

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Studies

Exodus

Chapters 1-15

“Escape From Egypt”



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Bible Studies

Bible Studies
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Exodus Chapters 1-15

"Escape from Egypt"

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A Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Study of Exodus Chapters 1-15

He Knows My Name
Exodus Chapter 1 - Questions

1. (:1-5) What were the names of the twelve sons of Jacob?

2. (:6-7) Over the span of 400 years, Jacob and his twelve sons and their wives all died, but what happened to their descendants who were left in Egypt?

3. (:8-10) What was the new Pharaoh afraid of?

4. (:11) What did the rulers of Egypt decide to do?

5. (:12) What happened as a result of what they did?

6. (:13-16) Then what did the Egyptians do?

7. (:17-20) How did God protect the descendants of Jacob?

8. (:21) How did God reward the midwives?

9. (:22) Then what did Pharaoh do?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

10. Why did the descendants of Jacob flourish even though they were treated harshly? What does that tell you about God?
11. What is your opinion about why God allowed things to get so hard for these people?
12. Has God ever allowed life to get very hard for you? Why?
13. Where did the midwives get their courage?
14. Was God rewarding the midwives for lying? Was God rewarding sin?
15. What two rewards did God give the midwives? (:21 and :15)
16. God knows your name. What does that mean to you?

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He Knows My Name
Exodus Chapter 1 - Discussion Notes

We are going to see Almighty God in this book. He is more powerful than any of us could ever understand. He is so mighty that He has only to look at the earth and it trembles, or touch a mountain and it smokes.

And we are going to see Jesus in this book. Because He is Almighty God.

The question has to be asked: why does Almighty God care about us tiny little pieces of humanity so much? I think sometimes we get an overrated opinion of ourselves because we have seen throughout history that He does, indeed, love us very much. But if we are honest we have to admit there really is no good reason for such love to be pouring out from this unspeakable God. We are crazy to ever think we deserve it.

In Genesis we saw the unstoppable power of God's plan. But in this first part of Exodus we will come to know Him. We will learn His ways, His attributes, His character and His Name. By the time we're through with the first fifteen chapters of Exodus we will know for sure that His Name is the most important name in the universe.

But first, the book begins with a surprise: He thinks our names are important, too!

1. (:1-5) What were the names of the twelve sons of Jacob?
Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher. (and also Joseph...who was already in Egypt when everyone else arrived.)

2. (:6-7) Over the span of 400 years, Jacob and his twelve sons and their wives all died, but what happened to their descendants who were left in Egypt?

Their families grew and grew and grew. They became so numerous that they filled the land of Egypt instead of just staying in the one area of Egypt they had originally been given.

3. (:8-10) What was the new Pharaoh afraid of?

He was afraid the people of Jacob would realize they were not the minority any more, but were actually the most numerous. He had plenty of experience with enemies who had great power because of their great numbers,

4. (:11) What did the rulers of Egypt decide to do?

So he decided to treat the children of Jacob as slaves. To treat them horribly - not so they would leave - but so they would not have the confidence to rise up and take over. If he treated them like slaves, then they would begin to think like slaves, and know they were dependent on him, and not want to rebel against him.

5. (:12) What happened as a result of what they did?

The worse their lives got, the more they multiplied!

6. (:13-16) Then what did the Egyptians do?

They made life even harder. And they tried to frighten the Hebrew midwives into committing infanticide. They assumed that if the midwives killed off all the new boy babies the day would come when the nation could no longer multiply.

7. (:17-20) How did God protect the descendants of Jacob?

God always has a person or persons willing to trust Him more than they fear the enemy. The Hebrew midwives foiled the plan of the mighty pharaoh of Egypt. They just didn't make it to the births in time. Or at least that's the story they told.

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8. (:21) How did God reward the midwives?

He gave them children of their own. Many, many children. And even in a poverty-stricken household of slaves, children were the biggest blessing imaginable.

