

I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.

Exodus 14:4

Exodus is a story of fire, water, and rescue by blood. It is the story of God drawing his people out of Egypt into relationship with himself, and making a way for his people when no way was imaginable.

Once heard, the story of Exodus is never forgotten because almost every scene is unforgettable: a baby drawn out of the Nile, a bush burning in the wilderness, ten plagues that confront the false gods of Egypt, the angel of death, the parting of the Red Sea, the Ten Commandments, the golden calf, and the glory of the LORD descending on the tabernacle.

Exodus literally means to exit or to depart and ultimately that is what the book is about: ***God's people departing slavery in Egypt and experiencing freedom by following their God.*** At the center of this story there is a man named Moses who is powerfully used by God to rescue God's people from Pharaoh's enslaving hand.

After Moses leads the Israelites out of slavery, the book of Exodus pivots to describe the promises God makes and the instructions God gives to his people. In this section of Exodus we see a God who wants his people to love, worship, and work in light of the freedom he has given them. Also in this section, we see God's steadfast mercy and grace to people who persist in their sin, grumbling, and rebellion. The book of Exodus then ends with the construction of the tabernacle according to God's precise specifications and the glory of the LORD descending on the tabernacle.

For Christians today, the story of Exodus defines us. We too have been rescued by blood. We too have been given promises and instructions for how to live in light of our freedom in Jesus. And perhaps most breathtaking of all, we are the new tabernacle and God the Holy Spirit has descended on us so that God now dwells in and among us. And so the story of Exodus is a story we share, because we too are the people of God.

In the coming months, we are going to walk through the entire book of Exodus together. Our hope is that this journey helps you find your unique place in God's great story of rescue, because even today God is at work drawing us out of our slavery to sin and drawing us into his presence by the power of the Holy Spirit. And so we pray that reflecting on God's great act of redemption in Exodus will help you experience a great act of redemption in your life.

As we go through this series, remember that from beginning to end, Exodus reveals the glory of God – that God is powerful and able to save. As such, it teaches us that anyone who wants to be saved can call out to God and God will deliver. His deliverance might not be according to our timeline or wisdom, but it is always for his glory and our good.

As God works in your life during this series, please share what he is doing at preaching@faithchurchfc.org. We love hearing stories of people being rescued for glory!

Every blessing,
Pastor Charlie for the Teaching Team

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to Small Group Resources	1
Small Groups at Faith	3

WEEK	DATE	TITLE	MAIN PASSAGE	PAGE
Week 1	February 4	A People For Glory	Exodus 1:1-7	5
Week 2	February 11	Days Of Darkness	Exodus 1:8-22	7
Week 3	February 18	The Birth Of A Savior	Exodus 2:1-10	9
Week 4	February 25	Forty Years Too Soon	Exodus 2:11-22	11
Week 5	March 4	God Sees, God Knows, And God Remembers	Exodus 2:23-25	15
Week 6	March 11	The Burning Bush	Exodus 3	17
Week 7	March 18	Faith And Obedience	Exodus 4	21
Week 8	March 25	Bricks Without Straw	Exodus 5	23
Week 9	April 1	Easter In Exodus: I Am And I Will	Exodus 6:1-9	25

INTRODUCTION TO SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

No one is born into this world with a theology. So each generation must rediscover the truths of Scripture for itself.

Preaching the Bible is one of the primary tools God has given the church for this to take place.

Small groups are the place where the preaching at Faith is applied and where our church is encouraged to live out God's word. Members of Faith's small groups take time each week to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon, share specific insights from the Bible, and care for one another so that as a church we grow up to maturity in Jesus.

This study guide has been put together to give you an overview of our current sermon series so that you know where we are going and so that you are prepared for great discussions in your small group.

Here is an overview of what you will find for each week in this study guide:

Main Passage – This is the passage the teaching pastor will preach from.

Secondary Passages – These passages help to unpack and explain the main passage.

Passage for Memorization and Meditation – This is one passage to memorize and meditate on throughout the week so that at all times you are giving Jesus an opportunity to work in your life.

Overview – This is an overview of what will be discussed in small group this week.

Opening Question – This is a general question meant to spark conversation.

Discussion Questions – These are questions related to the Bible passages.

