

# **GOD'S CALL OUR DELIVERANCE**

## **PART I**

JACKIE OESCH

### **EXODUS 1-12**

**LESSON 1: EGYPT'S NEW KING - *HE WAS A FINE CHILD***

**LESSON 2: I AM WHO I AM - *GOD CALLED TO HIM***

**LESSON 3: I WILL BRING YOU OUT - *I AM THE LORD***

**LESSON 4: HE HARDENED HIS HEART - *STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND***

**LESSON 5: PLAGUES RAVAGED THE LAND - *LET MY PEOPLE GO***

**LESSON 6: REMEMBER THIS DAY - *IT IS THE LORD'S PASSOVER***

**“...I have stored up Your Word in my heart...”**

**Psalm 119:11**

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## GETTING STARTED

You are embarking on an adventure that will shape the rest of your life. Your journey will be unique to you and will be determined in part by your eager and enthusiastic desire to grow in your understanding of the book called The Holy Bible. Your commitment to the study promises to enrich your life as God speaks to you through His Word.

As you study you are encouraged to have some recommended supplies on hand:

1. This Bible Study unit: *God's Call, Our Deliverance-I*
2. English Standard Version of the Holy Bible (ESV). Note: If you are making a new purchase, look for a Bible, if possible, that has:
  - a. a cross-reference column preferably down the center of each page,
  - b. a Concordance usually found in the back of the Bible, and
  - c. a few basic maps also usually found in the back.
3. Pen or pencil
4. 3x5 or 4x6 index cards

With the three features listed in #2 you will be adequately supplied for your study and be ready to successfully navigate through these lessons. If, however, this is your first exposure to the Bible, you may want to consider beginning with the study entitled *Navigating the Bible*. This study provides navigational tools designed to help you develop skills and make you a more confident Bible student. *Navigating the Bible* may be downloaded at no cost or obligation from the CrossConnect Ministries website ([www.crosscm.org](http://www.crosscm.org)). Although this study is recommended, it is not essential for success in studying *God's Call, Our Deliverance-I*.

Do not hesitate to mark up your Bible. It's your Bible to study. Make it your own with your notes, your underlining, highlighting, circling and arrows! You may choose to use a notebook or tablet for recording thoughts, questions, and tracking your journey through the study.

The study material is written so that you are able to learn on your own. With a degree of self-discipline you will cover the material with little or no difficulty. At the same time, you will acquire new information, share new insights, and ask some challenging questions that will beg for answers. Anticipating this response you are encouraged to seriously consider inviting a couple of friends to study with you.

May you find joy in your study. May your heart be receptive as God speaks to you through His Word. May these Bible stories reassure you of His great love given to you through His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*Editor's note: For clarification, capitalized pronouns reference God. i.e. "...what He said."*



# LESSON ONE

# HE WAS A FINE CHILD

## EXODUS 1-2 – EGYPT’S NEW KING

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## **INTRODUCTION**

God's people were content living in the land of Egypt. They were fruitful and multiplied. Their strength and numbers posed a severe threat to the new king who did not know Joseph. Watch how God used this ruler to create discontentment within these foreigners who lived so comfortably in the land of the Pharaohs.

Not only did God need to arouse the people into becoming despondent and hopeless about their condition, He also needed to raise up and prepared a new leader for the day of their release and deliverance from Egypt. Identify the different circumstances and people God used to accomplish His righteous purposes. He had made a promise to Abraham and this was the time for it to be fulfilled.

We are simply told that a mother noticed her son was "a fine child." Learn what it meant for this son to have parents who realized by faith that their baby was extraordinary. This is a challenge for all of us. When we look by faith on others do we see them as extraordinary people in our lives?

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** Time has passed. The twelve sons of Jacob and their families were living peacefully in Egypt. When Joseph who brought them to Egypt was about to die, he gave his brothers his final request. They were to take his bones with them when they left the land of Egypt, when God took them to the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 50:24-25).

Let's review for a moment. We need to remember what land God had promised to Israel. It was not the land of Egypt where they were living comfortably and where everything was good. God had provided Egypt only as a place of refuge for this family during the difficult years of the famine. The Promised Land was the land of Canaan (Genesis 17:8). However, they found Egypt ideal for their families and their livestock. Undoubtedly, with no discontentment they found no reason to leave and go back to where they had come from. But now, it is time for them to move out. How would God move these contented people out of Egypt and back to the land of promise?

Exodus begins by making it clear. This was a new day. The entire generation who had come from Canaan to live in Egypt because of the famine had died. As God had promised, He made the descendants of Abraham into a great nation. And now a new king had come into power, one who did not know Joseph. This is where the story begins.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 1:1-14.

**EXERCISE:**

1. What do we know about this new king (verse 8)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was his concern in verse 9? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why would Israel's population concern him (verse 10)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The Egyptians would deal "shrewdly" with the Israelites (verse 10). What did this new Pharaoh decide to do (verse 11)?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Pharaoh thought if they oppressed the people with hard labor that the population wouldn't multiply as rapidly. Things did not work as planned. Instead, what does verse 12 tell us?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. As a result, the Egyptians dreaded the Israelites. Egypt's shrewd and oppressive behavior became ruthless treatment. Notice the word ruthless is used twice in verses 13 and 14. Now what did Pharaoh have them do (verse 14)?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT:** Reread Exodus 1:15-22.

1. The bitter lives of hard labor and ruthless treatment was not all that Pharaoh decided to inflict on the Israelites. Look in verses 15-22. What does he do next?
  - a. Name the Hebrew midwives. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What did he tell them (verse 16)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What are we told about these midwives (verse 17)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Pharaoh had them brought to him and questioned their disobedient actions. What was their response (verse 19)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Because they feared God more than Pharaoh, how did God treat them (verses 20-21)? What did God cause to happen?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
3. But Pharaoh refused to let it rest. What is his ultimate edict to all of his people (verse 22)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2**

**REFLECTION:** These few verses in Exodus 1 set the stage for the drama that would change history for both the Egyptians and the Israelites. Shiphrah and Puah said, "No!" They stood up to the Pharaoh. Their fear of God caused them to act disobediently toward the king. That's not an easy thing to do. Take time to consider what it would be like if it was your neck that was on the line. These women were spiritual giants! They were about the business of delivering babies, not killing them. They were not about to betray these Hebrew parents and participate with the king in ruthless acts of violence.



**APPLICATION:** We can question whether or not it was right for Shiphrah and Puah to act deceitfully toward the king. They deceived him into believing that they could not get to the delivery on time.

1. When is not telling the truth permitted? Is there ever such a time? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. For Shiphrah and Puah the decision was to obey God rather than man. Have you ever found yourself in a situation in which you had to go against an order because you believed it would violate the relationship you had with God and His righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Who was involved? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What was the result of your intentional act of disobedience to that order? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Was there, or could there have been, a creative solution that would not have violated your obedience to God nor have been an intentional act of disobedience to that order?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Some people have suffered severe consequences because of their intentional actions. Some have lost jobs, positions, and prestige. Reputations have been slandered. And these seem small when one considers that people throughout the world suffer because they choose to “obey God rather than men.” Some suffer cruelty and some even lose their lives because they have declared allegiance to Jesus Christ.
  - a. How serious am I about the challenge to “obey God rather than man?” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. When do I find it most difficult to tell the truth, act responsibly, keep a clear conscience, and act with integrity? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Have I disappointed myself by fearing others and consequences more than I have feared God? Have I let others down? What do I do with these feelings of regret and remorse?  
\_\_\_\_\_

We dare never believe that we are left with no hope, even in those times when we have given in to our fears. The Lord is faithful. His love picks us up and gives us hope. He forgives us and strengthens us to stand firm again in other difficult circumstances.

**MEMORIZATION:** Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-14 offer the reassurance that the strength of the Lord becomes ours as His mighty power is made ours in Jesus. “Be strong!” “Stand firm!” Write these verses on an index card and enjoy putting them to memory arming yourself for your next opportunity to act with intention, determined and willing to obey God rather than man.

**PRAYER:** O Lord, I read about Shiphrah and Puah and realize that as Your power was at work in them this same power is at work in me. Enable me to rely on You for strength to say and do the right thing. These individuals believed in You. They lived in awe of Your love and responded with obedience to You. I, too, believe in You and want to live a life that reflects my trust in You. \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Part 3**

**INTRODUCTION:** Change needed to happen. If the Israelites were going to take possession of the land that God had promised to Abraham, then the people needed to move out of Egypt. But, everything was going so well. And, things continued to go well until the Israelites multiplied to become a great nation living in the land of Egypt and the new Pharaoh who did not know about Joseph had come into power and was threatened by the Israelites.

In order for movement to happen the people needed to become discontented with the conditions in which they lived. At this particular time the new king decided to act shrewdly with the Israelites by putting slave masters over them and oppressing them with hard labor. The Egyptians dreaded the Israelites and treated them ruthlessly even to the point of having the Hebrew baby boys thrown into the Nile. This order undoubtedly, sent out a cry that could be heard throughout the land.

Exodus 2 introduces the main character of this historical drama. All of the characters played a part in the unrest that needed to take place as God prepared to move His people back to the land flowing with milk and honey, the land of Canaan.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 2. As you read this chapter record the names of these individuals in your notebook.

**EXERCISE:** Who are these characters? We begin in verse 1 by looking at one particular Israelite family descended from the tribe of Levi. As you may recall Levi was the third son of Jacob and Leah (Genesis 30:34).

1. In Exodus 2:1 we are told that a man is married to a woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son. Nothing unusual here. Use Numbers 26:59 as the cross-reference:
  - a. What was the father's name? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What was the mother's name? \_\_\_\_\_

2. One can't help but wonder if all during her pregnancy this mother was hoping beyond all hope that the child within her would be a girl. But, she gave birth to a son. Rather than share disappointment and fear that the child was a boy, what does the mother see when she looks at her son in verse 2? \_\_\_\_\_
3. For several months Jochebed was able to keep the baby hidden. She wasn't about to give him up to the Nile. What did she do when she couldn't hide him any longer? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you remember another incident when pitch was used? Check out the cross-reference of Genesis 6:14. What similarity do you see in the purpose of these two water transports? \_\_\_\_\_
5. In Exodus 2:4 we are told that his sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. According to Numbers 26:59 what was his sister's name? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In verse 5 we are told that the Pharaoh's daughter and her attendants went down to the Nile to bathe. She saw the basket. What happened next? \_\_\_\_\_
7. After discovering the Hebrew baby, the baby's sister Miriam approached Pharaoh's daughter. What did Miriam offer the woman in verse 7? \_\_\_\_\_

**REFLECTION:**

1. So Miriam went and found Jochebed and the mother received back her child from Pharaoh's daughter. Think about this for a moment...
  - a. What would it have been like to receive back your baby without the fear of him being thrown into the Nile? Although the baby was your offspring he now belonged to and was protected by Pharaoh's daughter. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. We do not know for certain but it is estimated that the child was with Jochebed until he was between four and six years old. Consider the influence this mother had on her son as she nurtured him, preparing him in his young life for the lifestyle of Pharaoh's household. Write down some things you would want to teach your child as an Israelite mother:
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In verse 2 we know that Jochebed looked upon her baby and saw him to be a "fine child." What do you think she noticed about him? Would she notice anything different than what any other

mother would notice as they looked at their baby boy? See also Hebrews 11:23. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. If you are a parent, have you taken time to look at your child with awe and wonder recognizing him or her to be a fine child? Or, maybe your eyes have been clouded and you struggle to recognize him or her to be a fine child. What have you noticed? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. And what about yourself? Have you looked at yourself and considered through the eyes of the Creator that you are a fine child? Can you hear Him say to you as He holds your face in His hands and looks into your eyes, “My, I did a fine job when I created you!”? Can you sense His delight, His satisfaction, His approval at who you are as He created you to be? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Zephaniah 3:17 reminds us that He takes great delight in you and will
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ over you with \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. He will \_\_\_\_\_ you by His \_\_\_\_\_, and
  - c. He will \_\_\_\_\_ over you with loud \_\_\_\_\_!Just imagine!

**PRAYER:** Father, as I look around me today and encounter the different people in my life—teachers, church leaders, employers, fellow employees, government officials, community servants—enable me to look at them and see them as “a fine child.” When I look at myself in the mirror and begin to degrade myself and see only my flaws, remind me that You take great delight in me and see that I am “a fine child.” You have made me a fine child. You have made me Yours. With joy and thanksgiving I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **Part 4**

**EXERCISE:** Jochebed’s plan worked. Her son was safe and back home in her own arms until he grew older. Then the time came when she took the baby to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son.