9. (:22) Then what did Pharaoh do?

He issued a commandment directly to the people of Jacob. No longer was he going to be sneaky and try to get the midwives to do his dirty work. The word was out - the Hebrews were commanded to kill their own boy children by throwing them into the Nile River.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

10. Why did the descendants of Jacob flourish even though they were treated harshly? What does that tell you about God?

It tells me that "flourishing" has nothing to do with the way the world treats us, and has nothing to do with how highly regarded we are by the world, and has nothing to do with how happy we are. The reason we flourish is because God decrees it.

11. What is your opinion about why God allowed things to get so hard for these people?

It reminds me of John 9 when Jesus' disciples ask him why the blind man had been blind from birth. They assumed it was because either he or his parents had sinned. They assumed it was a punishment. But Jesus said no - it wasn't a punishment for sin. The man was blind so that someday Jesus could come along a dusty road and heal him. The man was blind so that the glory of God could be revealed.

12. Has God ever allowed life to get very hard for you? Why?

13. Where did the midwives get their courage?

They believed God. They knew what Pharaoh was ordering was wrong, and they trusted God enough to try to do things His way. They were probably afraid. I would have been. But they were courageous because they did the right thing, no matter how afraid they may have been.

14. Was God rewarding the midwives for lying? Was God rewarding sin?

Here's how I look at it: God was rewarding faith. They believed and trusted the One, True, God, and decided to not commit the sin of killing those babies. Did they lie? Yes. Wasn't lying a sin, too? Yes. Could they have obeyed God and not lied? Maybe. But they did the best they could. And God rewarded their faith.

15. What two rewards did God give the midwives? (:21 and :15)

We know from verse 21 that He gave them families of their own. A huge gift from God. But did you notice in verse 15 that He also recorded their names for all the rest of history to see? Shiphrah and Puah. For over 3,500 years the most-read book in the world has openly praised and declared the names of two Hebrew women. They were nobodies - just two women who helped other women give birth in 1,500 BC. But to God they were worthy of honor. He knew their names and He made sure we would, too.

16. God knows your name. What does that mean to you?

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Fight Back?...Or...Cry For Help?

Exodus Chapter 2 - Questions

1. (:1) Moses was from which tribe of Israel?
2. (:2&3) What did Moses' mother do to try to save her baby?
3. (:4-9) What part did Moses' sister play in the protection of her brother?
4. (:8-10) What part did Moses' mother play in his childhood?
5. (:10) What part did Pharaoh's daughter play in his childhood?
6. (:11-15) Why did Moses commit this murder? What do you think he was trying to accomplish? Did he accomplish it?
7. (:15-20) What does this small story tell us about the character of Moses the murderer?
8. (:21) Where is Moses going to live now that he has fled Egypt? Who is his wife?
9. (:22) Why did Moses name his first son Gershom?

10. (:23-25) Why did God finally take notice of the Hebrews? Had He been aware of their plight all along? Why did it take so long for Him to act?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

11. What was childhood like for Moses' sister, Miriam? Why doesn't God give every child a sweet and peaceful childhood?

12. Moses was simply protecting his fellow Hebrews when he murdered the Egyptian. He was identifying with the people of God, and taking a risk, knowing his own life would be in danger. Why didn't God bless what he had done?

13. Moses lived with the Midianites for 40 years before God asked him to take the next step in his life. He pastured sheep. How was that good training for what was coming next? Who else in Bible history trained for leadership as a shepherd?

14. What action did the people of God take which finally opened the doors for God to act?

15. Why do we so often make prayer the last resort?

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A Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Study of Exodus Chapters 1-15

Fight Back? ...Or...Cry For Help?

Exodus Chapter 2 - Discussion Notes

1. (:1) Moses was from which tribe of Israel?

From the tribe of Levi. All the descendents of Levi (son of Jacob) made up the "tribe" of Levi.

2. (:2&3) What did Moses' mother do to try to save her baby?