Application Questions – These are questions and ideas for applying the Bible to your life.

Table Time With Kids – These are questions and ideas for families with young kids.

These materials are not meant to be a rigid formula for your small group, but rather a means for intentional study, discussion, and life application so that ultimately, as a church, we grow together to maturity in Jesus.

We hope you find this helpful.

What is a small group?

Small groups at Faith are small gatherings of people from Faith that meet regularly for friendship, prayer, and Bible Study.

Each small group is unique because it is shaped by the people who attend. However, at the heart of each small group is a desire to see a tight-knit community form that is marked by a growing love for Jesus and for the other people in the small group.

Why should I join a small group?

We are made for friendship with God and others. When we are not known and loved by others, we suffer because we are not experiencing all that God created us to experience. Additionally, life is too difficult to journey alone. Therefore, small groups are a place where we can connect in friendship with other people through the ups and downs of life.

How do I get connected to a small group?

The easiest way to get connected to a small group is to go to www.faithchurchfortcollins.org/small_group. You can also sign up on Sunday by filling out the Bluebook. Finally, if you would like to join a small group, you can call the church at 970-226-2095.

Title: A People For Glory

Main Passage: Exodus 1:1-7

Secondary Passages: Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 17:1-2, 26:4, 28:14; Acts 7:1–53

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

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

Exodus 1:7

Overview: The book of Exodus opens with the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob. After being introduced to these people, we are told that they were fruitful and increased in number. At first glance this does not seem all that significant. But it is. You see, Exodus is the continuation of the work God started in the book of Genesis.

The book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible. It begins with a description of God creating a beautiful world for his people to enjoy. God's act of creation culminated with the creation of man and woman, who were made in the image and likeness of God. Adam and Eve were then instructed by God to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it.

Sadly, sin entered God's creation and threatened God's plan of dwelling with his people. When sin entered the world, everything changed. Sin separated us from God, and as mankind multiplied, they filled the earth with corruption.

God then judged the world with a great flood. Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark alone were spared. After the flood, God called Noah to be fruitful and to fill the earth.

After Noah, generations passed and eventually a man named Abram was born. In his grace, God drew near to Abram, changed his name to Abraham, and promised to be his God, to make him into a great nation, and to give his descendants the Promised Land. These promises were the next step in God's strategy to undo sin and restore our relationship with him.

Abraham demonstrated great faith. He believed the promises of God and so he followed God to the Promised Land. Upon his arrival, the land was occupied by the Canaanites, and through a series of painful events including famine, sibling rivalry, and a great grandson being sold into slavery, Abraham's descendants found themselves in Egypt.

More than 400 years passed from the time that God made his promises to Abraham to the beginning of the book of Exodus. And although God's people have not seen God fulfill all of his promises, they have started to see the fulfillment of one of God's promises. They have become a great nation and now they await a great intervention that will demonstrate God's glory and show many people that Israel's God is the one true God.

Opening Question:

What excites you most about studying the book of Exodus?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 1:1–7. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- Exodus 1:7 says, “*the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly.*” This fact is so important to this opening chapter that it is mentioned three times (see 1:7, 12, and 20). Now look at Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 17:1-2, 26:4, 28:14. How do these verses relate to Exodus 1:7?
- What do the verses in Genesis indicate about the faithfulness of God?
- Acts 7:1–53 is a beautiful summary of the history of God’s people during the time of Exodus. Read Acts 7:1–18. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- In Acts 7:5–7, what do you learn about the God’s people being in slavery in Egypt?
- During the 400 years of waiting in Egypt, what do you think God’s people thought regarding the promises of God?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?

Application Questions

- Having to wait on the promises of God is part of being a follower of Jesus. Knowing this doesn’t make waiting easier, especially during seasons of trial and hardship. Read 2 Peter 3:8–9. How does this passage relate to God’s promises in Genesis?
- How have you seen God keep his promises to you?
- Have there been seasons in your life when you struggled to believe God would keep his promises to you? What have those seasons been like?
- The book of Exodus is about God demonstrating his glory by rescuing his people from slavery. What work could God do in your life that would bring him glory?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family read aloud Exodus 1:1–7. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Does God keep his promises to his people? *Yes. God is a faithful God who keeps all of his promises to his people.*
- How have you seen God keep his promises to your family?
- What could God do in your family during this series to demonstrate to you that he is great?

