

PART
I

HE DRAWS US OUT

EX
OD
VS

TO DRAW US IN



PART I



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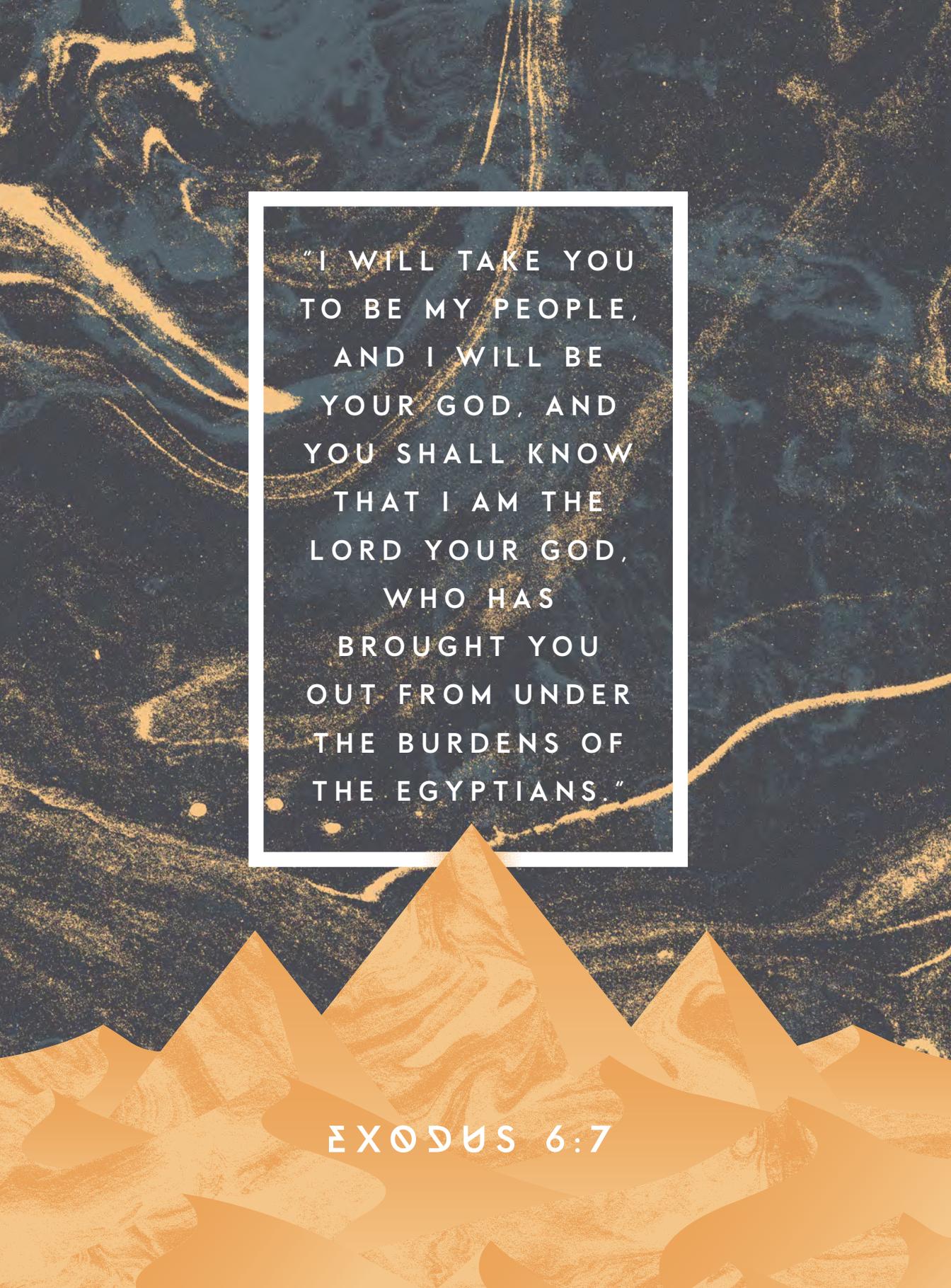
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FROM DARKNESS
TO LIGHT—THIS
IS THE STORY WE
ALL SHARE, AS THE
PEOPLE OF GOD.

**HE DRAWS US OUT
TO DRAW US IN.**

**FROM THE BIRTH
OF ISRAEL TO THE
CHURCH TODAY,
GOD DELIVERS AND
DWELLS WITH
HIS PEOPLE.**



"I WILL TAKE YOU
TO BE MY PEOPLE,
AND I WILL BE
YOUR GOD, AND
YOU SHALL KNOW
THAT I AM THE
LORD YOUR GOD,
WHO HAS
BROUGHT YOU
OUT FROM UNDER
THE BURDENS OF
THE EGYPTIANS."

EXODUS 6:7

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Before Exodus: A Summary of Genesis	P.1
Exodus Part 1: God Delivers His People	P.3
Sermon Schedule	P.6
The Plagues	P.7
Attributes of God	P.13
Additional Resources	P.14
Reading Plan	P.16
Group Study Questions and Ideas for Family Discipleship	P.17

BEFORE EXODUS: A SUMMARY OF GENESIS



The first book of the Bible, Genesis, begins with a description of God creating the universe. Everything He made—from land to light to vegetation to animals—He called “good.” Only when God created man and woman did He deem creation “very good” and complete. Adam and Eve lived in the garden of Eden and had dominion over creation. But it didn’t take long for the peace of Eden to shatter.

Sin entered the world and changed everything. Mankind became separated from God, banished from paradise. Nothing would be the same. As mankind multiplied, they filled the earth and corrupted it. God brought His judgment upon earth, wiping out mankind with a flood and using the family of Noah to start anew. The Lord had a plan of redemption, and He would carry it out.