1. In verse 10 we are first told that the child is given his name. Pharaoh’s daughter now claims this child. She names him. His name is \_\_\_\_\_. What does his name mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Moses was a Hebrew raised in an Egyptian home and not just any old home at that. He was raised in the courts of Pharaoh himself. We can surmise that he was raised with full knowledge

that he was a Hebrew. As a young man we learn that he was very aware of the hard labor the Hebrew people were enduring. What happened one day when he was watching his people (verses 11-14)? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What were the consequences of his action? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Afraid that Pharaoh would kill him for slaying an Egyptian in defense of a Hebrew, what did Moses do (verse 15)? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Verse 15 says it so simply: "...But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well." Yet, we dare not flippantly consider these three actions.

a. "Moses fled from Pharaoh..." Who was Moses to Pharaoh? Had he grown up with this man treating him as a grandson? Consider what it must have been like to grow up in a home with a grandfather who was the most powerful man in all the land of Egypt. What would it be like to know that this same individual was now trying to kill him? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. "...and stayed in the land of Midian..." Using a map that depicts the land at the time of the exodus and the conquest of Canaan, locate Midian. Locate the Nile Delta of Egypt, the land of Goshen, and Rameses. This will give you the general area where Moses began his journey to Midian. Then move south across the Nile to the western finger of the Red Sea. Continue to move south into the Sinai Peninsula. Travel east and cross the eastern finger of the Red Sea. The land to the east is Midian. There was no easy route to get to Midian. The distance was great. Mt. Sinai made the journey longer and the endless desert gave little, if any, protection. Is this how far he needed to travel in order to feel safe from Pharaoh's wrath? We are not told why he chose Midian. Why would you think he chose it? \_\_\_\_\_

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c. "And he sat down by a well." We can imagine this well to be in an oasis. It was the place shepherds came to water their flocks. Because the well provided the water for the area it was also a most likely place for the community to gather and exchange information. The story picks up at the well where Moses is being refreshed from his long and arduous journey.

6. What happened while Moses was by the well (Exodus 2:16-17)?

a. Who came to draw water? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Who was their father? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Why were they drawing water? \_\_\_\_\_

- d. What happened in verse 17? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. What did Moses do? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The sisters returned home earlier than usual. This raised questions for their father Reuel. They told him all that had happened—that Moses had rescued them and then proceeded to water the sheep. We can imagine that there weren't that many visitors who came to the well so Moses' visit was a welcomed blessing. Notice all the questions. We can be quite sure that with seven daughters this father was eager to meet this young man. Moses agreed to accept Reuel's hospitality. What more do we learn in verses 21-22?
- a. What was his wife's name? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What was his son's name and what was its meaning? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. So, Moses lived in Midian as a shepherd for \_\_\_\_\_ years (Acts 7:30)
8. Meanwhile, back in Egypt... What do we learn in Exodus 2:23?
- a. What happened to this Pharaoh? Moses' grandfather? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What was happening with the Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD (Exodus 2:24-25):**

- And God \_\_\_\_\_ their groaning,
  - And God \_\_\_\_\_ His covenant.
  - God \_\_\_\_\_ the people of Israel
  - And God \_\_\_\_\_.
1. In the light of these four acts of God, describe God as you consider and know Him to be. Do you believe that God does hear your groaning, your sorrow and your agony? Do you believe that He remembers His promises that He has made to you? Do you know that He looks on you and sees your present circumstances, sees you as you come and go, and is intimately acquainted with all of your patterns and habits? Do you live knowing that He is concerned about you, that He cares about your feelings of guilt, abandonment, and broken relationships? What are some of your prayerful thoughts? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
2. What difference does it make in your life to know and believe that God, your Creator, hears your groaning, remembers His covenant promise, looks on you as His child, and is concerned about you: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** In your own words, talk to God your Father as your father who does hear, does remember, and is concerned about all of your ways. \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Part 5**

**INTRODUCTION:** One has a sense that everything is getting in place. The characters have been identified. The Israelites are dissatisfied. They are moaning and groaning with great discontent about their circumstances and are ready for something different. They have cried out to the Lord for deliverance. He has heard their groaning their cries of agony. And, the Lord has remembered His covenant; He has looked on His chosen people with concern; He has been moved with compassion. It is time for action!

**REFLECTION:** We may wonder why didn't God just step in and use His power to immediately release the Israelites from their bondage. Why not an instant rescue?

1. If He heard their cry and saw their condition why didn't He choose to just wave a magic wand or say the magic word and make everything better? Would it make sense for Him to do that? Consider a parent and child relationship, for example. Is rescuing a child from an uncomfortable or difficult situation necessarily the best thing to do? What lesson(s) may the child fail to learn because of such action? What are some of those things we are taught in difficult times? What might be examples of ways in which character is developed? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The Israelites cried out and the Lord heard their cries. What did God tell Abraham would happen to his descendants in Genesis 15:13? How long would they live in slavery? \_\_\_\_\_ Remember that several generations have passed since the time of Jacob and his twelve sons. The intimate relationship with God was not present in the same way as it had been with their forefathers. The relationship between God and His people needed to be developed. They needed to know Him, who He was, and what He expected of them. He had pledged to be their God and made them His people but they needed to learn what this relationship meant. They needed to learn of His faithfulness to them. They needed to also learn obedience. What might be some other things that needed to happen? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What were some of the things God needed to have ready before the Israelites would be able to return to the land of Canaan and take possession of the land? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What would it take for them to become a cohesive community, a threat to the inhabitants of the land? What would it take for them to be strong for the journey and all that was before them as they moved into Canaan? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** I often want the easy way out. I try to dodge discipline and discomfort. As a result of my impatience with difficult times I miss out on all that You are doing within me. I want You to build Your character within me. Enable me to understand and accept that character building does not happen as much when things are easy as when I am forced to turn to You and become focused on Your faithful presence in my life. Above all, Lord God, teach me to understand that my relationship with You is most important of all. May I endure whatever happens trusting that You will use it for my good and the well-being of others. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## LESSON TWO

# GOD CALLED TO HIM

### EXODUS 3-4 – I AM WHO I AM

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Lesson 1 ended with the words, “God heard...remembered...saw...and God knew. He heard their groaning. He remembered His covenant, the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He saw and understood the sufferings of His people. All these years God appeared so distant and far removed from His people, but He knew and was concerned. Now, at the right time, He was ready to act!

Where does God find Moses? What means does God use to encounter him? Have you ever thought that life’s decisions would be easier if you just heard God speak to you? Learn Moses’ response to God’s plan and what He had chosen for him to do. Discover new insights into God’s character. Learn the significance of life from God’s perspective. Wrestle with God’s concern for the big picture, the life of the community.

God was determined to keep His covenant. Moses was God’s man for the assignment. Moses was His chosen leader. Think carefully about what qualified Moses for the position? What would make the impossible possible?

The essence of the story does not rest in God’s leader but on Whom His leader would follow. Leaders follow. Moses was called to follow. Enter the story and watch Moses as He serves by following the great I AM.

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** Many people have heard the story of Moses and the burning bush. Take time to read this story in its entirety. Locate the Sinai Peninsula, Mt. Sinai, and Midian. As your study continues remember to track your questions and observations in your notebook.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 3-4:17.

**EXERCISE:** We are told that Moses worked as a shepherd for his father-in-law. On this particular day he had the sheep grazing near Mt. Horeb, also called Mt. Sinai, a fair distance from his home.

1. What does Moses notice in verses 2 and 3? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. It is not unusual for a bush to burn in the desert under the conditions of extreme heat. The creosote plant is known to do this. What is unusual about this occurrence (verse 2)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who appeared to Moses from within the bush? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was this “angel of the Lord?” When Hagar fled from Sarai and was found near a spring in the desert, the angel of the Lord ministered to her (Genesis 16:7-10). We learn more about this angel of the Lord in the next few verses in Exodus 3.
4. Out of curiosity as to why the bush did not burn up Moses approached to “see this strange sight.” As Moses came closer to examine the bush (verse 4) Who called to Him from within the bush? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did God call out from the bush? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was Moses’ response? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was God’s command to him in verse 5? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. In verse 6 whom did God declare Himself to be? How did He make Himself known to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Obviously, Moses knew who He was. What was his immediate reaction? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How would Moses have known God since he was raised, trained, educated in an Egyptian environment? Do you think Pharaoh’s daughter reminded him of his ethnic heritage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. The Lord shares with Moses three major points of His plan:

- a. Verse 7: What has He seen and heard? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ What is He concerned about? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Verse 8: What has He decided to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 His rescue plan is to bring them *out of* \_\_\_\_\_  
 and bring them *to* \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Then in verses 9-10 God says that He has heard the cries and seen the oppression. Who is to bring them out of Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_

**REFLECTION:**

1. One can't help but wonder if it even entered into Moses' mind that God was going to end up saying, "And, Moses, you're My man!" He didn't hear God say, "I'm coming down from out of the clouds, conquering the Egyptians and setting My people free so they can go to the Promised Land." Maybe Moses thought He might say that, or even should say it, but it certainly wasn't what He actually said He was going to do! Can you envision Moses nodding in agreement with everything God had said until He got to the last part? Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Once again, we can't help but wonder why God didn't just take care of everything Himself. He could have done everything so simply. If He was the Creator of the heavens and earth like we know He is then why would He choose to use what He had created to deliver Israel from the Egyptian slavery? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2**

**ADDITIONAL REFLECTION:**

3. Before we move on in the story, we must reflect on what we learn. God said, "Go, I am sending you..." Moses said, "Who am I that I should go..." And God said in verse 12, "I will be with you." What did we expect Moses to say? "Sure, I'll get right on it. Just give me a chance to get these sheep back to Midian." From God's perspective what is the only thing that Moses needed to know about his assignment? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How quickly doubts and questions arose in his mind! "Who am I that I should go?" "Suppose I go and the Israelites wonder by whose authority have I been sent?" "I don't know. I think You've got the wrong man. I left there 40 years ago. There's a new Pharaoh. The people do not know me." "Why of all people would You choose me?" "Do I have to go?"

- a. Can you identify with this situation? When has there been a time in your life when the assignment seemed overwhelming and far beyond anything you felt you could handle?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What were the questions you asked? Were they questions that begged for reassurance? Or, were they questions expressing doubt as to whether or not you were the right person for the job? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What might be some similar assignments God gives today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TEACHING:** Every Christian has a calling from God. In baptism God claims the individual to be His child. His children have the responsibility to represent Him in all matters of life. His call to an individual can be as unpretentious as faithfully caring for an elderly parent. In this light, think about the challenges to obedience in these rather ordinary situations.

**REFLECTION CONTINUES:**

6. How have you been challenged by His call to you to go? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Maybe it was the call to visit someone in the hospital or someone lonely... Maybe it was the call to phone someone that has come to mind and share a reassuring word... Maybe it was the call to serve your family at home...or the call to accept a position of leadership at work... Maybe it was the call to minister to the homeless in your town or to feed the hungry... Maybe it was the call to provide shelter for the poor... Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What has been your response? Have you asked, “Why me?” or “Who am I?” or “Who can I say sent me?” How have you answered these questions? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What might be another way to respond to the call of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE:** So God begins to answer Moses’ questions but never does God change His mind. Moses is to go!

- 1. What was Moses to tell the Israelites? Who sent him? What is His name? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. What else was He to say in verse 15? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. God's first direction to Moses is to have an elders meeting! What is he instructed to tell them (verse 16)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Notice the next thing God does (verses 16-17). He tells His people that He is well aware of what's been going on, how they have been treated, and that he promises to bring them up out of their misery. What thoughts does that stimulate for you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The Lord then spends the next several verses (Exodus 3:18-22) Telling Moses the rest of the story. What are some of the things God told Moses he could expect?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3**

**WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD:** Before we move on to Exodus 4 let's take time to consider what chapter 3 reveals to us about God. Some people believe that God is far removed from creation. They believe that if He really cared about all that He made and the people that He created then He would take better care of everything. In the study unit entitled *God's Plan, Our Choice* we became aware of how devastating sin is and the damage it has done in the world. Search through chapter 3 and note all of the care, compassion, and intimacy the Lord has for His people.

Reference	The Intimacy God Shares with His People
Exodus 3:4	God comes down to mankind. He calls Moses by name.
Exodus 3:6	God introduces Himself to Moses
Exodus 3:7	
Exodus 3:8	
Exodus 3:9	

Exodus 3:10	
Exodus 3:12	
Exodus 3:14-15	

1. God is intimately connected to His creation and to those who know Him as their God and Father. In John 15:14-15 Jesus speaks about friends. He calls His disciples His friends because He says, “I have called you friends, for \_\_\_\_\_.”
  