Title: Days Of Darkness

Main Passage: Exodus 1:8-22

Secondary Passages: Romans 8:28, Matthew 27:45–46

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Overview: This section of Exodus introduces us to the ominous position of God's people. During the time of the Exodus, a new Pharaoh came to power in Egypt and this Pharaoh was not kind to the Israelites. Previously, God's people had been protected in Egypt but now they were persecuted, enslaved, and killed.

There were several reasons for this.

Ethnically, the Israelites were different from the Egyptians and the new Pharaoh was concerned that the growing immigrant population threatened to destabilize his entire government. Pharaoh shared this concern with his advisers who were all too willing to introduce a policy of forced labor and infanticide.

This sudden turn from being a protected people to being persecuted reveals something rather sinister about human nature: oppressing ethnic minorities can happen quickly because racism is part of our sinful condition. As such, we must be humble and aware when it comes to the way ethnic minorities are treated.

Spiritually, the Israelites were oppressed because they represented the success of God's plans to bless the entire world by bringing a savior into the world through Abraham's family. Satan would not allow this plan to go forward unopposed. So the oppression of God's people had a very real spiritual dimension to it. A cosmic battle was being waged between God and Satan. Satan resented God's people, rejected God's promises, and resisted God's plans. This cosmic battle continues today because we too are the people of God, and God is working out his plan of salvation through us.

The good news in this dark section of Exodus is that God's plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. Even though Pharaoh attempted to destroy God's people, they prospered. Even though Pharaoh thought the Hebrew women were of less value than the Hebrew men, it was the midwives who outsmarted him. And even though Pharaoh commanded his people to kill the Hebrew boys, Pharaoh ended up protecting the Hebrew boy who would eventually set God's people free. In short, we may resist God, but God always wins.

Opening Question:

- What is a hard thing you have gone through?

Discussion Questions:

- Read Exodus 1:8–22. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- What do you think it would have felt like to be a Hebrew living in Egypt during the time of the Exodus?
- Describe Pharaoh’s different plans to oppress God’s people. What do they reveal about his heart?
- What is the result of Pharaoh’s plans to oppress God’s people? What does this reveal about God?
- The Israelite midwives feared God, so they disobeyed Pharaoh’s commands to kill the baby boys. When is civil disobedience the right choice? Why?
- Look at Matthew 27:45–46. What does Jesus’ death on the cross reveal about God’s response to evil in this world?

Application Questions:

- How does God’s ability to preserve his people encourage you?
- Who or what are you most likely to fear more than God? What is the secret to fearing God more than the “pharaohs” in our lives?
- In what current circumstance in your life can you imitate the courage of the Hebrew midwives?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family read aloud Exodus 1:8–22. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Is there a battle today between Satan and God’s people? *Yes. Satan hates God’s people, and, like Pharaoh, he wants to destroy them.*
- What should we do when Satan creates hardship in our lives? *We should express our hurt and trust that God is at work to deliver us.*

Title: The Birth Of A Savior

Main Passage: Exodus 2:1-10

Secondary Passages: Acts 7:17–22; Hebrews 11:23; Romans 15:13; 1 Peter 1:3–5; Matthew 2:1–18

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

Overview: This section of Exodus reveals hope with shocking clarity. Pharaoh was a wicked man who hated the people, plans, and promises of God. And so the Israelites were living in fear. Their lives were being terrorized. Their children were being thrown into the Nile to die. And yet God was on the move bringing about a savior who would confront and ultimately crush Pharaoh.

Although God is not named in these verses, he was fully present. He was at work in the birth of Moses. He formed Moses in his mother's womb and safely delivered him into this world. God worked to give Moses' family the conviction and the courage needed to protect his life. God worked as Moses was placed into the threatening waters of the Nile. At that moment, it looked like God's plan to triumph over evil was going to be swallowed up by the Nile, but it wasn't because Moses was protected by God in the basket that was made for him.