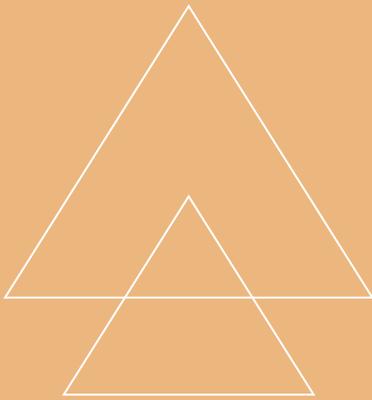
Generations passed, and the father of a future people, Abraham, was born. Abraham settled in Haran, where he received a promise from

God. The promise was this: God would make Abraham and his offspring into a great nation, and they would one day dwell in the Promised Land. Abraham then moved his family to Canaan, but when a time of drought and famine hit, he brought them to Egypt.

Years passed, and Abraham had a son, Isaac, and Isaac had a son, named Jacob. Now Jacob had 12 sons, but the youngest, Joseph, was his favorite. Joseph’s brothers, in their jealousy, sold Joseph into slavery. But the Lord gave Joseph favor with the pharaoh of Egypt, and Joseph rose to power in the royal palace. And when famine ravaged the land of Canaan, Joseph’s family came to Egypt, seeking food and provisions, and Joseph forgave his brothers.

So the house of Jacob remained in Egypt, and Joseph lived 110 years. But before he breathed his last, Joseph reminded the people of God’s promise to draw them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land.

EXODUS PART I: GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE



More than 400 years passed from the time God made His promise to Abraham, and the Israelites still had not seen its fulfillment. Instead, they lived as foreigners in the land of Egypt. The Egyptians feared that the Israelites would grow into a mighty nation and overtake them, so the pharaoh of Egypt forced them to work as slaves. Day after day, the Israelites worked in the heat of the sun and sand, the taskmasters whipping their backs, sweat stinging their wounds. But the nation of Israel continued to grow.

One day, Pharaoh sent out a terrible decree: Every son born to the Israelites would be thrown into the Nile River. But a Levite couple defied this order. When they could no longer hide their baby boy, the mother placed him in a basket and into the river, trusting God's will for his life.

And God did have a plan for the child. Pharaoh's daughter found the basket, caught in the reeds beside the river. She took pity on the crying baby and decided to take him in as her own child. She named him "Moses" because he was drawn out of the water.

The years went by, and Moses grew into a man within the walls of the palace. But when he saw the suffering of his people, anger burned within him. After he witnessed an Egyptian beating an Israelite, Moses killed the man and fled Egypt to hide in the desert.

But he could not escape the path God had for him. One day, he came upon a bush, consumed by flames but not burned to ash. Then the voice of God called out to Moses. God told Moses that He saw the persecution of His people and heard their cries. He promised to deliver them from slavery, and He commanded Moses to go before Pharaoh, the very man Moses had escaped from. Moses was terrified to return. But God sent Moses' brother, Aaron, to go with him, and they obeyed.

But Pharaoh would not listen. God had hardened his heart, and the king of Egypt would not be moved by signs and wonders. Even when Aaron's staff transformed into a snake, slithering on the sand, Pharaoh refused to believe. So the God of the Israelites brought down plagues upon Egypt. The water of the Nile turned to blood. Frogs, gnats and flies swarmed over every inch of land, and locusts consumed the fields. Darkness descended, blotting out the sun for days. Nine plagues in all, but Pharaoh's heart remained hard as stone.

To prepare for the 10th and final plague, Moses had the Israelites mark their doors with the blood of spotless lambs. That night, the Passover, the angel of death passed through the kingdom, killing the firstborn child of every Egyptian household that did not bear the mark. Not even the child of Pharaoh was spared.

With that, Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to take the Israelites and go. They were free. Thousands of men, women and children journeyed out toward the Promised Land. By night, a pillar of fire led the people, and by daylight, a pillar of cloud. This was the Spirit of the Lord, who did not leave the people.

Then God warned Moses: Pharaoh and the Egyptian army were coming to recapture the Israelites.

When the Israelites came to the Red Sea, they cried out in fear. Certain death awaited them on either side—the sea ahead or the chariots of the Egyptian army behind. But Moses lifted his staff to the sky, and the waters parted. The Israelites passed through the towering waves that stood like walls on each side of them, but the Egyptians—they were swallowed by the sea. God had indeed drawn His people out of bondage, out of darkness, and He would dwell with them soon.

The story of Israel is also the story of us today; we are God's people. He draws us out of our sin, our Egypt, and draws us into His presence, into relationship with Him.

SHE NAMED
HIM MOSES,
"BECAUSE,"
SHE SAID,
"I DREW HIM
OUT OF THE
WATER."



EXODUS 2:10

SERMON SCHEDULE

Our Story in Exodus
More Numerous Than the Stars
Days of Darkness
Drawn Out
Sojourner
God Sees and Knows
God Speaks
CELEBRATION WEEKEND
God Is Able
Wrung Out
Broken Spirit
Just Men
Signs and Wonders
The Plagues, Part 1
The Plagues, Part 2
The Passover
Delivered Out of Darkness
From Bitter to Sweet

August 20 – 21
August 27 – 28
September 3 – 4
September 10 – 11
September 17 – 18
September 24 – 25
October 1 – 2
October 8 – 9
October 15 – 16
October 22 – 23
October 29 – 30
November 5 – 6
November 12 – 13
November 19 – 20
November 26 – 27
December 3 – 4
December 10 – 11
December 17 – 18

THE PLAGUES



The 10 plagues of Egypt were acts of divine justice by God against the oppressors of His people. They demonstrated the power of the one, true God and exposed the gods that the Egyptians worshiped as false. Each plague corresponded to particular Egyptian gods and served to prove—both to the Egyptians and the Israelites—who the true Sovereign Ruler was.



1

// PLAGUE

Water turned to blood

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)

Apis, Isis, Khnum and Osiris, gods of the Nile

// EFFECT

It killed all the fish and made the water unusable, devastating the economy.



2

// PLAGUE

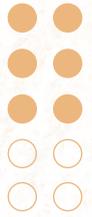
Frogs

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)

Heqet, the frog goddess

// EFFECT

Frogs invaded all the homes and later died. The Egyptians believed frogs to be sacred.



3

// PLAGUE
Gnats

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)
Set, god of the desert

// EFFECT
The dust of the desert turned to gnats and swarmed over everything—the first plague that the Egyptian sorcerers couldn't duplicate.