"She saw that he was beautiful." Ahhhh. That statement says so much. Of course he was beautiful. All babies are beautiful. And she could not possibly throw him into the Nile, as Pharaoh had ordered. How could a mother look on the sweet face of her child and then kill him? But to let him live would have been a death sentence for her, and probably for the rest of her family. She had more children than just this baby to think of.

Just like the midwives of chapter one, she had a personal and moral dilemma. And like them, she found one course of action. Trust God. Do not commit murder. So she hid him. Hushed him when he cried. Didn't go out in public with him. And she thought, and thought and thought. She knew she couldn't hide him forever. And as she held him and fed him and watched him grow she loved him more each day.

So she came up with a plan. A risky, courageous, and painful plan. Because if it worked, her baby would live. But if her baby lived, he would no longer be hers.

3. (:4-9) What part did Moses' sister play in the protection of her brother?

Miriam - later in Exodus we learn her name - must have been very brave and mature beyond her years. She was part of her mother's plan. She watched Moses as he drifted in his little boat amongst the reeds. She watched as the daughter of her mortal enemy found him. She stepped out at the just the right moment and offered a suggestion: she knew of a woman who could nurse this baby.

Miriam the plan would have failed. She saved her brother's life. How hard was it on her to see her baby brother adopted into the royal family of Egypt? Was she afraid?

4. (:8-10) What part did Moses' mother play in his childhood?

She placed him in a makeshift boat and walked away. Then she waited in hiding, praying? And then she stepped forward, showing herself to be the Hebrew woman who did not kill her baby (nobody was naïve enough to believe otherwise). And she received her little boy back into her arms again - from this point on to be the hired nanny.

"He is no fool who loses what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose" - Jim Elliot

5. (:10) What part did Pharaoh's daughter play in his childhood?

She pitied this baby and saved him from death, then gave him away to a stranger to raise. She had the least impact on his life of all of the people in this little drama. In the end, Moses remained a Hebrew, even after a childhood and young adulthood of Egyptian training. She had money and power and influence and security. But she ends up being a nobody in the story. Why? Because she didn't have faith in the One, True God. Status and ability and the upper hand mean nothing when compared with knowing Jesus.

6. (:11-15) Why did Moses commit this murder? What do you think he was trying to accomplish? Did he accomplish it?

He was trying to stand up for and protect his own people. He knew who he was, and identified with the slaves who worked for his "grandfather".

But he made the wrong choice - and found out pretty quickly that fighting back with weapons was not going to be God's way. He had chosen God, but had not chosen His ways. There was much more he needed to know.

He needed to not only know about this powerful God of the Hebrews, he needed to actually know Him. That would take some time on the backside of the desert.

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7. (:15-20) What does this small story tell us about the character of Moses the murderer?

He had a heart for the downtrodden. It's a good character trait, and would serve him well in the future.

8. (:21) Where is Moses going to live now that he has fled Egypt? Who is his wife?

He runs away to Midian, a country east of Egypt. In fact, the road he would travel to reach Midian would someday be the same road the freed Israelites would travel after they crossed the Red Sea and marched to Mt. Sinai. Moses, fleeing Egypt as a fearful young man, would someday take a whole nation down the same path as they ran from those same Egyptians.

Interesting, isn't it, that the events of Moses' life all worked together to train him for the task God had chosen him to do?

9. (:22) Why did Moses name his first son Gershom?

Names always had meanings in those days. "Gershom" means "a stranger there". Moses was living in Midian, making a living and raising a family in Midian. But he never forgot that he was a stranger there. He always knew his home was someplace else. Gershom would learn that, too.

10. (:23-25) Why did God finally take notice of the Hebrews? Had He been aware of their plight all along? Why did it take so long for Him to act? God knows everything that happens everywhere at all times. So of course He knew. But it does look like He waited to move until the Hebrew people called out to Him for help.