God calls us to see his hand in protecting Moses by calling the basket an ark (*tebha*). The only other place the Bible uses this Hebrew word is in the story of Noah and the flood. So by using this word for the basket that Moses rested in, God is revealing to us that just as he worked to protect Noah from the flood, so he worked to protect Moses from the Nile. Finally, God was at work in Pharaoh's daughter. It wasn't a coincidence that she happened to be down at the river, nor was it a coincidence that she saw the basket and felt pity for the child. In all of this, God was at work orchestrating salvation for his people.

This isn't the only time God has worked to orchestrate salvation for his people. Moses was a savior, but he was not the Savior. Many years later, God worked to bring Jesus into the world. Like Moses, Jesus' life was threatened, and like Moses, Jesus was used to rescue God's people. But this time God set his people free forever.

Opening Question:

- Why do you think hope is so powerful?

Discussion Questions:

- Read Exodus 2:1–10. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Read Acts 7:17–22 and Hebrews 11:23. How do Moses' parents demonstrate hope in a hopeless situation?

- Where do you see God at work in the birth of Moses?
- How do you think Moses' parents would have responded if they didn't believe God was at work?
- As we will see through the book of Exodus, Moses foreshadows Jesus. What similarities can you find between the birth of Moses and the birth of Jesus? Scan through Matthew 2:1–18 if you need help answering this question.
- Read Romans 15:13 and 1 Peter 1:3–5. Why is it important to always remember that we have a living hope in Jesus and we serve a God who can bring hope to the hopeless? How should this truth change the way we think, feel, and act when faced with situations that seem hopeless?

Application Questions:

- This section of Exodus clearly reveals God at work in a hopeless situation. How have you seen God work in hopeless situations in your life?
- Share with your small group struggles that you currently have. Where do you need to be rescued?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 2:1–10. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Is God able to help you in difficult situations? *Yes. God is a living God who is at work in the world today.*
- What struggles are going on in your family?
- ***Parents, this week spend some time praying with your children for God to rescue your family from the various trials and troubles that you face. Leverage opportunities to tell your children that God is the Savior. He saves us from sin. He saves us from evil. The gospel is the good news that God is at work in this world saving his people.***

Title: Forty Years Too soon

Main Passage: Exodus 2:11-22

Secondary Passages: Acts 7:23–29; John 2:13–17

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

Revelation 7:10

Overview: This section of Exodus reveals that Moses had some lessons to learn before he was ready to lead God's people. For all his admirable qualities – his hatred of injustice, his sympathy with those who suffered, his love for God's people, and his leadership capacity – Moses was prone to outbursts of anger. We see Moses' anger very clearly in these verses. One day Moses witnessed an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave. Moses was so enraged by what he saw that he took the life of the Egyptian and then buried the cold body in the hot sand.

This is not the only time that Moses' anger got the best of him. Later on in the book of Exodus, the Israelites grumbled against Moses because they were thirsty. God commanded Moses to speak to a rock to bring forth water, but Moses was so incensed by the Israelites' complaining that he struck the rock. Because of this outburst of anger, God did not allow Moses to enter the Promised Land.

While Moses' anger was often justifiable, his actions were not. God had plans to rescue and provide for his people, and Moses was often not patient enough to wait for God's plans to come to fruition. And so Moses took matters into his own hands and attempted to achieve salvation by his own strength. But Moses never achieved salvation in his own strength. All Moses was able to accomplish was the murder of one man. As the book of Exodus unfolds, we see that it will take infinitely more than one dead Egyptian to set the Israelites free from their slavery in Egypt; it will take God working powerfully and supernaturally in and through Moses.

Moses' flight to the wilderness teaches us that God is kind to us when we fail. Our failures do not mean that God's plans for our lives are over. God is patient to shape our character so that we can be used by him.

Moses' flight to the wilderness also reveals that God will not have his leaders work in their own strength. The reason for this is that salvation belongs to God and salvation ultimately comes through God. So when salvation finally comes to the nation of Israel, it will not be through Moses taking matters into his hands, but through God calling and empowering Moses.

Waiting on God to work is very hard. When we see injustice, the godly response is anger. But this passage teaches us that we must surrender our anger to God and ask him to reveal his plan and timing to bring about salvation in this situation. It is so important to do this because moving ahead of God never produces the results we long to see.

Opening Question:

- Talk about a time when you were impatient. How did that moment impact the people around you?