4

// PLAGUE
Flies

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)
Uatchit, the fly god

// EFFECT
Flies swarmed the Egyptians—the first plague that didn't also affect the Israelites.



5

// PLAGUE

Diseased livestock

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)

Hathor and Apis, cattle gods

// EFFECT

The Egyptian cattle died, devastating the economy further.



6

// PLAGUE

Boils

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)

Sekhmet, Sunu and Isis, gods over health and disease

// EFFECT

Boils covered the bodies of the Egyptians and kept the sorcerers away from the royal court.



7

// PLAGUE

Hail

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)

Nut, the sky goddess, Osiris, the crop fertility god, and Set, the storm god

// EFFECT

Hail and fire ruined the Egyptians' land.



8

// PLAGUE

Locusts

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)

Nut, Osiris and Set

// EFFECT

The locusts devoured the Egyptian crops, preventing a harvest for that year.



9

// PLAGUE

Darkness

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)

Re, god of the sun, also symbolic of Pharaoh himself

// EFFECT

Darkness covered Egypt for three days, but the Israelite homes still had light.



10

// PLAGUE

Death of the Egyptian firstborn sons

// EGYPTIAN GOD(S)

Isis, the protector of children, and also served as judgment on Pharaoh himself

// EFFECT

The angel of God killed the firstborn sons of the Egyptians but passed over the homes of the Israelites.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ONE OF OUR HOPES FOR THE EXODUS SERIES IS TO BE FILLED WITH AWE AND WONDER BY THE LIVING GOD. HE DRAWS US OUT OF DARKNESS AND DRAWS US INTO HIS LIGHT. HERE ARE SOME ATTRIBUTES OF GOD TO LOOK FOR AND MEDITATE ON AS YOU READ, PRAY AND DISCUSS EXODUS WITHIN YOUR GROUP AND FAMILY.

Almighty // Nothing is too hard for God.

Attentive // God hears and responds to the prayers of His children.

Compassionate // God sees, cares and acts when His children are in need.

Creator // God made everything.

Deliverer // God rescues His children.

Faithful // God always does what He says He will do.

Generous // God gives what is best.

Glorious // God shows His greatness and worth.

Good // God is what is best.

Holy // God is completely perfect and separate from sin.

Just // God is right to punish sin.

Loving // God does what is best.

Merciful // God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

Provider // God meets the needs of His children.

Refuge // God is a place of safety and protection for His children.

Sovereign // God has the right, wisdom and power to do all that He pleases.

Unchanging // God never changes.

Wise // God knows what is best.

Worthy // Only God deserves all glory.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

// Exodus LifeChange Bible study by The Navigators

// *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory* commentary by Philip Graham Ryken

// "The Book of Exodus" videos by The Bible Project on YouTube

// Explanation of Pharaoh's Hardened Heart: www.gotquestions.org/God-harden-Pharaoh-heart.html

// Chart of the 10 Plagues: www.biblecharts.org/oldtestament/thetenplagues.pdf

// "Time, Moments and Milestones" blog post by The Village Church:
www.thevillagechurch.net/the-village-blog/time-moments-and-milestones/

// Explanation of Exodus 4:24-26: www.gotquestions.org/kill-Moses.html



FOR MORE INFO AND RESOURCES,
VISIT OUR EXODUS MICROSITE:

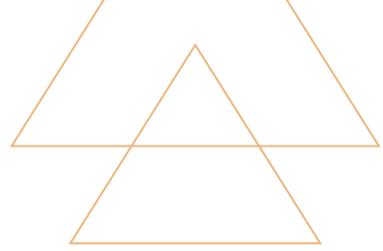
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GOD SAID TO
MOSES, "I AM
WHO I AM."
AND HE SAID,
"SAY THIS TO
THE PEOPLE
OF ISRAEL, 'I
AM HAS SENT
ME TO YOU.'"

EXODUS 3:14

READING PLAN



Exodus 1:1-7	August 22 – 26
Exodus 1:8-22	August 29 – September 2
Exodus 2:1-10	September 5 – 9
Exodus 2:11-22	September 12 – 16
Exodus 2:23-25	September 19 – 23
Exodus 3	September 26 – 30
BREAK / CATCH-UP WEEK	October 3 – 7
Exodus 4	October 10 – 14
Exodus 5	October 17 – 21
Exodus 6:1-13	October 24 – 28
Exodus 6:14-30	October 31 – November 4
Exodus 7:1-13	November 7 – 11
Exodus 7:14-9:12	November 14 – 18
Exodus 9:13-11:10	November 21 – 25
Exodus 12:1-32	November 28 – December 2
Exodus 12:33-14:31	December 5 – 9
Exodus 15	December 12 – 16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

PART



AS WE BEGIN OUR STUDY OF
EXODUS, SPEND SOME TIME WITH
YOUR GROUP PRAYING THROUGH THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

// Ask the Lord to increase your desire to read His Word. Ask for understanding as you read each week in preparation to hear the sermon and discuss the passage with your family and Home Group. The Exodus reading plan can be found on p. 16.

// Thank the Lord for giving us His Word and letting us know the story of Exodus. Thank Him for continuing His story through our stories. Ask God to open your eyes to the ways He draws us out to draw us in.

// Think about specific areas of sin and darkness God has drawn you out of. Praise Him for rescuing you. Ask for strength to confess sin and flee from any darkness in which you currently find yourself.

// Throughout our study, we will see many different attributes of God. Think of as many words as you can to describe God, and praise Him for who He is. For some examples, look at the “Attributes of God” list on p. 13.

// Pray that your group would have fruitful discussion each week and that, through the study of God’s Word, you will grow together and pursue Christ with all your hearts.

// Ask God to tune your heart to the Holy Spirit as He makes you aware of time, moments and milestones to leverage for fruitful family discipleship throughout this study. Ideas for family discipleship are included each week alongside the group study questions.

// Pray for unity among the campuses as we walk through Exodus together. Ask the Lord to speak through Matt and the other pastors who will preach each weekend and to sustain them through this long series. Thank the Lord for your gospel-centered community, and ask Him to help you hold one another accountable throughout this study.

