. The baby, Moses, eventually becomes the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

WEEK 4 (2:11-22)

1. Moses kills an Egyptian who was being harsh on the Israelite people.
2. The Israelite people reject Moses, and he flees from Pharaoh's wrath into the land of Midian.
3. Moses protects the daughters of the priests of Midian and is invited to live with them.
4. Moses marries Zipporah, one of the daughters of the priest, and they have a son named Gershon.

WEEK 5 (2:23-25)

1. A lot of time passes while Moses is living in Midian.
2. The Pharaoh dies and a new Pharaoh takes over and is equally oppressive to the people of Israel.
3. The people cry out to God in their despair.
4. God hears them, remembers His covenant, and begins to take notice of their situation.

WEEK 6 (3:1-22)

1. God appears to Moses while he is in Midian as the angel of the LORD in a burning bush.
2. God tells Moses His covenant Name, the LORD (Yahweh).
3. God commissions Moses to go and confront Pharaoh and demand that His people be released.
4. God promises to strike against Egypt and to supernaturally provide for His own people.

WEEK 7 (4:1-17)

1. God gives Moses “signs” to demonstrate God’s authority given to him as a prophet.
2. God tells Moses to have Aaron speak on behalf of Moses, while Moses speaks on behalf of God.

WEEK 8 (4:18-23)

1. God directs Moses to return to Egypt and perform the miracles He showed him.
2. Moses asks Jethro for his permission to leave, and Jethro gives him his blessing.
3. Moses is told to perform the signs before Pharaoh, but that God will harden Pharaoh’s heart.
4. God foreshadows the Passover.

WEEK 9 (4:24-31)

1. God attacks Moses when they are at a lodging place over the issue of circumcision.
2. Zipporah circumcises Gershon and performs a Midianite ritual to “atone” for Moses and God accepts it.
3. God tells Aaron to meet Moses as he approaches Egypt, and Moses shares with Aaron all that he has learned from God.
4. Moses and Aaron approach the elders of Israel and eventually all of the people to tell them what was doing, and the people rejoice that God heard their cries and was acting on their behalf.

WEEK 10 (5:1-23)

1. Moses and Aaron confront Pharaoh and ask him to let the Israelites travel three days into the wilderness to worship and sacrifice to God.
2. Pharaoh is angered by this request and adds an impossible workload on top of an already cruel job, and then punishes the Israelites for not getting the job done.
3. The Israelites first blame the taskmasters, and then ultimately blame Moses and Aaron.
4. Pharaoh demonstrates that more than words will be necessary to move him into submission.

WEEK 11 (6:1-13)

1. God tells Moses that He will force Pharaoh to let His people go.
2. God tells Moses that He is the same God of the patriarchs.
3. God reaffirms His covenant with the Israelites and promises to bring them back to the promised land.
4. God sends Moses, despite the people’s lack of faith, back to Pharaoh to make a second demand.

WEEK 12 (6:14-30)

1. This genealogy subtly emphasizes the Levites, specifically Aaron, and the Aaronic priesthood.
2. Some of Aaron’s sons were rebellious, and some were obedient.
3. Some of the Levites eventually became rebellious despite their priestly lineage.
4. Aaron and Moses were set up well to lead Israel out of Egypt.

WEEK 13 (7:1-7)

1. Moses and Aaron would be used by God to bring judgment onto Egypt for Pharaoh’s hardness of heart.
2. Pharaoh’s heart will be further hardened by God, which simply means God will strengthen Pharaoh’s heart to do what he has already set out to do.
3. Moses and Aaron were 80 and 83 years old when God called them to this task.

WEEK 14 (7:8-13)

1. Aaron throws down his staff and it turns into a *tanniyn* creature.
2. The court magicians of Pharaoh are able to match Aaron, but their staffs are consumed by Aaron's staff.
3. Pharaoh still is uninterested in listening to the LORD.

WEEK 15 (7:14-25)

1. The LORD tells Moses and Aaron to hold a staff over the Nile and turn the water to blood, which kills the fish, and infects all of the drinking water in all of Egypt.
2. The court magicians are able to replicate the plague, but not undo it.
3. Pharaoh's heart remains hardened despite the harrowing results of the plague on his kingdom.

WEEK 16 (8:1-15)

1. The second plague includes a swarm of frogs from the Nile that make their way into every area of the kingdom of Egypt.
2. Pharaoh asks Moses and Aaron to plead with the LORD to remove the frogs, and He does.
3. Pharaoh's heart is hardened again after the temporary relief from the plague, just as the LORD said.

WEEK 17 (8:16-19)

1. The third plague involves the dust of the earth in Egypt turning to gnats.
2. The court magicians are unable to replicate this plague and attribute it to the finger of God.
3. Pharaoh's heart remains hardened against the LORD and His people.

WEEK 18 (8:20-32)

1. The fourth plague of flies is so bad that God separates the Hebrews from the Egyptians to protect them.
2. Pharaoh pleads with Moses and Aaron and relents to let them go, and then changes his mind.

WEEK 19 (9:1-7)

1. The fifth plague is a "severe" plague that is explicitly carried out by the LORD Himself.
2. The LORD separates the livestock of the Hebrews before striking the livestock of the Egyptians.
3. Pharaoh's heart remains hardened regardless of the increasing intensity of the plagues.

WEEK 20 (9:8-12)

1. The sixth plague brings boils upon all of the people and livestock in Egypt.
2. Pharaoh does not repent, just as God predicted.

WEEK 21 (9:13-35)

1. The seventh plague of hail destroys everyone who did not take shelter and all of the crops.
2. The people of Israel were preserved.