2. Back in Exodus 3:16-22 do you see the relationship that God is establishing with Moses? He is making known to Moses what is going to happen. He is revealing things to Him that others did not know. He is calling Moses His friend because God is telling Moses about God’s own business.
  
3. Does God seem so remote, uncaring and apathetic towards His world, His people, His creation? What do you know about this relationship He wants with you? He cares about you He wants you to know Him as your friend who wants to tell you His business. How’s the friendship going? Have you been made His friend by faith, knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** O Lord God, I am seeing You as an intimate, caring God and Father. You have not abandoned what You have made but You look upon it with love and compassion. You have a special place in Your heart for all of humankind—black and white, rich and poor, young and old. To Moses You reveal Yourself by coming down and appearing in a burning bush. You made all around You holy and yet You called Moses by name and introduced Yourself to him by name also. Friends do that. Friends also tell each other their plans. They share their fears, concerns and anxieties. You and Moses began a lasting relationship in the desert. Lord, I desire to have a right relationship with You also. I desire to be Your friend and to know that I can call You my friend. As I come to know Jesus may our relationship grow ever stronger for in Him I am bound to You forever as friends. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part 4

**ASSIGNMENT:** Reread Exodus 4. The discussion between Moses and the Lord continues.

**EXERCISE:** Moses continues to have some questions. God gives Moses two signs to use that will cause the people to believe that He has been sent by God.

1. What is the first sign in Exodus 4:1-5? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the second sign in verses 6-8? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Then God gave him a third sign, just in case they didn't believe the other two. What did He tell Moses to do (verse 9)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. You would think that Moses would get it but he's still caught up in himself and in his own fears and weaknesses. Does God care what Moses cannot do? What is His greater interest? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is Moses' next excuse in Exodus 4:10? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How does God respond in verse 11? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Up to this point wouldn't you agree that God has been very patient and understanding with Moses? God knows and understands man's condition as a sinner. Despite the fact that God knows man's condition, God will not let His choice of Israel's deliverer refuse Him. Yet, what is the very thing that Moses says in Exodus 4:13? \_\_\_\_\_
8. He just does not want to do it. This time God's anger is burning against Moses. God is not defeated by Moses' attempt to get out of the assignment. He already has certain pieces falling into place. What are they (verse 14)?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
9. And, in verse 15 the Lord says, "You shall..."
  - Yes, Moses, you shall \_\_\_\_\_ to him and put \_\_\_\_\_ in his mouth.
10. And, He says, "I will..."
  - Yes, Moses, I will be with your \_\_\_\_\_ and with his mouth and will \_\_\_\_\_ you both what to do.
11. And, He says, "Aaron will..."
  - a. Yes, Moses, Aaron will speak for you to the people, and he shall your \_\_\_\_\_ and you shall be as \_\_\_\_\_ to him.



b. **CASE CLOSED!**

12. Then the Lord gives Moses one final instruction before leaving this hold ground. What is it in Exodus 4:17?

a. What was he instructed to take with him? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What purpose was the staff to serve for Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

In our study we will see times when Moses uses the staff. For those who were God's people it was the staff of grace and mercy. For those who were not the people of God it was the staff of judgment.

**REFLECTION:** If you were the reporter from the *Alexandria Times* out to find an interesting story, what do you think your interview with Moses would include? What picture would you include with the article in Saturday's Special Interest section? What would the headlines read? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Part 5**

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 4:18-23 and 4:27-31.

**INTRODUCTION:** Moses returns to his father-in-law's home in Midian from the region around Mt. Horeb where he had been tending sheep. He left his wife Zipporah and his sons as a shepherd and returns home having received from the God of his fathers the call to "bring the Israelites out of Egypt." What must his thoughts have been on the journey back home? What was he going to tell his father-in-law Jethro (Reuel)? How was he going to explain to Zipporah that she and their two sons would be leaving everything that was familiar to them and would be traveling with him to Egypt with all the unknowns before them and all the questions that had no answers?

His thoughts also must have been about his life back as a child growing up in the house of Pharaoh. He was a man now. Eighty years old. He had lived in Midian for forty years and had learned the lay of the land in the Sinai Peninsula where he grazed the sheep. God had given him a broad scope of experiences and opportunities. He was trained and educated by the best in Egypt. He understood his heritage as a Hebrew and had seen his people oppressed and ruthlessly treated as slaves. He had lived in the land that he would be leading God's people through on the way to the Promised Land. As a shepherd he understood sheep. He knew where to find green pastures and cool water. All he had experienced in his lifetime prepared him for this call of God to go to Pharaoh and "bring the Israelites out of Egypt."

**EXERCISE:**

1. Who does Moses go to when he returns to Midian (verse 18)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does he ask? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In verse 19 what information does God give to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. So Moses and his family started back to Egypt. As God had instructed, Moses took with him the \_\_\_\_\_ in his hand (verse 20).
5. Somewhere along the way God gives instruction to Moses. He wants Moses informed of what Pharaoh is going to do and how God wants Moses to respond. Read verses 21-23.
  - a. What is Moses to do when he returns to Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. But what will happen to Pharaoh's heart? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Then what does God tell Moses to say to Pharaoh? "Israel is my \_\_\_\_\_ son, and I say to you, 'Let my son go that he may \_\_\_\_\_ me.'"
  - d. But Pharaoh will refuse to let Israel (God's firstborn son) go; so what is God going to do? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Aaron is the older brother of Moses. What has God instructed Aaron to do (Exodus 4:27)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. He traveled to the mountain of God (Mt. Sinai, Mt. Horeb) and there he met Moses. What a reunion? How long it must have been since they had seen each other? Possibly 40 years?
  - b. What all did Moses share with Aaron (verse 28)?
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
7. Together Moses and Aaron speak to the elders of the Israelites.
  - a. Who was the spokesman? \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 30)
  - b. What signs did he perform? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What was the response of the people (verse 31)?
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** O Lord, sometimes I feel as though the whole responsibility for an assignment is mine and I am overwhelmed. You provided Aaron for Moses to support and encourage him. You do the same for me. Thank you for providing family and friends and maybe even people within my church

who offer to me their support and encouragement, especially at times when life seems so difficult. You come to me through them. Your presence is made evident through their words of assurance and their deeds of kindness. Enable me to offer support and encouragement to others in times of difficulty and times of celebration. For we know that where two or three are gathered You are present!

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## LESSON THREE

# I AM THE LORD

### EXODUS 5-7 – I WILL BRING YOU OUT

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## INTRODUCTION

One would like to think that life will be easy, especially when called by God to accomplish His purposes. To Moses He said, “Go, I am sending you...to bring out my people...” After all, you are obeying the will of the Lord. Then, He reassures Moses with the words, “I will be with you.” But Moses discovered that the call of God is not synonymous with easy. Were the Egyptians ready to release their work force? Were the Israelites celebrating that God had sent Moses to deliver them? Was Moses really their deliverer?

Rather than everything happening the way one would expect, God chooses not to appear as one who works magic. Rather He gets the attention of everyone—Pharaoh and his magicians, the Israelites and their elders, and even Moses and Aaron—by declaring, “I am the Lord.” Watch what happens as He makes Moses “like God to Pharaoh...” Because God had brought Moses back to Egypt from Midian as their deliverer, life for the Israelites first became more difficult than ever.

But God would not yield. He was Israel’s Champion and ready for the encounter with His enemy. Pharaoh was not about to yield either. God had equipped Moses with his staff which God chose to use. Discover how it was used as a means for bringing both justice and mercy to Pharaoh and the people of Israel respectively.

God acted to let everyone know that He is the Lord. We, too, need to remember this. And, as He used Moses to deliver Israel, God brings people into our lives to release us from whatever enslaves us, all for the purpose that we might know Him, the one true God, and experience His freedom in Jesus Christ, His great Deliverer.

**Part 1**

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 5.

**TEACHING:** The time had come. Moses and Aaron were face-to-face with Pharaoh. They did not tell him what they wanted, but rather told him what the God of Israel commanded. But Pharaoh wasn't the least bit interested. He scoffed, "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." To Pharaoh these men were just a bother, a nuisance who kept the Israelites from doing their work.

The battle lines were drawn. This was warfare. God was out to rescue His people from the oppression of Egypt's ruthless rulers. At first glance it may appear as though Moses and Pharaoh were opponents.

1. In reality, who were the opposing forces? See Genesis 3:14-15. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
2. Has anything changed since the Garden of Eden? \_\_\_\_\_

The battle rages on for the souls of humankind.

Pharaoh's blatant disregard for the Lord is obvious. He does not know Him and certainly has no need to obey Him. Because he had no regard for the Lord, he certainly had no regard for these messengers of the Lord standing before him namely Moses and Aaron.

Again, Pharaoh was told that he was to let the Israelites go.

1. What was to be the purpose for their journey into the desert? \_\_\_\_\_
2. And, if they did not go, what did they tell Pharaoh may happen to the Israelites (verse 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE:** The first encounter didn't seem to go very well. In verses 4 and 5 Pharaoh wouldn't budge and Moses and Aaron's argument for why Pharaoh should let the people of Israel go into the desert to worship was not very convincing. Who appears to have the upper hand now? What did the king of Egypt do next?

1. What was Pharaoh's order to the slave drivers and foremen (verses 6-7)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The slave drivers appointed the foremen from the children of Israel. See verse 14.

2. How did Pharaoh's order affect the work force (verse 8)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Pharaoh regard the Israelites? What did he say was their reason for wanting to leave and make sacrifices to their God? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was his method for controlling the work force? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Think of individuals within this last century who had similar ideas on the treatment of people. Give examples of oppression happening in our present world. Who are the individuals? What are the situations? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In verse 10 what did the slave drivers and foremen tell the people? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
 

No straw. More work. That certainly didn't sit well with the Israelite work force. The slave drivers kept pressuring them for the quota and when the quota wasn't met what happened (verse 14)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. So, naturally, the foremen went and appealed to Pharaoh. What did they ask in verse 15? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What was the expectation? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What was Pharaoh's response (verses 17-18)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Had he altered his thinking in any way? \_\_\_\_\_  
Without straw he continued to demand the full quota.
11. We use different phrases at times like this. We might say something like "the fire just got hotter." Or, "who turned up the heat?" Or, "if you can't stand the heat, then get out of the kitchen." Or, "things sometimes get harder before they can get easier." We use all manner of verbiage but we dare not make light of the suffering and oppression that has intensified. The foremen are feeling hopeless about the situation. What did verse 19 say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Wouldn't you know? The Israelite foremen just completed their session with Pharaoh and who was waiting for them (verse 20)? And what a greeting! What did they say to Aaron and Moses (verse 21)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. The situation did not look good. What action did Moses take (verse 22)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Now Moses stands before the Lord pleading on behalf of the people. What is his prayer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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## **Part 2**

**INTRODUCTION:** Things are off to a rough start. They have concluded their meeting with Pharaoh who completely ignored them, denied any knowledge of the God of the Hebrews, called his work force lazy, and demanded the same quota of bricks without providing any straw.

The Israelite foremen are beaten by the Egyptian slave drivers because the people cannot accomplish the demands of Pharaoh's orders and the appeal of the Israelite foremen to Pharaoh falls on deaf ears. The demands on the laborers remain the same.

And now, the foremen have taken out their anger on Moses and Aaron by calling down the judgment of God on them because the Israelites have become a stench to Pharaoh and his officials who were ready to kill them.

**REFLECTION:** So, what would you do? Put yourself in the place of Moses. You were minding your own business in Midian, tending the sheep of your father-in-law. You saw a bush burning that wasn't consumed so you went and checked it out. You heard the voice of God from the bush and end up leaving the place with the call of God to go to Egypt and bringing His people out of the land. You went home, told your wife, and made preparations to leave. Then you and your family began the long trek to Egypt. Once you arrived in Egypt you and your brother met with the elders who are very agreeable with all that you shared with them. Then you went to speak with Pharaoh and now it seems as though it's been all downhill from there. And, on top of everything else, the people have lost faith in you and in your leadership. You have no place to go except back to the One who called you from out of the bush. So, the Israelites are living a life without straw and you are living a life you never asked for all because of this call of the One from out of the bush! Life doesn't seem to make sense sometimes, does it?