Why wait? Because securing their freedom was going to be hard, hard work. It would require faith - great faith. God was not just going to snap his fingers and transport these people to where He wanted them. They were part of the

process. They needed to be willing to operate in faith in order to see the deliverance of God.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

11. What was childhood like for Moses' sister, Miriam? Why doesn't God give every child a sweet and peaceful childhood?

I wish He did. But we live in a sinful world, and the result of sin is that children suffer. God was watching and caring for her, but her life was not easy.

12. Moses was simply protecting his fellow Hebrews when he murdered the Egyptian. He was identifying with the people of God, and taking a risk, knowing his own life would be in danger. Why didn't God bless what he had done?

After all, God blessed the midwives who, perhaps, lied in order to protect the Jewish people. Why didn't He bless Moses, who killed in order to protect the Jewish people?

God's plan was moving forward, and it required a man of faith who would obey in every respect. Moses had much to learn. Blessing him after this murder would have stopped the growth necessary for the man who would free a whole nation from slavery.

13. Moses lived with the Midianites for 40 years before God asked him to take the next step in his life. He pastured sheep. How was that good training for what was coming next? Who else in Bible history trained for leadership as a shepherd?

What do you do when you pasture sheep? You are alone. You think. You pray. You learn about the God Who watches over you. You trust Him for deliverance from your natural enemies...the wolves, the lions, the snakes. You have no back up plan. No insurance. No friends to watch through the night while you sleep. You have no pride in your education or your position, because you are the lowest guy on the career totem pole. It's humbling. You learn Who God is, and Who you are. And you come out of it a different person than when you entered.

Who else trained as a shepherd? King David.

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14. What action did the people of *God* take which finally opened the doors for *God* to act?

They groaned. To *God*. Prayer. Not the fancy kind with all the big words. Just groaning. Just tears. Just help!

15. Why do we so often make prayer the last resort?

We don't understand *God's* ways. He wants our faith, not our strength. Our trust, not our intelligence. Our humility, not our pride. Moses spent 40 years in Midian learning not to fight back, but to cry for help.

Remove Your Sandals
Exodus Chapter 3 - Questions

1. (:1) Just a little curiosity here....verse 1 says his father-in-law's name was Jethro, but chapter 2:38 says his father-in-law's name was Reuel. ??????
2. (:1-3) What was so unusual about this burning bush?
3. (:4-5) Why was it necessary for Moses to remove his sandals?
4. (:6) Why does God identify Himself in that way? What did it tell Moses?
5. (:7-9) What did God plan to do for His people, the Israelites?
6. How do you think Moses felt when God told him that He had heard the cry of His people? What do you think Moses was remembering?
7. (:10-11) How does Moses react to God's call for him to be sent to Pharaoh? Why does he react that way?
8. (:12) What does the Lord God say to calm his fears?
9. (:13-14) Moses asks God what name he should use when telling the people of Israel that God had sent him. Why would he ask that question?

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10. (:14) What does the name "I AM" imply?
11. (:15) What other name does God give Moses to use?
12. (:16-20) What is Moses supposed to do? Is it going to work?
13. Why do you think God didn't at the first give Moses the whole picture of everything that would happen?
14. (:21&22) When the people of Israel finally do leave Egypt, what would they take with them?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

15. The Lord was about to set His people free. It was going to be a long process. But when it was done, no one would wonder Who did it. The whole world then, and our whole world, too, would know that the God of Israel was mighty, powerful, majestic. Read Psalm 145 out loud. Why is it so exhilarating to speak the praises of God?
16. Is there anything the Lord has ever asked you to do which you considered yourself unable or unworthy or untrained to do?
17. God got Moses' attention with a burning bush. How has He gotten your attention in the past?

Remove Your Sandals

Exodus Chapter 3 - Discussion Notes

1. (:1) Just a little curiosity here....verse 1 says his father-in-law's name was Jethro, but chapter 2:38 says his father-in-law's name was Reuel. ?????? Two names. First and middle. Or first and title. The word Jethro may mean "His excellency".