WEEK 2 // MORE NUMEROUS THAN THE STARS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 1:1-7 aloud.

In Acts 7, Stephen stands before the Sanhedrin and delivers a sermon which summarizes the history of the nation of Israel. Have another group member read Acts 7:1-18 aloud.

What is the hardest season you have ever had to endure?

REFLECT

In Acts 7:5-7, what do you learn about the Egyptian captivity? About the hope Israel held?

Have a group member read Genesis 1:28 aloud. How does this verse relate to Exodus 1:1-7? What does it indicate about the faithfulness of God?

During the 400 years of waiting in Egypt, what do you think the Israelites thought regarding God's promise of the land of Canaan? Regarding God's character?

APPLY

Having to wait is part of being human, but waiting through trial and hardship is particularly difficult.

Have a group member read 2 Peter 3:8-9 aloud. How does it relate to Israel's situation in the opening lines of Exodus? How is it relevant to your current circumstances?

What trial is currently keeping you in waiting? Is it sinful to want our times of trial to be short? Why or why not?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read or summarize the story of Joseph (Gen. 37-45). Then go through these questions together:

// How have you seen God provide for your family?

// Where have you seen God make and keep His promises?

// Joseph forgives his brothers for so much pain he's been through. How can your family be better at kindness, repentance and forgiveness?

// What do you hope the Lord uses your family to accomplish in His kingdom?

MOMENTS

Look for opportunities this week to talk about how God is our *Provider*—God meets the needs of His children—and leverage opportunities to demonstrate *forgiveness*—to release someone from their wrong.

MILESTONES

Consider how you might celebrate and commemorate God's significant provision for your family. Some provision is not promised but worth celebrating, like life, salvation, a new job, a new house, etc. How can you establish and/or remember these spiritual milestones?

WEEK 3 // DAYS OF DARKNESS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 1:8-22 aloud.

How would it have felt to be a Hebrew living in Egypt during the time described?

REFLECT

Describe Pharaoh's initial plan for Hebrew population control in 1:8-14. What multiple purposes did it serve, from his perspective? What was the result?

Describe Pharaoh's second plan for Hebrew population control in 1:15-22. What does it reveal about the relative value he placed on human life? On males versus females?

Despite living under the rule of a fearsome pharaoh, the Hebrew midwives walked in fear of God. How did their rightly-placed fear equip them to be obedient to their true master?

APPLY

Who or what are we most likely to fear more than God? What is the secret to fearing God more than the "pharaohs" in our lives?

Obedience is a challenge when times are easy, but it is particularly difficult when times are hard. How is the rightly-placed fear of the Hebrew midwives an example to us? In what current circumstance can you imitate their courage by remembering whose servant you truly are?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 1:8-22. Then go through these questions together:

// What is the hardest thing you've ever done or been through?

// How have you seen God work through difficulty?

// How do you think God feels about all the evil in our world?

// How is Jesus Christ God's response to evil?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week to talk about how “God is in charge of everything” and “God is good.” Opportunities might come up as you read or watch the news or as your child is confused about why something is happening or has happened. Capture any moments this week to remind your household that “Jesus came to save sinners” and that God is our *Deliverer*—God rescues His children.

MILESTONES

What are the anniversaries of the hardest things in your life? How might you commemorate on those days how the Lord is making all things new? How can you mark growth in every year removed from that day?

WEEK 4 // DRAWN OUT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 2:1-10 aloud. Then have another group member read Acts 7:17-22.

How does the account in Acts add to your understanding of the account in Exodus?

REFLECT

What purpose does this “scene” in the life of Moses serve? How does it look back to what has already occurred and prepare us for what is to come?

The Hebrew midwives feared God more than Pharaoh. How do we see others demonstrate the same kind of bravery in this scene?

As we will see throughout the book of Exodus, Moses foreshadows Christ. What similarities can you find between the birth story of Moses and the birth story of Jesus? Scan through Matthew 2:1-18 to help with your answer.

APPLY

Moses’ parents see a hopeless situation turn into a hope-filled one by the sovereign hand of God. How have you seen God do this in your own life?

Exodus 2 describes the birth of hope. Have a group member read Romans 15:13 aloud. Why is it important to remember that we serve a God who fits this description? How should it change the way we regard people or situations that seem beyond hope?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week’s passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 2:1-10. Then go through these questions together:

// What do we know about what our grandparents or great-grandparents went through when they were growing up?

// How were their lives different from ours? What difficulty did their generations face?

// Moses is rescued out of the Nile River. How is baptism for us a symbol of being rescued out of the water?

// Share with each other struggles that you'd like to be rescued from.

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week to tell your family about God being a *refuge*—a place of safety and protection for His children. Opportunities might come up when a child is scared or struggling. As a reminder of our redemption, share the *gospel*—the good news of God's plan to rescue the world from the problem of sin through Jesus Christ.

MILESTONES

Being given a name is a significant milestone. Talk about why you named your kids what you named them. If there is a spiritual reason, share with them the hope of blessing you've given them in their name.

WEEK 5 // SOJOURNER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 2:11-22 aloud. Then have another group member read Acts 7:23-29.

How does the account in Acts add to your understanding of the account in Exodus?

REFLECT

What purpose do these two “scenes” in the life of Moses serve? How do they look back to what has already occurred and prepare us for what is to come?

What does the incident in verses 11-15 reveal about Moses’ sense of identity? About his character?

What light do verses 16-22 shed on Moses’ thoughts and feelings? What do his marriage and the naming of his son reveal about his outlook on his future?

Moses’ first attempt to deliver one of his own people from oppression is a complete failure. What do you think he believed about himself? About God’s estimation of him? Why might God have allowed him to fail in that way?

APPLY

Why is fleeing from our sin and guilt always a bad idea? How does it keep us from loving God and others? Think of examples from your own life. Why is owning and confessing what we have done essential to our spiritual health?

Describe a time when God used a failure to teach you and mature you. What did you learn about yourself? About God?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week’s passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 2:11-22. Then go through these questions together:

// Have you ever been ashamed or scared after you did something wrong?