**APPLICATION:** We have read the story of Pharaoh's demand for bricks made out of straw. Obviously, life was hard. In fact, life seemed impossible. Try as they might they couldn't meet the standards set by Pharaoh. Sometimes we run out of energy and more work needs to be done. Sometimes we run out of passion and still more people need to be encouraged. Sometimes we run out of time and the work is not finished. Sometimes we feel as though much more is expected of us than we are capable of doing or being. Maybe you have Pharaoh-types in your life, those who are determined to control you with their high expectations and impossible demands.

1. Recall a time in your life when circumstances seemed to demand more than you could give?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did you need that just didn't seem to be available? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do you go to find help and strength in difficult times? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Moses returned to the Lord. Moses asked, "O Lord, why..." How might the response of Moses to his circumstances encourage you? \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIZATION:** The psalm writer David experienced similar circumstances. Write the words of Psalm 86:6-8. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1. David goes to the Lord in prayer. What does he know and acknowledge about God? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does he ask of the Lord in verse 6? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How does David regard his life right now? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is his solution to his "day of my trouble?" \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does he choose to call to the Lord (verse 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

These verses offer hope for us in our day of trouble. We are reassured that God Himself will hear our prayer and listen to our concerns as we cry out for mercy. He also promises to answer us! Write Psalm 86:6-8 on an index card. Put it to memory. Draw on this promise in your day of trouble.

**PRAYER:** Take time to share with the Lord a difficult situation you might be facing in your life. Like Moses, be bold to ask the Lord, "Why?" Asking why doesn't demand an answer as much as it is a cry of desperation. Release your desperation to the Lord who hears you, understands your situation, and knows the big picture. Allow Him to do whatever he chooses whenever He pleases that all be done according to His good and gracious will. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3**

**INTRODUCTION:** We know the desperate situation in which Moses and the Israelites find themselves. The tension is great. Not knowing what to do, Moses returns to the Lord and asks, "Did you bring me here just to cause these people more trouble?" Moses had gone to Pharaoh just as the Lord had directed him to do and all Pharaoh has done is inflict more trouble on them. The bottom line is: "You have not delivered Your people at all."

This was a critical moment. Everyone’s eyes were on the Lord, even the eyes of Moses. The people were not going to be released from Pharaoh’s tyranny because the elders agreed with the plan. They weren’t going to be released because Aaron was an eloquent speaker or because Moses obeyed and did all that the Lord commanded. And, they certainly weren’t going to be released because Pharaoh decided to let them go. Ultimately, their release was only going to happen because the Lord Himself would do it. Nothing and no one would take the glory that belonged to the Lord.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 6:1-12.

**TEACHING:** The Lord responds to Moses. Do you sense some excitement in God’s voice? Do you sense His eagerness to release the Israelites, knowing that the time is right? The twelve sons of Jacob (Israel) had developed into a mighty nation with all provisions and protection provided for them within this foreign land of Egypt. They needed their numbers in order to take possession of the land the Lord had given to them. They needed to be physically fit for the journey. They had definitely been toughened by hard labor and endured the discipline. Their minds had been stretched to think beyond their wildest dreams and they had begun to anticipate life in a new land, a land free from the oppression of slavery and the bondage of tyranny. Now the Lord had everyone’s attention for they realized that He was the only One who could bring about their deliverance. By themselves they were impotent against Pharaoh.

**EXERCISE:** In Exodus 6 the Lord begins his conversation with a powerful little word “now.” The time is right. Everything is in place. In essence he says to them, “Now as Commander-in-Chief I’m in charge. It is time for action!” He wants to make it clear from the beginning what He would do to Pharaoh that would cause Pharaoh to drive the Israelites out of his country with a strong hand (verse 1).

1. Once again God established with Moses who He is. What does he want the people, included Moses, to know about Him?

- a. Verse 2: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Verse 3: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Verse 3 speaks about God’s name. To Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob he was known as God Almighty or El-Shaddai (Hebrew). But, He didn’t reveal Himself to them as the Lord as he identifies Himself in this verse. The name Lord indicated a God who was more personal, more intimate, and one who both provided and cared for His people. It’s the name that He gave to Moses in Exodus 3:13-15. The Hebrew word is Yahweh.*

2. He reminds them that He has a covenant with these people and the covenant included the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 4). It’s interesting to note that when they first came to Canaan they lived as aliens (sojourners) in their own land.

3. Then He says, "I have heard the \_\_\_\_\_ of the people of \_\_\_\_\_ whom the \_\_\_\_\_ hold as \_\_\_\_\_, and I have \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_."

**TEACHING:** Throughout all of these years, through all these generations, God has remembered the covenant that He made with Abraham. No one was alive who would remember. No one was there to hold Him accountable for His promises. But He is faithful. His Word stands forever. What He had said to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob still stands for them at this moment in time. They can rest securely. In fact, isn't everything happening just as He had told Abraham that it would so many hundred years earlier?

1. Read Genesis 15:13-14. What do these verses foretell? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Recall what He had told Jacob at Bethel. See Genesis 28:13-15. What do these verses foretell? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD (Exodus 6):** God wanted Moses to tell the people who He was and what He promised to do.

1. What was the only truth they needed to know about God according to verse 6? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The next truth He wanted them to know was how they would *know* that He was the Lord.
  - a. Verse 6: I will bring \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Verse 6: I will deliver \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Verse 6: I will redeem \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Verse 7: I will take \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Verse 7: I will be \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Verse 8: I will bring \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Verse 8: I will give \_\_\_\_\_
 He concludes by repeating the words, "\_\_\_\_\_."

**REFLECTION:** Take a moment to consider all the things that Moses was to tell the people. Because He was the Lord, He would do all these things for His people whom He loved. Could they have wanted anything more? He, in essence, promised them the world. In verse 7 He keeps His covenant to be their God! Don't you think that Moses and Aaron were excited to tell the Israelites all that God had told them to share? They head off to tell the Israelites and how are we told in verse 9 they received Moses and Aaron's message? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you blame them? There was no way they were going to listen and get excited about Moses and Aaron's report. They were discouraged. Do you have a difficult time listening and receiving positive and

encouraging words when you are discouraged? Discouragement is a time when one lacks the courage to move forward. Everything is too difficult. The lack of courage robs us of the motivation to take risks, to engage in life's opportunities, and to move forward and experience new adventures. Discouragement consumes one's energy and only allows for living each day, moment by moment.

1. What has been your experience with discouragement? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Identify a couple of things that cause your discouragement: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you tend to respond to discouragement? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who are those who want to offer you hope? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is it difficult to accept their encouragement? \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** O Lord, sometimes I am prone to discouragement. Life pulls me down. Everything seems difficult. Give me the courage to *listen* to Your message of hope during those times. Give me the energy to *act* on Your message of hope. Give me the faith to *trust* in You, the One who offers hope to me. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part 4**

**EXERCISE** (continue Exodus 6): But the Lord's act of redeeming His people from the hand of Pharaoh was not dependent on whether or not Israel listened and received His message, or were encouraged or discouraged, or were living hopeful or hopeless lives.

1. What did the Lord instruct Moses to do in verse 11? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does Moses respond to the Lord (verse 12)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Honestly, here we have a man who has a hard time speaking, may even stutter for all we know, and God is sending him back again to the king who told him he doesn't know the Lord so why should he listen to Him. The first time this king took away the straw. What would he do this time that would cause the Israelites to resent and even hate Moses that much more? If Israel who knows the Lord will not listen, why should Pharaoh who does not know the Lord?

**TEACHING:** We now have a break in the action. For whatever reason, the story takes a detour. In Exodus 6:13-27 we have a partial genealogy of those who were the heads of Israelite families. The family leaders listed were from the tribe of Reuben, Simeon, and Levi. Uncertain as to why these names

are mentioned here, we have one possible reason. Amid all these names we are told in verse 20 about Moses and Aaron's lineage.

1. What are we told about the father Amram in verse 20? Who does he marry? How are Amram and Jochebed related? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Amram marries his aunt. They had two sons \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
3. They also had a daughter who is not listed in this genealogy since the bloodline was passed through the men. However, as you recall, Numbers 26:59 mentions all three siblings by name. What was the daughter's name? \_\_\_\_\_

**REFLECTION:** One can't help but wonder if the lineage of these brothers is mentioned to verify that they were from the tribe of Levi and to verify according to verses 26 and 27 that this same Aaron and Moses were the same men God had called and told to "Bring the Israelites out of Egypt..." These were the same men who spoke to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, about bringing the Israelites out of Egypt. This family record verified these facts.

We also know that Moses is the writer of the Pentateuch, these first five books of the bible. Could it have been important to Moses that the record showed that he was called by God to bring His people out of Egypt? Was it important that people knew that he, too, was a Hebrew, the one whom God had chosen for the deliverance of Israel and that his lineage proved it? The reasons are uncertain but the information is clear.

**THOUGHT QUESTION:** Do you think it took a Hebrew to deliver the Hebrew people, the Israelites, from the hand of Pharaoh? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 7.

**EXERCISE:** Words alone did not work when Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh the first time (Exodus 5:1-2). However, events were continuing to happen just as God had told Moses they would.

1. In Exodus 6:30 we begin with the same words we ended with when we detoured into the genealogy in verse 12. How does verse 12 end? What is the same question Moses is asking in verse 30? \_\_\_\_\_
2. God needed to explain something to Moses. What did he tell Moses in Exodus 7:1? \_\_\_\_\_

God was going to create fear, awe, and respect in Pharaoh so that he would regard Moses as God.

The Egyptian people worshipped many gods but now they were going to encounter the signs, wonder, and mighty acts of judgment at the outstretched hand of the God of all gods.

3. Moses was to do everything God commanded. What was the first thing Moses and Aaron were commanded to do (verse 2)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. God tells what is going to happen to Pharaoh:
  - a. Verse 3: He will \_\_\_\_\_ Pharaoh's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Verse 3-4: Even though God \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the land of Egypt, \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Verse 4: Then God will lay His hand on Egypt and will bring \_\_\_\_\_ by great \_\_\_\_\_  
Who are His hosts? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Verse 5: As a result, what will the Egyptians know? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Moses and Aaron obeyed and did just as the Lord commanded. How old was Moses? \_\_\_\_\_  
How old was Aaron? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Part 5**

**TEACHING:** It is interesting to observe how carefully the Lord is guiding Moses and Aaron through this process. He continually gives them information about what is going to happen so they won't be surprised when it does happen. Then He gives them instruction as to what they are to do. This almost sounds like Leadership 101. The Lord is mentoring them through the process. He has not given them this enormous assignment and then abandoned them. Once everything is in place the action begins.

### **EXERCISE:**

1. Pharaoh is going to ask them to perform a miracle. What is God's instruction to Moses and Aaron in verse 9? \_\_\_\_\_
2. That seemed simple enough. So they go before Pharaoh and everything went just as God had said. Or did it? What are we told in verses 11 and 12?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
God hadn't told them that would happen!
3. But then what took place? \_\_\_\_\_
4. This part of the story has a sad ending. Verse 13 is like a spiritual electrocardiogram of Pharaoh's heart. It's not good. What do we learn? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you think caused his heart to become hard according to this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

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**CLOSURE:** We have come to the end of Lesson 3. Lesson 4 will resume with the story of God’s deliverance of His people from Pharaoh and the land of Egypt. We will see God’s power at work as He uses Moses and Aaron for His righteous purposes. As the staff of Moses is stretched out in judgment on the rulers of the land, we will see God’s acts of mercy and kindness poured out on His people as He delivers them.

Lessons 1 and 2 have set the stage. We have identified the primary characters of the story. We were with Moses at the burning bush as God called out to him to remove his sandals “for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Sometimes we wish we had our own burning bush and our own holy ground. We would like to hear the voice of God calling our name and making our assignments as clear as the call of Moses.

We do have such a bush that burns in our hearts, the Word of God. In Luke 24:32 we can eavesdrop on two of Jesus’ disciples talking after they encountered Him following His resurrection. What did they ask each other? \_\_\_\_\_

We do have the privilege of entering into His presence and standing on holy ground. We come into His presence as we share with Him our prayer requests, sing our songs and psalms, and worship Him with our thanksgiving and praise. Pharaoh’s heart became hard because He didn’t know the Lord and wasn’t about to listen to His Word as it came to him through the voice of Moses and Aaron. God speaks through His Word and we all have the privilege of listening to His voice.