2. (:1-3) What was so unusual about this burning bush?

It burned but never was consumed. A bush could be set afire of lightning in the wilderness, but it would burn itself out pretty fast. This bush never burned itself out.

God got his attention with what seemed like a natural phenomenon. In fact, it was a miracle performed simply for the purpose of drawing Moses close enough to have a conversation with God.

3. (:4-5) Why was it necessary for Moses to remove his sandals?

It's a sign of utter respect for the purity of God. A person's shoes are considered the dirtiest part of him...they are in contact with dirt all day long. It's a practice still practiced by Muslims today. Shoes are removed before entering a mosque. The place was holy (set apart, unique, pure) because God was there. The very presence of God in a place changes the place to something it never could have been without Him.

4. (:6) Why does God identify Himself in that way? What did it tell Moses?

Moses knew the stories passed down from his mother. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was none other than the God of His own people. It was an identity Moses was quite familiar with, even though he had lived so many years amongst the Midianites. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was not just

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one of many Gods. He was the God. The only God. There were no other Gods. Moses knew that.

5. (:7-9) What did God plan to do for His people, the Israelites?

He was going to do three things:

- a. Deliver them from their slavery in Egypt
- b. Bring them to a beautiful land He had already given them (when He gave it to their father, Abraham)
- c. Plop them down in that wonderful land, right in the middle of a whole bunch of other people who had become "squatters" on their land in the last 400 years.

It was going to be a fantastic deliverance, but it wasn't going to be "snap your fingers - type magic". It was going to be hard work, and the work would just be starting once they got to the land God had promised them.

6. How do you think Moses felt when God told him that He had heard the cry of His people? What do you think Moses was remembering?

I think he remembered how he murdered an Egyptian because he heard and saw the suffering of his own people. And I think he remembered how miserably he failed to do anything about that suffering himself at that time. I'll bet he remembered, too, his humiliating flight from Egypt, and the years that had gone in between. I wonder, too, if he was wondering why God waited so long to help His people. I imagine Moses didn't at all realize at that time that God had been waiting for Moses to be ready to go back and do it again - this time in God's way.

7. (:10-11) How does Moses react to God's call for him to be sent to Pharaoh? Why does he react that way?

Me? You want to send me? Ummmm - I'm not too good at this, remember?

8. (:12) What does the Lord God say to calm his fears?

He says He will be with him. Moses will not be doing this in his own strength or wisdom. And He makes Moses a promise. The very mountain where we are

standing right now is the place we will meet again - when you have the whole nation of Israel with you.

9. (:13-14) Moses asks God what name he should use when telling the people of Israel that God had sent him. Why would he ask that question?

I think Moses wanted to be very, very sure of Who he was talking to. He wanted to know what kind of power was going to be backing him up.

10. (:14) What does the name "I AM" imply?

There's hardly any other words as strong as those, are there? If you say "I AM" you are saying there's nothing to compare yourself with. You are the ultimate pinnacle of everything desirable or powerful in the world. Just the fact that GOD IS is a description beyond explaining.

At this point I am imagining Moses falling to his knees in shock. "I have been talking with God! It is really happening! I can't take it all in! I am overwhelmed!"

Do you remember the first time you realized Holy, Powerful God Himself was interested in little you? How did you respond?

11. (:15) What other name does God give Moses to use?

Now God uses the name Moses is more familiar with. The one he remembers from childhood stories. It is like the Lord is giving Moses a reprieve - a chance to breathe. Yes, Moses, I'm the One you've been worshipping all these years - you are about to get to know Me a whole lot better!

12. (:16-20) What is Moses supposed to do? Is it going to work?

First go to the leaders of Israel and rally them. Then go to Pharaoh and ask for the right to assemble the people of Israel and go out into the desert to worship their God.