// What difficult consequences did you have to face afterward?

// If someone said to you, “God doesn’t like me when I’m bad,” what would you say to them?

// How can your family be better at sharing how you’ve hurt each other and asking for/offering forgiveness?

MOMENTS

As you discipline your kids this week, leverage opportunities to talk about *confession*—telling the truth about your sin—and *grace*—God freely gives His children what they don’t deserve. Talk about how we want to forgive like God forgives: fully, freely and forever.

MILESTONES

Moses’ mistakes sent him on a path to meet his wife and have his son. How can you utilize anniversaries or birthdays to be days of remembrance for God’s faithfulness? Consider centering your wedding anniversary or birthday on celebrating what God has done in your life.

WEEK 6 // GOD SEES AND KNOWS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 2:23-25 aloud.

How would you describe the tone of this passage?

REFLECT

Why does the text mention that the king of Egypt died? Think back to why Moses is not currently in Egypt (2:15). How might this detail affect the storyline?

Have a group member read Genesis 17:1-6. Why do you think God's covenant is mentioned at this point in the Exodus narrative?

How does the description of God in 2:24-25 place Him in stark contrast to the gods of wood and stone worshiped by the Egyptians?

APPLY

The original readers of Exodus were the generation of Israelites about to enter the Promised Land after 40 years of wandering. How would the words of 2:24-25 been a comfort to them? How should they comfort us?

In the midst of their suffering, how aware do you think the Israelites were that God heard, remembered, saw and knew? Why is it good for us to meditate on these truths in both good times and bad?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 2:23-25. Then go through these questions together:

// When have you needed a lot of help to do something?

// How is your prayer life? Is it ever hard to feel or believe that God is hearing you and responding?

// How can your family pray more together as a household?

MOMENTS

At meal times, bed times or other daily times, remind your family that “God wants to talk with us.” Remind each other that God is *generous*—God gives what is best—and that He is *loving*—God does what is best.

MILESTONES

Are there milestones in your family’s future that you are praying for? Are you praying for godly marriages? Children? Jobs? Homes? Pray that the Lord would do something momentous in your family’s future.

WEEK 7 // GOD SPEAKS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 3 aloud. Then have another group member read Acts 7:30-34.

How does the account in Acts add to your understanding of the account in Exodus?

REFLECT

What purpose does this “scene” in the life of Moses serve? How does it look back to what has already occurred and prepare us for what is to come?

How should Moses have responded to God’s statements in Exodus 3:10? What does his actual response reveal?

Summarize God’s words to Moses in chapter 3 in one sentence. What is the main point He expresses to Moses?

APPLY

Have you ever thought or said, “If God would just tell me explicitly what to do, I would do it”? How does the story of Moses and the burning bush challenge that statement? Why do we still hesitate to obey, even when the will of God is clear?

God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. Today, He speaks to us from His Word. What clear command from Scripture are you slow to obey? What immediate obedience do you need to practice this week? How does God’s response to Moses urge you to walk forward in obedience?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week’s passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 3. Then go through these questions together:

// How does God speak to Moses? What does He say to him?

// How does God speak to us through His Word? What does He call us to?

// What is your family doing to know God better? What is your family doing to make Him known to others?

// How can your family read the Bible better together and individually? How can you share with each other what you see God saying?

MOMENTS

Look for opportunities at the beginning or end of the day to communicate to your family the gift of *the Bible*—God’s true word. It is from God and about God. In the Bible they will see that God is *wise*—God knows what is best.

MILESTONES

All Christians have the same general calling, but to receive a particular calling from the Lord is a huge milestone. Do you believe that the Lord has called you or your family to anything more specific? Is there a way to celebrate or commemorate that calling?

WEEK 8 // GOD IS ABLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 4 aloud.

What kind of situation is most likely to cause you to doubt your abilities?

REFLECT

In 4:1-12, God responds to Moses' credibility concerns by giving him three miraculous signs and an assurance about his deficiency of speech. What does Moses believe is necessary to serve God? What does God indicate is necessary?

In 4:13-14, God responds to Moses' fifth objection with anger. Does this response surprise you? Why or why not? In light of his mission, why might it have been important for Moses to remember that God's anger toward sin is part of His character?

In 4:15-31, Moses responds obediently to God's command to return to Egypt. However, despite knowing that his sons should have been circumcised on the eighth day, he hadn't done so. (For further explanation on this scene, visit www.gotquestions.org/kill-Moses.html.) God required Moses to obey in personal matters as well as in public ones. Why is integrity in personal matters so important for someone in public ministry?

APPLY

After five objections to His clear command, God's anger is kindled. Have a group member read Psalm 145:8. Have another group member read James 1:19-20. How is God's anger different from man's anger? Which situations are most likely to elicit an angry response from you? What practical strategies can help us avoid sinning in our anger?

Why is integrity in personal matters important for every believer, whether they're in public ministry or not? What private sins are you most likely to justify or downplay?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 4. Then go through these questions together:

// Is there anything you've been asked to do that you think is hard for you but easier for others?

// How have you seen the Lord use your weaknesses for His purposes?

// How does your family encourage one another?

// Moses made a lot of excuses. Are there excuses you lean on in order to do less or nothing? How can your family help each other overcome your excuses to serve God?

MOMENTS

When something is hard or your child feels like giving up, remind them that if God is for us, nothing can stand against us. Remind your family that God is *almighty*—nothing is too hard for God—and encourage each other to be *patient*—slow to anger, waiting kindly and quietly.

WEEK 9 // WRUNG OUT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 5 aloud.

What one word would you use to describe the tone of chapter 5? Why?

REFLECT

Moses obediently goes to Egypt to confront Pharaoh. What do you think Moses expected to happen? What is surprising about the outcome? What is unsurprising?

What tactic does Pharaoh employ to undermine Moses? Why is it effective?

What does Moses' response to God in 5:22-23 reveal about his state of mind? About his faith?

APPLY

How does this week's text challenge the idea that our obedience obligates God to bless us and grant us an easy life? How does it challenge the idea that the Christian life is free from doubt?