**PRAYER:** O Lord God Almighty, as You were with Moses and Aaron, You are present with me. You desire that I come into Your presence, hear Your Word of Truth and respond obediently to what You say. Give me a heart that is *open and receptive* to You. Give me a heart that *trusts* You to do all that You have promised. Give me a heart eager to *respond* to Your great love for me in Christ Jesus. In particular, Lord, this day I ask that \_\_\_\_\_

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## LESSON FOUR

# STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND

### EXODUS 7-8 – HE HARDENED HIS HEART

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#### OVERVIEW OF LESSON 4

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The tension intensifies. Pharaoh refuses to release God's people and God tenaciously pursues His righteous purpose of keeping the covenant He made with Abraham. "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..." Nothing, not even Pharaoh's stubbornness and unyielding heart, would keep Him from accomplishing what He set out to do.

Watch as the story unfolds and the battle rages on. Who are the warring parties? What part do the Israelites play in their release from bondage? Who is their advocate? What extraordinary means does God use when the force against Him will not concede? Discover the compassionate heartbeat of God for His people.

Moses held the staff and God gave the commands. What commands did God give that brought about Israel's deliverance? Use your imagination as you study. Enter into the story situations and track the different means God chose to break Israel's oppressive tyranny.

What would it mean for Israel that He was the Lord? What difference would it make in how they would live? They weren't just any people. They were *God's* people set apart by Him and for Him. Throughout this lesson ask yourself the question, "What does it mean for my life that I have been set apart by the Lord to serve only Him?"

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** We completed Lesson 3 with Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh, his wise men and sorcerers, and magicians. Aaron’s staff became a snake. The staffs of the magicians also became snakes and then Aaron’s snake swallowed up their staffs. In spite of this miraculous sign Pharaoh’s heart was hard; he would not listen. It all happened just as the Lord said it would.

This lesson contains the account of the ten plagues. Many have tried to explain each plague as a natural phenomenon. For example, each year the waters of the Nile flood and deposit rich minerals and nutrients on the land along the river. This stirs up the blood-colored soil of the river bed. Again, a frequent scourge on the land is the invasion of locust that devours the crops. Science may be able to explain nine of the ten plagues. Regardless, these plagues were clearly acts of God in which He declared Himself to be the only true God, not the gods of the Nile. This study is intended to give you the knowledge of what the Bible says about this time in the history of Israel and Egypt. History records the rule of Pharaoh and his encounter with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who delivered His people from the great tyranny of the Egyptian king.

**ASSIGNMENT:** The plagues that God inflicted on Egypt are recorded from Exodus 7:14 to 11:10. Do a brief overview of these chapters. Fill in this chart by identifying the plague for each reference. Following this overview we will look more closely at the individual plagues.

<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>PLAGUE</b>
Exodus 7:14-24	
Exodus 8:1-15	
Exodus 8:16-19	
Exodus 8:20-32	
Exodus 9:1-7	
Exodus 9:8-12	
Exodus 9:13-35	
Exodus 10:1-20	
Exodus 10:21-29	
Exodus 11:1-10	

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 7:14-24.

**EXERCISE:**

1. In verse 14 the Lord told Moses that Pharaoh’s heart was \_\_\_\_\_ and that he \_\_\_\_\_ to let the people go.
2. Verse 15: What were God’s instructions to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

The Nile was one of the gods of Egypt. Moses was to meet Pharaoh at the river with the staff of God in his hand. In Exodus 7:1 we learned that God made Moses like God to Pharaoh. This meeting at the Nile almost appears to be a showdown between the god of the Nile and the God of Israel.

3. Up to this time Pharaoh has not listened (verse 16). Then Moses says, “Thus says the Lord, ‘By *this* you will know that I am the Lord...’” What does Moses say he is going to do in verse 17? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Verse 18: What will be the consequences? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
5. In verse 19 we learn how extensive the judgment of God will be. So, the staff of God was raised and stretched out and struck the water of the Nile. In verse 21 we learn that it was just as bad as they said it would be. But, what happens in verse 22? \_\_\_\_\_
6. And Pharaoh’s heart remained \_\_\_\_\_. He would not \_\_\_\_\_ to Moses. He went into his palace and \_\_\_\_\_ (verses 22-23).
7. Meanwhile, what were the consequences to the Egyptians because Pharaoh refused to obey? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2**

**TEACHING:** When studying the Bible it is important to look for words that are used repeatedly in a section. Usually the reason they are repeated is because they hold significance for understanding a biblical truth. One word, for example, is used four times in these 11 verses (Exodus 7:14-24). Complete this chart. Note and mark the word “staff” in each of these references.

REFERENCE	WHAT ARE WE TOLD ABOUT THE STAFF
Exodus 7:15	The staff changed into a snake
Exodus 7:17	
Exodus 7:19	

What do we know about the staff? What was it called in Exodus 4:20? \_\_\_\_\_

Keep in mind that God used the staff as a visible means of declaring judgment on Pharaoh and the people of Egypt. God brought His wrathful judgment on the people when it was stretched out, for example, on the waters of Egypt and they turned to blood. As you continue your study of Exodus, be alert to the staff of God as the story unfolds. Be ready to mark in your Bible with your highlighter where staff is used and look for the judgment that God brings upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

The staff served another purpose. It reminded Moses that it was God who was performing the miracles. It was God who was at war against Pharaoh. It was God who was out to deliver His people. It was God Almighty, El-Shaddai (Exodus 6:3), who is the Lord, the Great I Am (Exodus 3:14). We will discover another use of the staff in our study of Exodus – Part II.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 8:1-15. We do not know how long the blood plagued the land but we do know what happens seven days later.

**EXERCISE:** The scenario begins all over again.

1. Verse 1: The Lord’s instructions to Moses have not changed. The message to Pharaoh has not changed: \_\_\_\_\_

2. In verses 2-4 what is promised to be the next plague and how extensive will it be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Frogs everywhere! But the Egyptian magicians were able to do the same thing!

3. However, something different happens this time. Pharaoh calls for Moses and Aaron. What does he ask in verse 8? \_\_\_\_\_

4. In verses 9 and 10 Moses and Pharaoh agree that the next day the plague would cease. Then, in order to prove that there is no one like the Lord our God, what would happen according to verse 11? \_\_\_\_\_

5. In verse 12 Moses and Aaron leave Pharaoh. Moses goes before the Lord and what do they talk about? Frogs! What did Moses ask? \_\_\_\_\_

And what did God grant? \_\_\_\_\_ God didn’t just cause the frogs to disappear (verses 13 and 14). Had Moses asked for this? Was this a surprise response to everyone, including Pharaoh? What do you think? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. O my goodness! Try to make verse 14 come alive for you in your own imagination. Take some notes on your thoughts. What would it have been like to live in Egypt during those days? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. So, what was Pharaoh thinking? Verse 15 says when he saw relief he \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
8. We're back to square one! But, why are we surprised? Or, are we? How does the verse end?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Part 3**

**REFLECTION:** What do you make of all of this? We know that there are ten of these plagues and we have only looked at two. Blood and the stench of frogs rotting would cause many people to grant Moses and Aaron their request but apparently not Pharaoh! The staff of God delivered terrible judgment on these people. God means business. He shows no mercy to Pharaoh who has hardened his heart and will not listen to Him. In Exodus 7 and now again in Exodus 8 it has been said that Pharaoh's heart became \_\_\_\_\_ and he would not \_\_\_\_\_

Think of the human body's circulatory system. It's as though Pharaoh has a bad case of hardening of the arteries and his condition is getting worse. He is a stubborn, proud man. As ruler and king over the great land of Egypt he has established himself as a god. He will take no orders from the God of Israel for the Israelites are his slaves. He won't obey anyone, especially since he is the king and only gives orders. He is the one and only. To him there is none other. He will lie and deceive Moses and Aaron by attempting to manipulate them into believing that he has repented and changed his mind. We know that he hasn't. He has only appeared repentant in order to remove the frog infestation from the land. However, rather than get rid of the frogs God simply takes the life out of them and causes the frogs to die. Now the country is filled with piles of rotting frog flesh. What a stench!

What do you make of all this? Put on your reporter hat once again. You have been sent by *The Alexandria Times* to report on an up close and personal side of what's happening down in Rameses. What do you hear people on the street saying about this situation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD:** Do you hear the heartbeat of God and His love for His people in the words, "Let my people go!" The words reveal the heart of God. These are His people. They were made His when He covenanted with Abraham to be his God (Genesis 17:19). And, that included all the

relatives! All of Abraham’s descendants! God saw them, cared for them, and had compassion on them, even now as they served their slave masters.

God’s command to Pharaoh is to free His people. At first it may sound like God is only asking for the release of the Israelites from physical bondage. But we may be failing to understand God’s passion for His people. His love gives Him no choice. His love demands the release of His people. And if they aren’t released, then he’ll fight for them. He’ll go to battle for them. We are in the middle of a war between good and evil, between God and Pharaoh, between God and Satan. God is fighting for the souls of His people. He demands that they be released in order to live the life that He ordained for them at creation. He was the God of the covenant who had promised to Israel’s ancestors prosperity, progeny, and property. He intended to keep that promise.

God’s love is a stubborn love. We can refer to Pharaoh as a stubborn, self-centered man. However, God is a stubborn lover. He will fight even to the death for those He loves. Do you regard God as one who loves you with stubborn love—love that forgives, love that cares, love that is intimately acquainted with everything about you, love that wants to be your God and wants you to be His child?

1. Do you know such love? Read these two stories and consider such great love! What do these two stories reveal to you about the love of God?

- a. Luke 15:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- b. Luke 15:11-24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you know the God that’s out looking for you, searching everywhere to find you and once He finds you He carries you home to be with Him forever? Do you know the God who goes to battle for you even when you’ve abandoned Him for your own selfish pleasures? Do you know the God who sees you coming and runs to meet you with open arms of love? His steadfast love is for all of us. Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** Write your own prayer thoughts as you consider God’s stubborn love that demands your release from all that wants to oppress and enslave you. His demand is: “Let my people go!” Remember his passionate love for you, the one He created. Envision His open arms eager to receive you and embrace you. Tell Him what it means to you personally that He loves you with an everlasting love:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4**

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 8:16-19. The plagues continue. Part 3 ended with the piles of rotting frogs reeking in Egypt.

**EXERCISE:** With this third plague we learn what has happened to Pharaoh's heart because he refused to listen to God's command as He spoke through the voice of His servants Moses and Aaron.

1. In verse 16 what does God tell Moses to do next? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. This is the plague of \_\_\_\_\_. These are pesky creatures that just won't let you alone. They are irritating. They fly in your face. They carry disease. Aaron was to strike the dust of the ground. Imagine! What does verse 17 tell us about the gnats? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. This plague was different than the first two. What do we learn in verse 18? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did the magicians realize in verse 19? \_\_\_\_\_

What had God told Moses in Exodus 7:5? What did God say the Egyptians would know?

\_\_\_\_\_

We see this happening as the magicians acknowledge that this plague was beyond their power to perform. Although in the first two plagues the magicians were able to make the water turn into blood and able to make frogs come up on the land, they were incapable of getting rid of the gnats. That took an act of God (Exodus 8:12-13).

5. Pharaoh, however, had not changed his mind. In Exodus 7:13 we are told that Pharaoh's heart was hard. It was happening. In Exodus 8:15 we are told that \_\_\_\_\_ hardened his heart. What does Exodus 8:19 tell us about his heart? \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 8:20-32.

**EXERCISE:**

1. The next several verses introduce the fourth plague. It is the plague of \_\_\_\_\_

2. Once again God's command to Moses is to confront Pharaoh. Again, what is God's command?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If Pharaoh did not obey, what would be the consequences (verse 21)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**REFLECTION:** Consider flies for a few minutes. If you have ever tried to eat outside with a few bothersome flies you know how irritating they can be. They come out of filth and decay. They are bold to land on anything they please. People are not attracted to flies but flies manage to find people wherever they are. They can be distracting in church or annoying on a walk. They can be disturbing in a restaurant or repulsive on exposed produce in the grocery store.

Flies were about to invade Egypt. It's no wonder they would be a problem. With the rotting flesh of the frogs, the stench would attract flies and the decaying carcasses serve as a breeding ground for flies. Imagine flies so thick that you would walk on them. The picture is repulsive.

Take some time to write a few of your own thoughts as you envision the conditions of the land: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Part 5**

### **EXERCISE:**

1. Verses 22-23: God is going to deal differently with the plague of flies. What is He going to do this time? \_\_\_\_\_

All of the Egyptians will be dealing with the flies—Pharaoh, his officials, the people. Dense swarms of flies will be coming on the people and in their houses. But He is doing things differently as He makes a drastic distinction between His people in the land of Goshen and Pharaoh's people. The distinction is a deliverance that the Israelites are experiencing while still in the land. God's hand of mercy is holding back His judgment from His people. His judgment is inflicted only on Pharaoh and his people.