Discussion Questions:

- Read Exodus 2:11–22 and Acts 7:23–29. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- What experiences did God use to shape Moses' character?
- Moses' first attempt to deliver God's people was a failure. What do you think he believed about himself as he ran into the wilderness? What do you think he believed about his future?
- Look at John 2:13–17. Is anger an appropriate response to injustice? What does it look like to respond in a godly way when we see injustice?

Application Questions:

- Talk about a time in your life when you took matters into your own hands. What happened? What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about God?
- Describe a time when God used a failure to shape you. What did you learn about yourself during this time? What did you learn about God?
- Is there something you are waiting on God to do? If so, share it with your small group.
- How are you encouraged knowing that your failures do not mess up God's plans for you?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 2:11–22. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Did Moses sin when he felt anger towards the man who was beating the Israelites? *No. Moses' anger was a good thing, but Moses should have asked the Lord what he wanted him to do with his anger instead of killing the man.*
- Did Moses' failure destroy God's plans for Moses' life? *No. God actually used this failure to shape Moses' character.*
- If someone said to you, "God doesn't like me when I fail," what would you say? *God doesn't like it when we fail, but God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die on the cross so that he could forgive us when we fail.*
- Moses ran away after he failed. Have you ever felt like running away after you did something wrong?
- What should you do when you do something wrong? *You should confess your sin to God who is faithful to forgive you.*

- *Parents, as you interact with your kids this week, leverage opportunities to talk about confession and grace. Confession is us telling the truth about our sins, and grace is God giving us forgiveness through the blood of Jesus. Talk about how we want to freely confess our sins to God and freely forgive like God.*

Title: God Sees, God Knows, And God Remembers

Main Passage: Exodus 2:23-25

Secondary Passage: John 3:16-17

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

Psalm 34:15

Overview: In this section of Exodus the story shifts from Moses in the wilderness back to the Israelites suffering in Egypt. Roughly forty years are packed into Exodus 2:23–25, and these years were full of toil, hardship, and trial. God’s people were enslaved. They were forced to work in the hot sun. They had nothing – no power, no property, and no standing in their community – but they did have prayer. They were able to cry out to God. They were able to express their pain, grief, and distress to him. And here is the good news: **God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.**¹

This verse emphasizes a massive theological truth. God is a living God who hears his people and remembers the promises he has made to save them. This characteristic of God is what propels the story of Exodus forward. From beginning to end, God is intimately aware of the suffering of his people and he is purposefully setting forward a plan to save them.

The same God who was present during the time of the exodus sent Jesus to be our Savior, and he did this because he saw our need for rescue and he remembered his promise to save us. So in John 3:16–17 we read: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

This verse declares that God is personal, present, and profoundly good. He is personal in that he deeply loves the world. He is present in that he knows precisely what the world needs. And he is good in that he is willing to meet our needs even at great cost to himself.

The application of this section in Exodus is that God is worthy of our prayers. After all, he hears our prayers – even when they are little more than groanings. He remembers that we belong to him because of the work Jesus did on the cross for us. And then he answers our prayers – not always in the way that we would have hoped for or expected, but always in a way that brings him glory and is for our good.

Opening Question:

- Talk about a time you really felt heard. How did that experience shape and impact you?

1 Exodus 2:24

Discussion Questions:

- Read Exodus 2:23–25. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- In the midst of their suffering, how aware do you think the Israelites were about the reality that God saw, heard, knew, and remembered them?
- How does the description of God in Exodus 2:23–25 set him apart from the false gods being worshipped in Egypt?
- Look at John 3:16–17. How does this passage reveal that God sees, hears, knows, and remembers us?
- Why do you think it is so important to know that God sees, hears, knows, and remembers?
- Do you have a favorite passage that reminds you that God sees, hears, knows and remembers you? If so, what is it?