How prone are you to discouragement when obedience to God does not yield an immediate, discernible blessing? What is a better motive for obedience than to gain a reward?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside time this week for your household to read Exodus 5. Then go through these questions together:

// Have you ever expected one thing from God only to get something more disappointing?

// Why do you think God doesn't just make our lives easier?

// Are you ever tempted to give up when things get hard?

// How can we lean on God when we feel like giving up?

MOMENTS

God never promises life will be easy. When your child is tempted to take the easy way out, leverage the opportunity to share Colossians 3:23-24. "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

WEEK 10 // BROKEN SPIRIT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 6:1-13 aloud.

What purpose does this section of the text serve? Why is it included here?

REFLECT

Look again at vv. 6-8. God begins and ends His message with, “I am the LORD.” Why do you think He does this? What are the implications of this repeated statement?

What sort of relationship is God planning for Israel and Himself? Did God know that Israel would be difficult? Why does He keep pursuing them?

What parallels do you see between Moses and Jesus in this portion of the story? Connect the themes of rejection, discouragement and obedience between the two men.

APPLY

Have you ever been in a place where God’s promises and the good news of a bright future have been unbelievable? When was a time when the pain of the moment made it seem like there was no way out?

Moses and Aaron knew they had to obey God, even when the people of God felt like it was a lost cause. Are there ways the Church has given up on serving and obeying God because it seems like a lost cause? How can you persist in spite of this? How can you encourage your brothers and sisters forward?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week’s passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 6:1-13. Then go through these questions together:

// What God asked Moses and Aaron to do seems impossible. What is something that you'd like to see happen, but it seems impossible?

// Do you ever ask God for "impossible" things?

// How is our eternal life with God something impossible that the Lord has done through Christ?

// Is there anyone you would like the Lord to save, but it seems impossible? How can you be part of the Lord's work in reaching them?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week to point out and pray for people whom you hope the Lord saves. Say, "Jesus came to save sinners," and remind each other that God is *sovereign*—God has the right, wisdom and power to do all that He pleases.

MILESTONES

How do you celebrate and commemorate your own salvation? Consider having a baptism birthday party with your family, friends and neighbors.

WEEK II // JUST MEN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 6:14-30 aloud.

How closely does your family pay attention to lineage and family trees? Do you have any famous ancestors?

REFLECT

Why do you think the author takes this particular moment to establish the lineage of Moses and Aaron as descendants of Levi?

Based on the order of the genealogy, Aaron is Moses' older brother. Reflecting back on Moses' birth story, how does this detail change the way you perceive the bravery of their parents in the face of oppression? How might this detail complicate their current roles as leaders of Israel?

Look again at vv. 28-30. They act as a summary statement for all that has occurred since God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. Why do you think the author chose to reiterate only these particular ideas? What does the author want us to remember about God and about Moses from these chapters?

APPLY

What are some things God has called all Christians to that we are commonly afraid to do? What lies feed our fears?

Which of the fears you mentioned above do you battle personally? How does knowing Yahweh, the Great I Am, answer your fears and give you confidence?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 6:14-30. Then go through these questions together:

// What do you know about your family's history?

// How have you seen the Lord move through your family tree?

// Who are you more like, your father or your mother? How?

// What would you like your family legacy to be?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities to remind each other this week of your identity as a member of your family or as an adopted son/daughter of God. Commit to memory and recite John 1:12. "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

MILESTONES

When was the last time your family had a reunion? Consider picking a date for all of your family to gather and how that might be a spiritual milestone in the timeline of your family tree.

WEEK 12 // SIGNS AND WONDERS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 7:1-13 aloud.

Why are magic tricks or supernatural occurrences so appealing to people?

REFLECT

In verse 1, God speaks to Moses in the past tense of a future reality: “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh.” Why is this so?

God tells Moses exactly what will happen when Moses and Aaron perform signs in front of Pharaoh, and it does. Knowing that Pharaoh will reject the signs, why do you think God goes through the process of providing them anyway? (For more explanation on the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart, visit www.gotquestions.org/God-harden-Pharaoh-heart.html.)

What explicit outcome is God pursuing by taking action against the Egyptians (see 7:5)? How does Pharaoh’s desired outcome differ? How does the Israelites’ desired outcome likely differ?

APPLY

Look at 7:7. Do the ages of Moses and Aaron shock you? What sort of notions do we have about serving God at certain ages? Do you think it is easier to serve God at a certain age than at another?

Is hardness of heart a problem for unbelievers only? What personal sins or problems of the world are you callous or indifferent toward? How should a believer deal with personal areas of hard-heartedness?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week’s passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 7:1-13. Then go through these questions together:

// What is your favorite of God's miracles?

// Why do you think God performs miracles?

// If someone said to you, "If God did a miracle right now, I would believe in Him," what would you say?

// Do you have faith in God because of what He does or because of who He is? What's the difference?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities to point out the everyday miracles of God's creation: how we live and breathe, how God made everything, how God has shown mercy even on those who don't believe in Him. God is *merciful*—He does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

WEEK 13 // THE PLAGUES, PART I

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have several group members read Exodus 7:14-9:12 aloud. (For an overview of the plagues, visit www.biblecharts.org/oldtestament/thetenplagues.pdf.)

In your opinion, which of the first six plagues would be the hardest to endure? Why?

REFLECT

How would the first six plagues have impacted the Egyptians economically? Practically (in their day-to-day lives)? Psychologically?

By the third plague, Pharaoh's magicians draw a correct conclusion. What is it (see 8:18-19)? Knowing that seven more plagues are coming, what does this tell us about Pharaoh's resolve? His belief in the strength of his own gods?

What do you notice about Pharaoh's responses to each of the plagues as they progress? How do his tactics change? What do they indicate he believes is true of Yahweh? Of himself?

APPLY

Have you ever received a warning from God and continued in sin? What was the outcome? How would the outcome have been different if you had heeded earlier correction? Is there a warning you are currently choosing to ignore?

The first three plagues affect both the Egyptians and the Israelites, but the rest affect only the Egyptians. Why does God sometimes allow the just to suffer for the sins of the unjust? What should be our attitude in those times?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 7:14-9:12. Then go through these questions together:

// Why did God send the plagues?