2. What, in particular, does God want Pharaoh to know? \_\_\_\_\_

To know that "I, the Lord, am in this land..."

- a. Why is this important for Pharaoh to know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- b. Why is this important for the Israelites to know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Verse 24: "And the Lord did this." Consider what He did:

- a. To Pharaoh's palace: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. To the houses of his officials: \_\_\_\_\_

- c. Throughout Egypt: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Pharaoh appears ready to negotiate.
  - a. What is his proposition in verse 25? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What does Moses insist upon in verses 26 and 27? What reason does he give? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Has God's position changed according to verse 27? See Exodus 3:18. Is God willing to negotiate with Pharaoh? \_\_\_\_\_
5. To what does Pharaoh agree in verse 28? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the last thing Pharaoh asks of Moses? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Moses assured Pharaoh that he would pray to the Lord and that the flies would leave Pharaoh, his officials and the people. What is the warning that Moses gives to him in verse 29? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Verses 30-31: Moses left Pharaoh. He prayed to the Lord. The Lord did what Moses asked. The flies left until "not \_\_\_\_\_." Are we surprised that Pharaoh hardened his heart again? Maybe we're not surprised because we know the end of the story but what if you were Pharaoh? In the light of the stench and swarms, why would you refuse the command of the Lord to let His people go? Or, would you? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD:** This plague of the flies shows God's mercy poured out on His people. They are a people set aside for Him. They are different. He is their God. He claimed them to be His own under the covenant He made with Abraham and renewed with Isaac and Jacob. Now he wanted the world to know. He wanted Pharaoh to know that he was living with the Israelites. "I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell...that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth (Exodus 8:22)." The ancient belief was that the gods were territorial gods. For example, the gods of the land of Egypt had little, if any, power against the gods in the land of the Philistines. Yahweh, however, demonstrates that He is not a territorial god, but rather that He has power wherever He chooses to use it.

God kept the promise that He made to Jacob when he set out with his family for Egypt (Genesis 46).

What did God tell Jacob in Genesis 46:3-4? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

God also kept the promise that he made to Moses when He sent him to Pharaoh "to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt." What was God's immediate response to Moses' argument in Exodus 3:12?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

God has made the same promise to all of us who have come to Him through faith in Jesus and believe that He is our Savior from sin and has redeemed us from the oppression of sin and wickedness. What are the words of reassurance that are found in Matthew 28:20? \_\_\_\_\_

We learn that one of the names given to Jesus is the name Immanuel. What does Matthew 1:23 tell us this name means? \_\_\_\_\_ There is no question whether or not God is present among His people.

**MEMORIZATION:** Like the Israelites God has made a distinction between us who know Him and those who do not. What does He tell us in 1 Peter 2:9, 10? Write out these two verses on an index card and put them in your memory library. Consider how today and every day you might “declare the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” Journal your opportunities and experiences as you declare His praises!

**DIGGING DEEPER:** In the light of what we have been learning about the Israelites, spend some time considering...

1. What it meant for them that they were...
  - a. A chosen race \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. A royal priesthood \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. A holy nation \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. A people for His own possession \_\_\_\_\_
2. What it meant to them that they had a purpose, the purpose of declaring the excellencies (praises) of Him who called them out of darkness into His wonderful light? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What would it mean to them as a community that once they were not a \_\_\_\_\_ but now they are \_\_\_\_\_; once they had not received \_\_\_\_\_ but now they have \_\_\_\_\_? Your thoughts:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. God has made us His people through the life, death, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus. Spend some time considering what it means for you that you are...
  - a. A chosen person \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. A royal priesthood \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. A holy nation

\_\_\_\_\_

d. A people or person belong to God \_\_\_\_\_

5. Consider what it means to you that you have a purpose, the purpose of declaring the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Consider what it would mean to you as a community called the church that once you were not a \_\_\_\_\_ but now you are \_\_\_\_\_; once you had not received \_\_\_\_\_ but now you have \_\_\_\_\_.

Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** Thank the Lord for giving you your identity as His chosen one. Thank Him for giving your life purpose and meaning as you declare His praises. Thank Him for the body of believers, the Church, His own people, and for His mercy that he has poured out on this community. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON FIVE

# LET MY PEOPLE GO

### EXODUS 9-11 – THE LORD HARDENED PHARAOH’S HEART

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## **INTRODUCTION**

God's hand of judgment against Egypt came down over and over again. The plagues ravaged the land. At the same time, however, as you study you need to watch for God's hand of grace and mercy as He protects and defends His people. Review the definitions for grace and mercy. What is the difference between these two words? What attributes of God can you identify throughout Exodus 9-11?

At last God says, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt." Moses gained status with Pharaoh's servants and the people. Moses arrived in Egypt as a troublemaker whom the Israelites complained against. Now he was favored and considered very great in the land. What brought about such a change?

Moses threatened the last plague. Consideration of the death of Egypt's firstborn did not change the hardened heart of Pharaoh, even the death of his own firstborn son. The plague would be the death of human beings and cattle yet Pharaoh would not listen. Why not? What did God want to have happen in Egypt? If Pharaoh would not let God's people go then what would need to happen?

Sin once held humankind in bondage. Learn the means God chose to free us all!

**Part 1**

**TEACHING:** Moses plays an interesting role in this story. He was sent by God to bring His people out of this land of oppression and slavery. He was sent to confront Pharaoh with God’s command to this ruler. Through Moses God used these plagues to bring turmoil, chaos, and even destruction to this land and its people. In Exodus 8:8 and 8:28, however, Pharaoh asked Moses to pray to the Lord who sent him to have the plagues stopped. We see that Pharaoh recognized that the God of Moses was greater and more powerful than the gods of Egypt, so now he seeks deliverance from the God of Israel and God responded by bringing an end to the individual plagues.

In spite of what God did for Pharaoh, Pharaoh would not deliver Israel from its oppression Pharaoh only wanted deliverance from the consequences of his stubborn and deceitful heart. He wasn’t interested in obedience to God’s will. Yet, knowing Pharaoh’s evil ways Moses brought before God what Pharaoh requested. And God responded! He did what Pharaoh wanted although Pharaoh would not do what God demanded!

Do you find this difficult to understand? Why would God do what Pharaoh asked even when He knew that Pharaoh would continue to reject and act deceitfully? What does the prophet Isaiah say in Isaiah 26:9-11? Read these verses.

1. What does verse 9 say happens to the people of the world when God’s judgments come? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Verse 10: “If \_\_\_\_\_ is shown to the \_\_\_\_\_ they do not \_\_\_\_\_.”  
\_\_\_\_\_.”
3. What do they not see in verse 10? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What more do we learn about the wicked (verse 11)? The Lord’s hand is lifted up, but  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Isaiah says to the Lord in verse 11: “Let them see Your \_\_\_\_\_ for Your \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.”

God’s judgments have come to Pharaoh who has not learned righteousness. God’s hand of judgment is raised but His majesty is not acknowledged. God’s zeal for His people will put all of Egypt to shame.

This plague, like the others, ends on a sad note. Pharaoh acts deceitfully. His heart is hardened. He will not let God's people go. He will not obey the command of the Lord.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 9 and 10. So far we have considered in detail the first four plagues that the Lord sent upon the Egyptians because Pharaoh was hard and unyielding. The next five plagues are found in Exodus 9 and 10. Some things are similar to the first four. Some words and phrases are used to give us more insights into what God did because of Pharaoh's stubbornness. Take time to read through these two chapters and then complete the chart with answers that apply to the individual plagues. Not every square will have an answer.

**PLAGUE #5:** The Plague on \_\_\_\_\_

Reference	Similarities	Insights	Personal Comment
Exodus 9:1			
Exodus 9:2-3			
Exodus 9:4			
Exodus 9:5-6			
Exodus 9:7			

**PLAGUE #6:** The Plague of \_\_\_\_\_

Reference	Similarities	Insights	Personal Comment
Exodus 9:8-9			
Exodus 9:10			



Exodus 9:11			
Exodus 9:12			

**Part 2**

**PLAGUE #7:** The Plague of \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Similarities</b>	<b>Insights</b>	<b>Personal Comment</b>
Exodus 9:13			
Exodus 9:15-16			
Exodus 9:18-19			
Exodus 9:20-21			
Exodus 9:22-25			
Exodus 9:26			
Exodus 9:27-30, 33			
Exodus 9:34-35			

**TEACHING:** God is making a clear distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites. As bad as the plagues were for the Egyptians to endure, we know that the Israelites were spared. We see a clear distinction between God’s hand of judgment and His hand of mercy. In this plague of hail God reveals that His judgment upon Egypt could have struck down Pharaoh and all of his people. He could have

struck them with a plague that would have wiped them off the face of the earth. It's interesting to note that in spite of all the plagues brought upon the land yet God granted His mercy on the Egyptians by not destroying them all.

1. Exodus 9:16 gives the reason that God had spared them. What does He say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Even knowing that Pharaoh would not let God's people go to worship Him, God still answers Pharaoh's request to have the thunder and hail storm stopped. In Exodus 9:33 Moses spread out his hands toward the Lord and the Lord granted Egypt His mercy. What did He do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Once again Pharaoh and his officials' hearts were hardened.

**APPLICATION:** Is it difficult to find ways in which these chapters have application for us? Take a few minutes and consider how we see God's hand of mercy evident in our lives today. We take so much of life for granted. Many of us live in a world that would have us believe that we deserve good things and have no reason to experience difficulties. In these chapters of Exodus that tell of the devastating plagues we learn that God's mercy was even poured out on Pharaoh. What God could have done and what God chose to do are two different things. He could have destroyed them with one plague and the other nine would have been unnecessary. He chose, however, to give them the opportunity to acknowledge Him as the One who created both the heavens and the earth. He declared that He would show His mighty power in order that His name might be declared throughout the world.

**DEFINITION REVIEW:** As sinful human beings we don't deserve anything but God's wrath and punishment, His judgment. But in spite of what we deserve, we are all experiencing God's grace and mercy.

- **DEFINITION: Grace**

God gives to me His love that I cannot earn and certainly do not deserve. The sentence for sin is death. This is what I deserve. See Genesis 2:17 and Romans 6:23. Through the punishment and death of Jesus I receive God's undeserved love, His grace, and that love sets me free to live with Him eternally. See Lesson 2 of *God's Plan, Our Choice*.

- **DEFINITION: Mercy**

Mercy means that God chooses not to carry out what we deserve. Because of our sin and the intentions of our hearts to do evil, we do deserve to be punished. We do deserve to die. In Romans 6:24 we learn that "the wages of sin is *death*, but the gift of God is *eternal life* in Christ Jesus our Lord." What we deserve is death but God shows us His mercy by not giving

us what we deserve. Instead, He demonstrates His love for us by giving us eternal life in Jesus. See Lesson 4 of *God's Plan, Our Choice*.

**REFLECTION:** For the sake of review, take time once again to reflect on your life here and now. Identify those times when you know you are experiencing God's grace in your life, His provisions for you that grant you His goodness, even when you don't deserve it? Another way of asking the question: When are those times you know you are experiencing God's mercy, His act of keeping from you what you really do deserve? \_\_\_\_\_

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The Israelites lived in a relationship with God that saturated them with God's grace and mercy. He had declared them to be His people and Himself to be their God. This relationship set Israel apart from other nations, including Egypt. God made the distinction (Exodus 8:23) between His people and Pharaoh's. He spared His people from the death that he would bring on Egypt (Exodus 9:4).

**PRAYER:** O Lord God, You are my God and You have declared me to be one of Your people. For this I give You my thanks and praise. You show kindness to me. You grant to me the bounty of Your blessings. Even when life seems difficult, just knowing that You are my God gives me comfort and hope for You have loved me with an everlasting love through Your Son, Jesus Christ who is my Lord and Savior. Keep me mindful of your mercy and grace in my life. Forgive me when I take Your love for granted and open my eyes to see Your goodness fresh and new each day. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Part 3**

**INTRODUCTION:** Resume your study of the next two plagues. Continue to work as you did in Part 3.

**PLAGUE #8:** The Plague of \_\_\_\_\_

Reference	Similarities	Insights	Personal Comment
Exodus 10:1			
Exodus 10:2			

Exodus 10:3-6			
Exodus 10:7			
Exodus 10:8-9			
Exodus 10:10-11			
Exodus 10:12-15			
Exodus 10:16-20			

**PLAGUE #9:** The Plague of \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Similarities</b>	<b>Insights</b>	<b>Personal Comment</b>
Exodus 10:21			
Exodus 10:21			
Exodus 10:22-23			
Exodus 10:24-26			
Exodus 10:27-29			

#### **Part 4**

**INTRODUCTION:** Nine of the ten plagues have been inflicted upon the Egyptians. There is one more plague to execute. This plague on the firstborn son has no scientific explanation. Obviously, this was not a natural occurrence. By eliminating the firstborn of the land God would demonstrate that His strength was mightier than the strength of Pharaoh. God is the all-powerful One and His power is about to be displayed one more time. And yet, even given the warning Pharaoh refused to listen and would not let the Israelites go and leave his country. Death of the firstborn would be God's ultimate judgment on the officials, ruler, and all of the gods of Egypt.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 11.