Application Questions:

- When have you needed to be reminded that God sees, hears, knows and remembers you?
- How is your prayer life? Is it ever hard for you to believe that God is listening to you?
- Is there something significant that you are asking God to do in your life today?
- How can your small group help to remind you that God sees, hears, knows and remembers you?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 2:23–25. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Does God see and hear us? *Yes. God is deeply involved in our lives.*
- How do we know God sees and hears us? *The Bible reveals that God is alive and he notices us.*
- Do you have to speak out loud for God to hear you? *No. God knows our words before we say them.*
- ***Parents, as you interact with your kids this week, leverage opportunities to talk about the reality that God is a living God who sees and hears them. Remind your children at meal times and bed times that prayer isn't a chore or a duty; it is a life-giving conversation with God.***

Title: The Burning Bush

Main Passage: Exodus 3

Secondary Passage: Acts 7:30-34

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

Overview: : In our journey through the book of Exodus we have seen that God's people were oppressed in Egypt. For four hundred years they had been under Pharaoh's harsh rule. Eventually, the situation became so severe that the Israelites cried out to God to rescue them.

God's response to Israel's cry started miles away from Egypt, in the wilderness. Moses was out tending his sheep when he noticed a bush that was burning but was not being consumed by the fire. Moses went to investigate, and as he drew near, God spoke to him from the bush.

It is worth noticing here that God's response to our problems isn't always what we would think or plan. God didn't respond to his people's cry for deliverance with a voice from heaven telling Pharaoh to let his people go. Instead, he began with a bush burning in the wilderness.

God's first words from the burning bush to Moses distinguished God as different from all the false gods that were being worshipped at the time. The God who spoke from the burning bush was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This reveals that God is at work in human history.

Additionally, the God who spoke from the burning bush was self-sufficient. Like the bush that was not consumed by the fire, God never runs out of fuel. His glory never dims, and his power never fades. He does not get energy from anyone or anything because he is self-sufficient.

Finally, the God who spoke from the burning bush was a personal God who knew Moses' name and took steps to reveal his plan to Moses.

God's plan was simple. He would work through Moses to rescue the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. This helps us to see that while God is self-sufficient, he enjoys involving us in his work in this world.

At first Moses doesn't see how God's plan for his life was going to work out. So Moses pushed back: "*Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?*" This reveals that Moses wasn't focusing on what God could do through him, but rather on what he could do in his own strength.

God responded to Moses, not with anger or judgment, but with a promise: "*I will be with you.*" This reveals that the success of the story of God's people being set free from slavery in Egypt didn't depend on Moses. It depended entirely and completely on God.

From this section of Exodus, we should remember that the Bible is our burning bush experience. It is God faithfully declaring who he is and what he requires. Sometimes when God speaks to us from his word, we are tempted to respond like Moses: “*God, who am I that I should follow you in this way?*”

In these moments, we should remember God’s promise to Moses: I will be with you. This helps us to center our lives on God, which makes all the difference because the success of our story of faith doesn’t depend on us; it depends entirely and completely upon God.

Opening Question:

- Has there ever been a time in your life when you wanted God to speak directly to you?

Discussion Questions:

- Read Exodus 3. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- How does Moses respond to God’s call to go back to Egypt? What does this response reveal about Moses?
- How does God respond to Moses’ insecurities about being used by God to rescue the Israelites? What does this reveal about God?

Application Questions:

- In what ways is the Bible our burning bush experience with God?
- Have you ever thought or said, “If God would just tell me what to do, I would obey.” How does the story of Moses and the burning bush challenge that statement? Why do people hesitate to obey, even when God’s word is clear?
- What are you doing to know God better through the Bible?
- Are there any clear commands from the Bible that you are slow to obey today?
- All Christians have the same general calling to love God and people, but some, like Moses, have a particular calling. Do you believe the Lord has a particular calling for you? If so, what is it?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 3. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Does God speak clearly to us today? *Yes. God speaks to us through the Bible.*

- Is reading the Bible important? *Yes. As we read the Bible we gain a better understanding of who God is and what God wants us to do with our lives.*
- How can you begin to spend daily time in the Bible?
- ***Parents, this week look for opportunities to remind your children that the Bible is a gift from God. In the Bible, God reveals himself to his people so that we can know, love, and follow him.***

Title: Faith And Obedience

Main Passage: Exodus 4

Secondary Passages: James 1:5–8; Matthew 28:16-20

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

Overview: Last week we focused in on the call God gave to Moses to go to Egypt and challenge the greatest power of his day. Moses responded to God with various reasons for not accepting the call: *Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh? They will not believe that you sent me. I don't speak well.*

God patiently listened to Moses' objections and then directed his attention to the simplest thing imaginable – the staff in his hand. Moses had probably carried this staff for years. It was most certainly dry and dead – just a piece of worthless wood. But when Moses obeyed God's command to throw it on the ground, the staff became a serpent.