// The Egyptians worshiped false gods, or idols. They worshiped the created things instead of the Creator. What do you love so much that it is hard for you to love God more than it?

// How did God show His power over the Egyptian gods?

// How can your family love each other and love God better?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week in the course of everyday conversations to teach your family the true meaning of *love*—a caring commitment to God and others over yourself.

WEEK 14 // THE PLAGUES, PART 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have several group members read Exodus 9:13-11:10 aloud. (For an overview of the plagues, visit www.biblecharts.org/oldtestament/thetenplagues.pdf.)

What's the greatest physical discomfort you've ever endured? What did you learn from it?

REFLECT

During the eighth and ninth plagues, Pharaoh's verbal response takes an interesting turn. Look back at 9:27 and 10:16. Discuss his verbal response in light of his continued refusal to let the Israelites go. What is the difference between confession and repentance?

Compare Moses' words in 11:8 to God's words back in 7:1. How has Moses' confidence in God grown, even as Pharaoh's heart has hardened?

Note Moses' disposition at the end of 11:8. Why do you think this detail is included? How does this reveal his disposition toward God? Toward the Egyptian people, who acknowledge his authority (11:3)? Toward their stubborn ruler, Pharaoh?

APPLY

Though we may not want to admit it, we often employ bargaining tactics with God, just as Pharaoh did. When are we most likely to bargain instead of repent? What faulty thinking about ourselves and our God does bargaining reveal?

Why did the Egyptian people react differently to Moses than Pharaoh did? How does pride keep us from recognizing the activity of God in our lives, even when others around us are seeing it? How is pride currently blinding you to God's will in your life?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 9:13-11:10. Then go through these questions together:

// Which of the plagues would've been the grossest/scariest to you?

// If someone said to you, "God seems mean," what would you say to them?

// How do the plagues show God's glory, that He is worthy of our worship?

// How can your family worship God together more/better?

MOMENTS

Leverage the times where you face something significant in current events, the weather or creation to remind your family that God is *glorious*—God shows His greatness and worth—and that He is *worthy*—only God deserves all glory.

WEEK 15 // THE PASSOVER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 12:1-32 aloud.

What are some memorial rituals that Americans observe to remember significant past events? Why do we do this?

REFLECT

The story of Passover is filled with shadows that find their fulfillment in Christ. As a group, discuss as many as you can find (read ahead to 12:43-51 to help with your answers). Then look at 1 Peter 1:19. Why does Christ's spotless character make Him able to pay for our sin?

Look at Exodus 12:29-32. Why did this plague lead to the successful release of the Israelites? How is it ironic? Look back at Exodus 1:22 to help with your answer.

Observe God's judgment in these verses. How do you react to this amount of deaths at God's hands? What reasons for this judgment has the story given us up to this point? In other words, why would God do this?

APPLY

Look again at vv. 7-13. These instructions are all intended to leave Israel in a state of readiness. At any moment, their escape from slavery may come. Jesus tells us to be ready at all times for His return (Matt. 24:36-44). How can we prepare ourselves?

Read vv. 26-27. What habits or memorials should you practice in your home that will cause those around you to ask, "Why are you doing this?"

Read Matthew 26:28. In the same way that God passed over the people of Israel because of the blood of spotless lambs, God's judgment passes over us on account of Christ's blood. How do we rehearse and remember this great truth of the gospel, both personally and communally?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 12:1-32. Then go through these questions together:

// Why do you think the Lord had the Israelites sacrifice spotless lambs?

// How is the lamb a picture of Christ's sacrifice for us?

// What or who would you be willing to give your life for?

// How can your family be more self-sacrificial to serve each other in the name of Christ?

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities to share the *gospel*—the good news of God's plan to rescue the world from the problem of sin through Jesus Christ. Teach your kids about what you sacrifice for the sake of Jesus. Make much of Jesus every chance you get and remind your family that, "When we look at Jesus, we see what God is like (because Jesus is God)."

MILESTONES

When we practice communion, we practice a ritual of remembrance. It is the remembrance both of the Passover and of Christ's sacrifice intertwined. The first time your child takes part in this ritual is a huge milestone. How will you celebrate and commemorate that milestone in the life of your family and child?

WEEK 16 // DELIVERED OUT OF DARKNESS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have several group members read Exodus 12:33-14:31 aloud.

Imagine you are an Israelite in this story. What sort of reaction would you have to all these events?

REFLECT

In 12:33-42, which facts or numbers surprised you the most? Why?

In addition to the memorial practice of Passover, two others result from the story of the exodus: the consecration of the firstborn and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (13:1-16). As a group, reflect on how each of these not only pointed back to the story of the exodus but forward to the story of Christ.

How does Exodus 14 draw to a close the story of Pharaoh and the progressive hardening of his heart? Of Moses' progressive credibility? Of God's faithfulness? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.

APPLY

How do the stories of Passover and the Red Sea crossing correspond to your own story of being drawn out of the bondage of sin? How has reading them deepened your gratitude for the atoning work of Christ?

Re-read Exodus 13:18-19. Joseph was a man of great faith, whose very bones spoke of his belief that God would do what He had promised. His deathbed request offers a shadow of the bodily resurrection all believers await and shows a healthy understanding of what it means to dwell as a stranger in a strange land. How can we emulate Joseph's faith in our daily decisions and challenges in such a way that our lives look discernibly different from those of unbelievers?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 12:33-14:31. Then go through these questions together:

// How did the Lord rescue the Israelites out of Egypt?

// Do you think you would have trusted God to rescue you after witnessing His many signs and wonders? Do you think the Israelites ever struggled with doubt or idolatry?

// Why is it hard for us to trust God, even when He has rescued us and done so many incredible things?

// How we can help each other deal with doubt?

MOMENTS

In moments of discipline this week, remind your kids that we all struggle with *sin*—it's more than just the bad things we think, feel, do and say; it's *why* we do them. Our hearts are sick with sin. Remind them of our *sinful nature*—all people are slaves to sin; we both choose it and have no choice. Encourage them to take heart in God because He is *merciful*—God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

WEEK 17 // FROM BITTER TO SWEET

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

Have a group member read Exodus 15 aloud.