#### **EXERCISE:**

1. The Lord told Moses that He is about to bring upon Pharaoh and Egypt His last and final plague. What else did He tell Moses in Exodus 11:1? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Everything is ready. The time is right. At last the Israelites would be delivered from the hands of Pharaoh. In fact, it would end up that the Israelites would be driven completely from the land. What was God's instruction for the Israelites in verse 2? \_\_\_\_\_  
God is telling His people that they are to prepare themselves to plunder the Egyptians! They would be stripping Egypt of its wealth.

**REVIEW:** Israel was about to leave with silver and gold from this plague ravaged land. After 430 years of oppression and slavery under ruthless taskmasters, the Israelites will depart from the land not as slaves, but as victors!

1. What was the promise God had made to Moses in Exodus 3:21-22? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. So much has happened since we read those verses. Recall how impossible everything that God promised seemed to be. Back then Moses was still questioning God about his own leadership abilities. The Israelite foremen turned against Moses because they were forced to gather their own straw for the bricks. What are other things you recall about their circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Take time to consider the relationship of the people to Moses, God's appointed leader. In what ways has their relationship changed during this period of time when the plagues were happening? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. God's deliverance for Israel began already when He made a distinction between His people and Pharaoh's people. What is the distinction made in these verses that brought God's deliverance to Israel?
  - a. Exodus 8:22 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Exodus 9:4 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Exodus 9:26 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Exodus 11:7 \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD:** These chapters speak of God's distinctive action toward Israel and the deliverance He has for His people. What do we learn about the nature and character of God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE:**

1. In spite of Pharaoh's arrogant and stubborn attitude, what does Exodus 11:3 tell us about Pharaoh's officials and the Egyptian people? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In Exodus 10:28 Pharaoh had dismissed Moses with the words, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die." But before Moses left he tells Pharaoh in Exodus 11:4-7 what the last plague is going to be. This plague would be the plague of death, the loss of human life. Every firstborn son would die. The firstborn of the cattle would die as well. The grief would be worse than ever before or since that time. Pharaoh who was deemed as divine, or at least nearly so, would not be exempted. His position as the king would not protect his firstborn son from God's judgment on Egypt. From the greatest to the least, the firstborn of every Egyptian household would die. Moses has the final word. What would be the result of this plague for the Egyptians (verse 6)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What about the Israelites in verse 7? \_\_\_\_\_  
The ultimate distinction would be made. No tear would be shed among the Israelites.
4. When would Moses know it was time to leave Egypt (verse 8)? \_\_\_\_\_

In Exodus 5:1-4 we see Pharaoh dismissing Moses and Aaron from his presence. Much has happened since this first encounter. Repeatedly Pharaoh has refused to acknowledge the God of Israel. Repeatedly God has raised His hand of judgment upon Egypt. Now the land is devastated. We can't help but wonder what more can happen. Moses has told Pharaoh about this last plague. Boldly he told Pharaoh a fact, the truth. Then verse 8 says that "Moses, hot with anger left..." Now Moses had had it with Pharaoh!

Remember we noted in Exodus 10:28 that Pharaoh seemed to have the last word. When we read Exodus 11:8 we realize that Moses not only has the last word but also explains that after the Lord performs this last plague Pharaoh's officials are going to beg them to leave; even Pharaoh himself is going to drive them out of the land. As the Israelites depart the farewell sounds of the Egyptians will be the loud wailing—wailing worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. Now God's wonders will be multiplied in Egypt (verse 9).

## **Part 5**

**INTRODUCTION:** Before moving on to chapter 12 we need to take time to look at the significance of what God is going to do. In verse 5 Moses tells Pharaoh that “every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh...to the firstborn son of the slave girl...and all the firstborn of the cattle as well.”

**DIGGING DEEPER:** The all-knowing God knew that all the wonders and powers that He had given Moses to do would not change Pharaoh's mind. God knew that Pharaoh would harden his own heart to the point that God was the one who ultimately hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he could not change. Be that as it may, God would be the one to deliver His people from the oppression of the Egyptians, not Pharaoh.

1. In Exodus 4:22-23 what does God instruct Moses to tell Pharaoh? This is what the Lord says, “\_\_\_\_\_ is my \_\_\_\_\_, and I say to you, “Let my \_\_\_\_\_ go, that he may \_\_\_\_\_ Me. If you \_\_\_\_\_ to let him go, behold, I will \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. So, what was the significance of the firstborn son? Turn to Psalm 78:51. What does this verse reveal about the firstborn son? \_\_\_\_\_
3. The firstborn represented the virility of the nation. The firstborn son represented the manhood of the Father, the strength of the nation. God revealed that Israel was His firstborn son. Through Israel He would demonstrate His power and strength. This encounter with Pharaoh was the encounter of his strength and power with God's almighty power and strength. Now in this final plague we learn in Exodus 11:5 that every firstborn son of Egypt will die. What will this mean for Pharaoh and the Egyptians? What will this say about Pharaoh's strength and power? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the strong one? Who is the all-powerful one? \_\_\_\_\_  
God empowers His firstborn (Israel) with life and destroys Egypt by bringing death to the firstborn sons and all the firstborn of the cattle as well.

*Note: Some of these insights may be difficult to understand at this point in your study. Don't become discouraged. We will touch on these same truths in future studies. Just know for our study of Exodus that the killing of the firstborn is God's demonstration of His power and strength for His people, His firstborn son, Israel.*

**TEACHING:** There is another firstborn son we dare not overlook. Luke 2:7 may be a familiar verse to you. The verse reads: "She [Mary] gave \_\_\_\_\_ to her \_\_\_\_\_..." If this is not a familiar story, you are encouraged to take time to read Luke 2:1-20. This is the account of the birth of Jesus, God's one and only Son. In John 3:16 we are told that God loved the world so much that he gave His one and only Son that whoever \_\_\_\_\_ in Him shall not \_\_\_\_\_ but have \_\_\_\_\_. Through Jesus, God's firstborn Son, He demonstrates His strength and power. It is in the life and death of His firstborn Son that the powers of hell and all evil are destroyed. Sin, death, and the devil have lost their power because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 1:19-20 that this same power that raised Jesus from the dead is for us who believe.

**WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD:** The last plague is about to happen but God has some things He wants in place before He acts. This is a good place to reflect again on all that has happened. It's a time to catch your breath before we read on. We have talked about God's mercy bestowed on the Israelites. These are His people. His relationship with them is similar to that of a father to his son. His love for His children moved Him to seek to release them from the bondage and tyranny of slavery. His determined love wouldn't let Him quit acting on their behalf even when Pharaoh acted in stubborn defiance. Our God is good, gracious, and holy. He is also all-knowing and all-powerful. His love for Israel, His firstborn son, was manifested in His actions against the powers of evil. As God demonstrated His love for Israel, He demonstrates that some love for you and me.

**PRAYER:** O Lord, You are merciful to us. You acted on Israel's behalf when they were powerless to save themselves. You fought their fight against Pharaoh and all of his officials when they were discouraged and without hope. As You fought Israel's fight for them, you fight my daily battles for me. Thank You for acting on my behalf. Because of You I can live a life of hope and courage. \_\_\_\_\_

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## LESSON SIX

# IT IS THE LORD'S PASSOVER

**EXODUS 12-13 – REMEMBER THIS DAY**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Pharaoh's heart remained unchanged. Now the Lord is ready to execute a final judgment. He acts with intentionality as He prepares His people for what is about to happen next.

What is special about this night? Why such unusual instructions for their evening meal? Soon they would find out why! As you consider this lesson note the significance of all the Passover stipulations. Discover the significance of the lamb, the doorposts painted with blood, the unleavened bread, and the strange dress that were all included in these instructions of God.

And what was the last and final plague? What was significant about the firstborn? Why would Pharaoh and all of the Egyptians be eager to have the Israelites leave the country? And, as they left, what gave the Israelites the freedom to plunder the Egyptians asking for their silver and gold jewelry and their clothes and taking it with them?

At last, after 430 years "all the hosts [divisions] of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt...This night was a night of watching by the Lord." This night was to be remembered for generations to come, a vigil to honor the Lord.

**Part 1**

**INTRODUCTION:** God wanted to give His people something to commemorate the evening that the angel of death passed over the Israelites and spared them from the plague of the firstborn. He chose to make the remembrance a meal. This meal was to be “a lasting ordinance” that would keep them mindful of this event in their history. They were to observe this Passover meal annually and to pass this lasting ordinance on from generation to generation. The purpose of this lesson is not to get bogged down in all the details of God’s instructions but rather to understand that the Passover meal was ordained by God for His people to remember that he is their God, the One who delivered them, the One who set them free from their bondage of oppression.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 12:1-51. Here is a simple outline of chapter 12:

- Verses 1-20 – God’s instructions for Israel as He spoke to Moses and Aaron and the preparations each family was to make for its departure
- Verses 21-28 – The instruction of Moses to the elders
- Verses 29-30 – The plague on the firstborn sons of the Egyptians
- Verses 31-51 – The Exodus, the deliverance of God, as He brought the Israelites out of Egypt

**REVIEW:** In this section we will learn of God’s instructions for the people as He spoke to Moses and Aaron. After the instructions were given to Moses he called together all the elders of Israel and beginning in verse 21 he gave God’s instructions that they were to follow. This was their call. This would become their deliverance. They were called out of bondage and delivered to worship. Take time to review these verses earlier in the Book of Exodus when God first promised His deliverance:

1. Read Exodus 3:7-10. God as seen the \_\_\_\_\_ of His people and has \_\_\_\_\_ them crying out because of the \_\_\_\_\_. He is concerned about their \_\_\_\_\_. He has come down to \_\_\_\_\_ them from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and to bring them \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ of that land \_\_\_\_\_ a good and spacious land, a land \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Read Exodus 6:2-5. He is the \_\_\_\_\_. He is the One who would bring them out from under the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Egyptians.
  - a. He promises to \_\_\_\_\_ them from being \_\_\_\_\_.

- b. He promises to \_\_\_\_\_ them with an outstretched \_\_\_\_\_ and with mighty \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment.
- c. He promises to take them as His own \_\_\_\_\_ and to be their \_\_\_\_\_, who brought them out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. In verse 8 He promises to \_\_\_\_\_ them to the land He swore to give \_\_\_\_\_ and his descendants. He promises to give the \_\_\_\_\_ to Israel as a \_\_\_\_\_. Then He seals His promise with the words, “\_\_\_\_\_.”

**EXERCISE (Exodus 12:1-28):**

1. In verses 1 and 2 the Lord tells Moses and Aaron that Passover was to take place in Spring at the full moon, “the first month” later called Nisan (Jewish calendar month).
2. According to verse 3 what is to happen on the tenth day of the month? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The amount of lamb was to be carefully calculated and shared. It was determined on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 4).
4. What were the specifics mentioned in verse 5?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The lamb was selected on the tenth day. What happened on the fourteenth day (verse 6)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. According to verse 7 what are they to do with the blood from the slaughtered animals? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the significance of the blood according to verse 13? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. The meat is to be \_\_\_\_\_ over the fire, along with \_\_\_\_\_ herbs and bread made without \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 8).  
Notice that the meat is to be eaten that same night. It’s not to be kept for breakfast or for lunch sandwiches the next day. Take note of the haste in which the food is to be prepared. For example, bread made without yeast is ready much sooner than bread that needs to wait for yeast to rise.
9. In verse 9 we learn something else that’s interesting. The animal is to be roasted whole. No bones were to be broken. Keep this in mind as you continue through these verses. In verse 10 what were they to do with the leftovers? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Again, in verse 11 we see the readiness of the Israelites to leave. How were they to eat?