Moses' staff is used in numerous ways throughout the rest of Exodus. The staff was used to swallow up the staffs of the Egyptian magicians, to turn the water of the Nile into blood, to part the Red Sea, and to bring water out of a rock.¹ Through Moses' staff, God was communicating an important message to his people: he doesn't need greatness to do great work; all he needs is faith and obedience.

This message should give us great courage as we serve the Lord. God is able. He can do the impossible in and through us. And so with God there are no little people. With God small things are very significant. With God dead things come alive.

Moses finally surrendered his life to God's call. So chapter 4 closes with Moses journeying back to Egypt. On the way, Moses' wife circumcised her son. While this may seem strange to us, it was ultimately an issue of obedience. Moses knew that his son should have been circumcised after birth, and he hadn't done so. This interaction helps us to see that God requires his servants to be men and women of integrity. We are to obey God in private and public matters.

Opening Question:

- What are some excuses people might give for not following God?

Discussion Questions:

- Read Read Exodus 4. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?

1 Exodus 7:10-19, 14:16, 17:5-6

- Read Matthew 28:16–20. In what ways is Jesus’ call on our lives similar to the call God gave to Moses?
- What reasons does Moses give for not accepting God’s call?
- In Exodus 4:1–12, God responds to Moses’ objections by giving him three signs and an assurance of his commitment to be with him. What does Moses believe is needed to serve God successfully? What does God indicate is necessary to serve him successfully?
- In Exodus 4:13–14, God responds to Moses’ fifth objection with anger. Does this response surprise you? Why or why not?
- In Exodus 4:18–31, Moses finally obeys God. However, despite knowing that his son should have been circumcised, he hadn’t done so. God required Moses to obey in personal matters as well as in public ones. Why is integrity so important for someone who serves God?

Application Questions:

- If you heard a call from God on your life, what reasons might you be tempted to use to not accept God’s call?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt small in the face of what God was asking you to do?
- Moses made a lot of excuses. Are there excuses you lean on in order to do less than what God is calling you to do? How can your small group help you overcome your excuses to serve God?
- How have you seen God use you in spite of your weakness?
- Why is integrity in personal matters important for every believer? What private sins are you most likely to justify?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 4. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- What does God require of those who serve him? *God requires faith and obedience.*
- Does God want you to serve him? *Yes. In Matthew 28:16–20 we are called to set people free by telling them about Jesus.*
- Moses made a lot of excuses. Are there excuses you lean on in order to do less than what God is calling you to do? How can your family help you overcome your excuses to serve God?
- ***Parents, this week when something is hard or your child feels like giving up, remind them that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.² We serve a powerful God who is more than able to help us in our weakness.***

Title: Bricks Without Straw

Main Passage: Exodus 5

Secondary Passage: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Overview: Emboldened by God's promise to be with him, Moses obediently returned to Egypt and confronted Pharaoh. We are not told what Moses thought would happen, but I imagine that Moses anticipated one quick talk with Pharaoh would be sufficient to get God's people out of Egypt.

This isn't what happened. Not only did Pharaoh refuse to let God's people go; he increased their suffering. Pharaoh made their work more difficult, he accused them of being idle, and he punished them for wanting to be set free.

God's people then came to Moses and Aaron to complain. They asked God to judge Moses and Aaron for stirring up trouble in Egypt.

As a result Moses turned to God to complain. It is not hard to understand why Moses felt disappointed. He had done everything God asked him to do. He had been brave and full of faith. And now, just days later, the exodus from Egypt was a mess, and the people were blaming him for their suffering. As far as Moses was concerned, God's plan had failed. And so Exodus 5 closes with Moses questioning God for failing to save his people.

In this passage it is worth noticing that rescue and redemption often take longer than we think. Moses thought one confrontation with Pharaoh would get the job done. But it would take several confrontations and much persistence to see God's plans accomplished.