What major theme stands out to you in the Song of Moses?

REFLECT

What does the Song of Moses tell us about the Red Sea crossing that we don't see in 14:21-31? What does it further describe poetically?

What attributes of God are extolled in the Song of Moses? Scan through the text and note as many as you can find, either explicitly stated or implied.

Read vv. 22-24. The Israelites have been in the wilderness for only three days when they start grumbling. How would you respond if you were Moses? How would you respond if you were God?

What does God lay out to the Israelites as the conditions for protection? What sort of heart condition do these actions come out of?

APPLY

Of the attributes of God described in the Song of Moses, which do we commonly celebrate in the modern church? Which do we rarely celebrate? How is our faith strengthened by celebrating all that is true about God, not just those attributes that we commonly meditate on?

Have you ever been helped by God but then quickly forgotten it? How can making repetition of His past provision/deliverance strengthen your faith? Practically, what are ways we can do this?

Describe a time that God turned a bitter relationship or situation into a sweet one. How long did it take? What did you learn from the experience? What current bitter relationship or situation needs a sweetening miracle from God?

CLOSE

What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

IDEAS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME

Set aside a time this week for your household to read Exodus 15. Then go through these questions together:

// Why do you think Moses and the people of Israel started singing together?

// What is your favorite song about God?

// What has God done in, for and through your family that makes Him worthy of your worship?

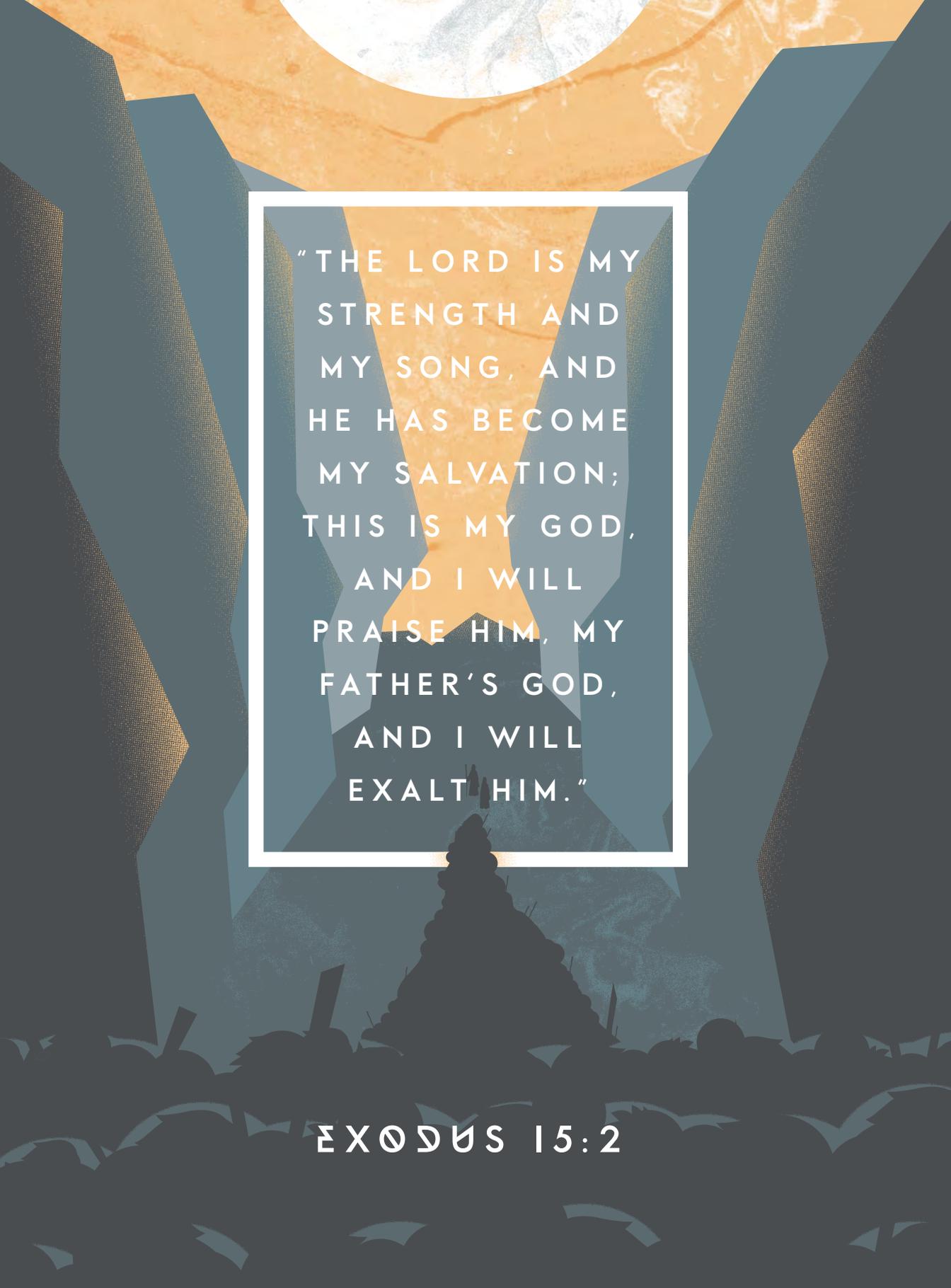
// Sing a song or two to God together.

MOMENTS

Leverage opportunities this week for *worship*—the right response to the goodness of God. Consider putting on worship music as you commute or drive around town. Seek opportunities in the course of your everyday life to praise God.

MILESTONES

Consider how you might celebrate and commemorate God's significant provision for your family. Some provision is not promised but worth celebrating, like life, salvation, a new job, a new house, etc. How can you establish and/or remember these spiritual milestones?



"THE LORD IS MY
STRENGTH AND
MY SONG, AND
HE HAS BECOME
MY SALVATION;
THIS IS MY GOD,
AND I WILL
PRAISE HIM, MY
FATHER'S GOD,
AND I WILL
EXALT HIM."

EXODUS 15:2



Resources