WEEK 22 (10:1-20)

1. The eighth plague of locusts is a follow-up plague from the seventh plague of hail.
2. Pharaoh again will not listen to Moses and Aaron, even though his servants ask him to reconsider.
3. Egypt is further destroyed by the locusts, leading Pharaoh to beg for forgiveness.
4. Pharaoh's heart is hardened yet again and he still does not let the Israelites go.

WEEK 23 (10:21-29)

1. The ninth plague is a sudden, sustained darkness over all of Egypt that isolates the people living there.
2. Pharaoh relents and allows the young and the old in Israel to leave, but will not allow the livestock to go with them, and the darkness breaks Pharaoh's resolve.
3. Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he orders Moses to leave his presence without letting the people go.

WEEK 24 (11:1-12:13)

1. God gives a final warning to Egypt through Aaron and Moses about the imminent tenth plague.
2. God gives instructions to Israel for the Passover.

WEEK 25 (12:14-28)

1. God gives instructions for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, to be carried out forever in future generations.
2. Moses delivers to the people what God told him concerning the Passover, and they are obedient.

WEEK 26 (12:29-32)

1. The tenth plague results in the death of every firstborn in Egypt.
2. Pharaoh awakens to discover the horror of this plague as all of Egypt cried out.
3. Pharaoh asks Moses and Aaron to take all of their people and possessions and leave immediately.

WEEK 27 (12:33-42)

1. The Israelites and a mixed multitude fled immediately following the tenth plague and Pharaoh's release.
2. The Israelites sojourned in Egypt for a total of 430 years.

WEEK 28 (12:43-51)

1. The Passover was *exclusive* in that it demanded faith and circumcision before participation.
2. The Passover was *inclusive* in that anyone willing to believe and be circumcised could participate.

WEEK 29 (THE GODS OF EGYPT)

1. Each of the ten plagues is an assault on one or more of the Egyptian gods.
2. The final plague is an assault on Pharaoh himself, who was thought to have been a god.

WEEK 30 (13:1-16)

1. The people of God will celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread to remember the haste with which they left Egypt during the Exodus.
2. The people of God were to sacrifice every firstborn of the womb (excluding females) to remember the tenth plague, but were to substitute the firstborn donkeys and humans with lambs.

WEEK 31 (13:17-22)

1. The LORD led His people in an alternate direction to avoid a powerful Philistine army that would have scared them into retreat.
2. The LORD led His people by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to light their path.

WEEK 32 (14:1-4)

1. The LORD led His people to stop and camp facing Egypt.
2. Pharaoh saw the Israelites camping and interpreted it to mean that they were stuck in the wilderness.
3. God hardened Pharaoh's heart to pursue the Israelites.

WEEK 33 (14:5-18)

1. The Egyptians have a change of mind concerning the Israelites, and Pharaoh begins to pursue them.
2. Pharaoh traps them in the wilderness with chariots, and this incites fear in the hearts of the Israelites.
3. God tells Moses to calm the people and then stretch out his staff and divide the Red Sea to make passage for them.
4. God tells Moses He intends to trap the Egyptian army in the divided Red Sea as well.
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WEEK 34 (14:19-31)

1. The LORD creates a barrier between the Israelites and the Egyptians by the pillar of cloud.

2. The LORD separates the Red Sea and provides safe, supernatural passage for the Israelites.
3. The LORD causes panic in the Egyptian armies and then drowns the Egyptian host in the Red Sea.

WEEK 35 (15:1-12)

1. Moses and the Israelites sing a song to the LORD in response to His victory over Egypt.
2. The song describes the manifold ways that God is superior to His enemies.

WEEK 36 (15:13-18)

1. Israel knows God is leading them to a new and better home.
2. Israel knows the people groups they must go past are trembling because of God's salvation for Israel from the Egyptian army.
3. The Lord will reign forever and ever.

WEEK 37 (15:19-21)

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WEEK 38 (15:22-27)

1. Moses leads the Israelites out of the Red Sea and into the wilderness.
2. The Israelites' lack of water results in them grumbling to Moses, who in turn cries out to God.
3. God provides fresh water for the Israelites and lays out the ground rules for obedience.

WEEK 39 (16:1-20)

1. The people of Israel arrive in the wilderness of Sin and grumble because they lack food.
2. God tests them by giving them quail and manna and telling them to only take what they need for that day.
3. Some people disobey and take more than they need only to discover that it has rotted by morning.

WEEK 40 (16:21-36)

1. The Israelites are told to gather an extra portion of manna on the 6th day in order to rest on the 7th day.
2. God tells Moses and Aaron to keep some of the manna in a jar in order to remember the Exodus.

WEEK 41 (17:1-7)

1. The people of God are led by God to Rephidim, where there is no water.
2. After complaining about the lack of water, God gives Moses instructions to strike a rock with his staff in order that water might come out of it and provide for the congregation of Israel.

WEEK 42 (17:8-16)

1. The Amalekites sneak up on Israel and attack them from the rear.
2. Moses commands Joshua to take men and fight the Amalekites while he raises his staff.
3. Aaron and Hur help Moses keep his staff raised when his arms get tired.
4. Joshua defeats Amalek; God promises to blot the Amalekites out of memory as a result of their treachery.

WEEK 43 (18:1-12)

1. Jethro meets Moses at Sinai with Moses' wife Zipporah and their children after hearing of Egypt's defeat.
2. Jethro rejoices at the news of the LORD's work, and makes a burnt offering and sacrifice to God.
3. Jethro, Moses, Zipporah, Aaron, and the elders of Israel share a meal together.

WEEK 44 (18:13-27)

4. Jethro warns Moses that he will suffer burnout if he keeps doing everything he's doing.
5. Jethro advises a plan of delegation to relieve Moses from having to deal with smaller issues.