- a. Cloak: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Sandals: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, eat in \_\_\_\_\_. It is the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Part 2**

**TEACHING:** God’s instructions were direct and explicit. No one could question or debate what God wanted His people to do in preparation for their departure. He wanted them fed so their bodies were strong for the journey, yet this meal was not like every other meal. This was not a time of fellowship and pleasure. Everyone was to be dressed and ready to leave. In verses 12 and 13 God tells Moses and Aaron that the same night in which the lamb is roasted and eaten is the same night He would pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn son bringing His judgment on all the gods of the land. Again He says, “I am the Lord.” For the Israelites their life depended on the shed blood of the lamb that was painted on the lintels and the two doorposts of each Israelite home. The Lord did not need the blood for His sake for he knew where the Israelites lived. The blood was a sign of faith for His people. He wanted them to know that He would pass over every home painted with the blood. The blood was the sign that they believed God’s Word and would be saved from the devastating plague of death.

**REFLECTION:** Let’s pause for a moment. Let’s take time to reflect on the situation before us.

1. One part of the reflection has to deal with the past. What are some of the things you can recall happening that would build the character of the people? Consider, for example, when Moses and Aaron first came to town back in Exodus 4:29. What credibility did these two men have with the elders and the people at that time? Recall what God told these men He intended to do. Recall the situations and plagues it took in order for it to happen. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. We also need to reflect on Israel’s present. Put yourself in one of the Israelite homes. You have been given these instructions. You are told that after all the generations of the 400+ years that tonight is the night that everyone would leave all that they had ever known. What might be some of your thoughts? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. And now, you and your household are asked to believe that blood from a one year old unblemished lamb painted on the doorposts of your house will keep death from taking your firstborn son. You glance over and look into the eyes of your child. He may be in a crib, innocent and unaware or he may be older and very conscious of what is happening. Maybe you

are a firstborn son. What might be some of the thoughts and words you share with one another as a family preparing for the Lord's coming He strikes down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt?

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And the Egyptians have no clue what is about to happen. And the midnight hour is approaching...

*Note: At this time, some students may find themselves eager to keep pressing on with the action of this story. Others may have an interest in the details as they watch the story unfold. For those who are zealous to find out what happens next, move past this next "Digging Deeper" section and pick-up with the "Assignment" section that follows in Part 3.*

**DIGGING DEEPER:** In the next few verses God has more instruction for the generations to come. This Passover, or the Feast of Unleavened Bread, was to be celebrated as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance (verse 14). The celebration was to last for seven days. Identify specifics about this festival:

1. Verse 15: For seven days \_\_\_\_\_
2. Verse 15: On the first day \_\_\_\_\_
3. Verse 15: Whoever eats anything with yeast \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Verse 16: On the first day \_\_\_\_\_
5. Verse 16: Do no work \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY:** Verses 17-20 reiterate what has already been said. The summary is that this day is to be celebrated because "on this very day I brought your divisions out of Egypt." It was important that the generations to come would know what this day meant for Israel as God's people. Yeast was forbidden. It was not to be found anywhere in the house. It was not to be eaten by anyone in the community of Israel. No matter where they lived they were to eat only unleavened bread. We learn in verses 24 and following that these instructions were to be obeyed. The ceremony was to be observed even when they entered the land that God promised to Israel.

In verse 26 parents were given the instruction to teach their children. They were to tell their children what the ceremony meant to them. They were even instructed what they should reply. What does verse 27 say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Then after all was said and done, the people responded. They \_\_\_\_\_ their heads and \_\_\_\_\_ . In verse 28 we are told that the Israelites obeyed! They did just what the Lord had \_\_\_\_\_ Moses and Aaron.

### **Part 3**

**INTRODUCTION:** It's interesting to note that the Lord does not use Moses and Aaron and the staff of God to execute this plague, the plague on the firstborn. Rather these men, like all the other Israelites, were in their homes with the doorposts painted with the blood of the unblemished lamb that had been killed for their Passover meal. They were dressed and packed, ready to depart from the oppression of the Egyptians and return to the land of Canaan, the Promised Land, the land flowing with milk and honey that God had promised to Abraham and his descendants.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 12:29-42.

#### **EXERCISE:**

1. In your own words, write out what happened in verses 29 and 30: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Take time to reread Exodus 4:21-23 and Exodus 11:4-6. What did Moses tell Pharaoh that the Lord would do? \_\_\_\_\_  
Were there any surprises? Everything happened just as the Lord through Moses said it would.
3. Simply said, verses 29-30 tell of the devastation the Lord brought upon Egypt as He struck down all the firstborn sons in the land. What must it have been like for these families to experience the wrath and power of God? Hadn't they had enough? The people endured the consequences of their leader's stubborn and resistant heart. Now they faced the finality of death. "...there was not a \_\_\_\_\_ where \_\_\_\_\_ was not \_\_\_\_\_." There was no consolation, only the sound of loud wailing.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 12:31-36.

**EXERCISE:** The Exodus out of Egypt is ready to begin. Pharaoh calls for Moses and Aaron in the middle of the night.

1. What does Pharaoh tell them in verses 31 and 32?
  - a. "Up, go out \_\_\_\_\_."
  - b. "Go, serve \_\_\_\_\_."

- c. “Take your \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - d. “and be gone, \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. Notice the urgency of the Egyptians. Why did they want to rid Egypt of the Israelites (verse 33)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Verse 34 explains how quickly they left Egypt. How do we know the Israelites left quickly?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  4. Verses 35 and 36 tell us that the Israelites plundered the Egyptians. What did the Israelites do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  5. What did the Lord do that enabled the Israelites to plunder the Egyptians? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4**

**TEACHING:** And so, the journey out of Egypt begins. Check out the map of the Exodus in the back of your Bible. First, locate Rameses where their journey began. Follow the route southeast to Succoth. Remember this is not totally new territory for Moses. Moses knew life in the desert. He had made this journey before. In Exodus 2 we are told that after killing an Egyptian he fled for his life and ended up living for 40 years in Midian where he met his wife Zipporah.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read Exodus 12:37-42.

**EXERCISE:**

1. How many men were traveling on foot, besides the women and children? \_\_\_\_\_  
Although scholars do not know whether or not the translation of the numbers is figurative or literal, we do know that the number of Israelites who left Egypt was great!
2. Who do you think were some of the “mixed multitude [who] also went up with them?” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think they might have wanted to come along? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In addition to all the people, what else was included in the entourage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is mentioned again in verse 39? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why do you think it was significant to mention again the “dough without yeast,” the unleavened bread? \_\_\_\_\_

Locate the verses in chapter twelve when the unleavened bread is mentioned:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_



- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

7. According to verse 40, how long had the Israelite people lived in Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened at the end of this time? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What does verse 42 tell us about the Lord and His personal care and investment in the lives of the Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_
10. And, how were the Israelites to respond to His care for the generations that were to come? \_\_\_\_\_

**REFLECTION:** Consider this time in Israel’s history. For generations this family lived in the land of Egypt. They originally came because of the severe famine in their own land of Canaan. The family was treated well by their brother Joseph and the ruling Pharaoh. Then a new king became the Pharaoh. He did not know Joseph and was threatened by the great number of Israelites. They were treated ruthlessly and given hard labor. For years they were oppressed slaves. Finally, the Lord who had heard their cry came down to rescue them. He chose a man named Moses and his brother Aaron to go to Pharaoh and declare the word of the Lord demanding their release. After the harsh plagues that ravished the land and ultimately killed the firstborn of the Egyptians, the people begged the Israelites to leave. In fact, they gave them their jewelry, their clothing, and anything else they asked for just to get rid of them. They drove the Israelites out of the land in such haste that there wasn’t even enough time for yeast to be added to leaven the bread.

1. Now, imagine that it’s you being rushed by your former neighbor who wants you out of his/her sight. Are you prepared for the journey? What have you packed? What have you asked your neighbor for? After all, they offered to give you whatever you wanted just so you would go. What would you take as a “memento” of your years in Egypt? What would you take because it was necessary for life in the desert? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you have any idea what lies ahead? All you have known these many years is making bricks and building store cities for Pharaoh. What would you ever know of anything beyond Ramses? In fact, you’re probably not even sure where everyone is going? You just know that everyone is leaving and you certainly aren’t going to be left behind. Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you know how long you’ll be gone? Will you ever see your neighbors and friends again? What will you do to provide a living for you and your family? It’s a good thing you don’t have

much time to think about these things. If you did, do you think you might change your mind about going? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are other things that come to mind? \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION:**

1. As you reflect on Israel's history, what reflections might you have on your own life? Have there been major changes? Sudden changes? Reluctant changes? Uncertain changes? \_\_\_\_\_

2. With all the things that may or may not have happened during these times of change, what have you known to be consistent? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are those things that always seem to hold a degree of uncertainty? \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER:** Lord, my life has gone through many changes throughout the years. Change is always unsettling. Change rattles my routine. Change demands that I rise to the occasion with an attitude of optimism. Change has a way of exposing my vulnerability. As I reflect on changes I've become aware that Your presence has always been with me. You have brought me to the place I am today. Thank You for Your hand that guides and directs me through changes both great and small. \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 5**

**INTRODUCTION:** It's time to leave. The Israelites are moving out. It's time to leave behind everything that is familiar. It's necessary to say "good-bye" quickly before they change their mind! We wrestled with some of these same thoughts in the study of Abraham in *God's Promises, Our Blessing*. Abram was called by God to a land that he would show him. Then God told Abram in Genesis 15:13-14 that his descendants would also be called out of the land. But, just as God was with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob so He promised to be with Moses as he led God's people out of Egypt to the Promised Land. Israel regarded their life in Egypt to be all that they would ever know, but God had the Promised Land waiting for them, the land that He had promised first to Abraham and his descendants so many years earlier. God kept His promise. He remained faithful to His people.

**APPLICATION:**

1. Do you consider your life to be an oppressed life? Are you wondering if this is all there is? Or, do you have a sense of God calling you to a new and different place in life, a place that is filled

with freedom, adventure, and a journey in which He wants to bring you to a new place, a place where there is rest and quiet peace? What might be your Promised Land? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The Lord's desire is to deliver you from anything that would make you a slave, from anything that would keep you bound up. What is the deliverance you want? What may be keeping you from envisioning life in the Promised Land? What do you want to ask of the Lord? Maybe a habit or an addiction has you enslaved. Maybe it's your schedule or moods, even an attitude. Or, maybe it's a relationship? What deliverance do you want that would free you to enjoy the blessings He offers? \_\_\_\_\_
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**MEMORIZATION:** God gives to us His invitation, His call to come to Him. We can feel oppressed and even be treated ruthlessly like the Israelites but He says, "Come!" Take time to look up Matthew 11:28. If you are ambitious, include verses 29 and 30. The verses are short. Write them on an index card and begin putting them to memory. Jesus calls us to come to Him. He wants to deliver us from the burdens of life. May you find rest for your soul as you respond to his call and freedom in His deliverance.

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, You call me to come to You. You invite me to let Your love into my life. Enable me to live empowered by Your Spirit, energized and enthused as I live in Hope of my deliverance from all that would enslave me. You are my Lord. You are my God. I am Your child whom You have created and loved. Thank You for calling me out of a life of bondage and for delivering me into the safety of Your loving arms. \_\_\_\_\_

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UNIT REVIEW

**GOD'S CALL,  
OUR DELIVERANCE**

**PART I**

**REVIEW**

We have covered a lot of information in these first twelve chapters of Exodus.

1. List five characters you considered important in the story:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

2. With your highlighter, highlight the promise of God to Moses in Exodus 6:6-8. Why was it so important that this promise was given at this particular time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. List the ten plagues?

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | f. _____ |
| b. _____ | g. _____ |
| c. _____ | h. _____ |
| d. _____ | i. _____ |
| e. _____ | j. _____ |

4. God performed these miraculous signs. What did He want the Egyptians to know according to Exodus 7:4-5? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What insight did you find meaningful regarding the firstborn son? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What was the Passover meal? Why was this meal to be a lasting ordinance for the Israelites?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CLOSURE TO GOD'S CALL, OUR DELIVERANCE—I:** You are encouraged to press on with your study. You are learning much. You are easily navigating through the Bible. You are learning stories that acquaint you with God's Word. You are developing a degree of comfort as you pursue your study of what God says to you in His Word. You are learning truths about God's great love for you and His desire to be intimately acquainted with you.

**PRAYER:** O Lord, You were faithful to Your promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You delivered Your people from all that enslaved them. As You were faithful to them You are also faithful to me. Even when I feel as though I am oppressed by people and circumstances in my life, You are always with me. You empower me. You strengthen me for each day's labor. Thank You for calling me out of my bondage to sin and delivering me to a new life with You. \_\_\_\_\_

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