Additionally, this passage reveals that we can be at the very center of God's will, and things can still turn from bad to worse. The human tendency in these situations is to blame God or to assume that we are not walking in his will. But this passage invites us to grow in patience by taking a long view and resisting the urge to make God work according to our timetable. This passage also reminds us that we need to be cautious about deciding whether something is God's will by looking at how it is turning out at the moment. The first sign of trouble doesn't mean we should give up. Often we need to keep going. Often we need to rest in the reality that God is at work, even though we can't see it right now.

Opening Question:

- Have you ever had a situation when doing something was harder than you thought it would be? If so, share it with your small group.

Discussion Questions:

- Read Exodus 5. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- How does Pharaoh respond to Moses? What do you think Moses expected to happen?
- What does the increase of God's people's suffering reveal about being at the center of God's will?
- How do the Israelites respond to the increase of their suffering? How does Moses respond to the people's complaining?
- How does this passage challenge the idea that our obedience to God obligates God to bless us? How does it challenge the idea that the Christian life is free from doubt and despair?
- Look at 2 Corinthians 4:1–18 and John 16:33. Based on what you have read, what is an accurate description of the Christian life?
- What is a godly motivation for obedience?

Application Questions:

- Are you prone to discouragement when obedience to God does not yield immediate blessing?
- 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 your small group help you lean on God when you feel like giving up?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 5. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Is following God always easy? *No. Sometimes following God is very hard.*
- Does following God mean you will not suffer? *No. Sometimes you suffer more because you are following God.*
- How should we respond when we experience hardship? *We should take the long view of faith. We should continue to believe that God is at work and that he will one day rescue us.*
- ***Parents, this week buy up opportunities to help your children understand that following God isn't easy. This week challenge them to do some hard things and help them when they are tempted to take the easy way out.***

Title: Easter In Exodus: I Am And I Will

Main Passage: Exodus 6:1-9

Secondary Passage: Matthew 28

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

But after I am raised up, I will go before you.

Matthew 26:32

Overview: At this point in the book of Exodus things are not going well. Pharaoh refused to let God's people go and increased their suffering. So now God's people are upset and Moses is discouraged.

In an act of extravagant grace, God spoke directly to Moses and revealed who he was and what he would do for his people. No fewer than eight times God said in one way or another, I will accomplish your salvation. I will deliver you. I will bring you out. I will be your God. I will redeem. I am the LORD.

In this section of Exodus, God draws the attention fully and completely to himself. He stands as the answer to all the problems that his people are facing. This reveals that salvation and deliverance depend entirely on him. The exodus from Egypt depends on him. Whatever difficulties arise, God will handle them because he is the LORD.

The God who called Moses is the God of our salvation. He is the one who went to the cross and died. He is the one who rose on the third day to defeat our great pharaohs of Satan, sin, and death. As such, we can turn to him with all of our problems because he can and he will do something about them. He is the LORD, the great I Am of Exodus.

Certainly, there are times when our problems are great and our hearts are broken. In these times we can struggle, like the Israelites, to believe God will work on our behalf.¹ And so this Easter remind your soul of this truth: God is the LORD. He will deliver you from slavery. He will redeem you with an outstretched arm. He will do the impossible in you and for you.

Opening Question:

- What are some reasons people give for not trusting in God?

Discussion Questions:

- Read Exodus 6:1-9. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Why do you think God focuses this section of Exodus on who he is and on what he will do?

1 Exodus 6:9

- What kind of relationship does God plan for the Israelites and himself?
- Read Matthew 28:1–20. What parallels do you see between the Exodus and Easter? How do both stories reveal God’s glory?
- How is our eternal life with God something impossible that the Lord has done for us?

Application Questions:

- Have you ever been in a place where God’s promises have seemed unbelievable?
- What impossible things has God done in your life?
- What impossible things do you long for God to do for you?
- How do you celebrate your own salvation?
- Close small group this week by asking God to do the impossible in and through you.

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 6:1–9. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Did God make promises to his people? *Yes. God promised to save them.*
- Did God keep his promises to his people? *Yes. God rescued his people from Egypt.*
- What impossible things has God done in your life?
- What impossible things do you long for God to do?
- ***Parents, this week look for opportunities to teach your children that God is a living God who works for his people. Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection are the clearest indicators that this is true.***