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Number one - why in the world would the leaders of Israel consent to follow this crazy scheme cooked up by this crazy Egyptian prince/murderer - turned shepherd-for-the-last-40-years?

And number two - if Moses could actually get the Israelite leaders to go with him to Pharaoh, why in the world would the most powerful man in Egypt not just order these troublesome Hebrews killed on the spot?

Surely Moses is thinking all this. The whole thing simply isn't do-able! But...God Himself is coming up with the plan...so....how can you argue with the God Who made the world? The God. The Great I AM?

13. Why do you think God didn't at the first give Moses the whole picture of everything that would happen?

Too utterly unbelievable.

14. (:21&22) When the people of Israel finally do leave Egypt, what would they take with them?

Might as well add another unbelievable fact. God says that when the Israelites leave Egypt they will leave with gold and silver which the Egyptians themselves have given them.

This would be laughable if Moses wasn't standing in front of a burning bush with his shoes off.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

15. The Lord was about to set His people free. It was going to be a long process. But when it was done, no one would wonder Who did it. The whole world then, and our whole world, too, would know that the God of Israel was mighty, powerful, majestic. Read Psalm 145 out loud. Why is it so exhilarating to speak the praises of God?

16. Is there anything the Lord has ever asked you to do which you considered yourself unable or unworthy or untrained to do?

17. God got Moses' attention with a burning bush. How has He gotten your attention in the past?

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I Can't Do It!

Exodus Chapter 4 - Questions

1. (:1) Moses thinks he has two reasons why he cannot do this task the Great I Am has asked him to do. The first is in this verse. What is it?
2. (:2-9) How does God solve this objection?
3. (:10) What is Moses' second reason?
4. (:11-12) How does God answer this objection?
5. (:13) What is Moses' response? What does that tell you about Moses' heart?
6. (:14) Why is God angry at Moses?
7. (:14-17) Does God accept Moses' lack of trust in himself as a good reason to turn down God's job for him?
8. (:18) Does Moses finally obey God? Why?
9. (:19-23) Moses takes his family with him to go to Egypt. What does that tell you about Moses' plans for the future?
10. (:24-26) This is a picture of an encounter between God and Moses and his wife. Do you think Moses' wife was entirely on board with the plan of God? What could have been holding her back?
11. (:24-26) Why did this circumcision need to happen? (Genesis 17:9-14)

12. (:27-30) Who did God provide to be the spokesperson?

13. (:31) How did the people of Israel respond to Moses and Aaron's leadership?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

14. Sometimes, before you can do a job for God, you have to get some things right between you and Him. What types of things might that be?

15. If a believer has a spouse who does not want to serve God, does that free up that believer from serving God? What practical advice might you have for someone in that situation?

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I Can't Do It!

Exodus Chapter 4 - Discussion Notes

1. (:1) Moses thinks he has two reasons why he cannot do this task the Great I Am has asked him to do. The first is in this verse. What is it?
What if they don't believe me?

2. (:2-9) How does God solve this objection?

Here's some miracles you can perform:

- a. Your staff will become a serpent and then turn back into a staff again.
- b. Your hand will become leprous and then clean again.
- c. Water taken from the Nile will become blood when you pour it out on the dry ground.

3. (:10) What is Moses' second reason?

I'm not a speaker. I can't put words together well. I get nervous in front of crowds. This isn't my gift, God. You didn't make me this way.

4. (:11-12) How does God answer this objection?

I made you what you are. And I can change you if I want to. I can put the words into your mouth.

5. (:13) What is Moses' response? What does that tell you about Moses' heart?

He still doesn't want to do it. That tells me he has been making up excuses...but they weren't the real reason. He doesn't want God to solve the problems, he wants God to let him off the hook. He is not totally committed to this project...or to God. Why not? What has happened in 40 years in Midian to cause this?

6. (:14) Why is God angry at Moses?

"Without faith it is impossible to please God." Hebrews 11:6

7. (:14-17) Does God accept Moses' lack of trust in himself as a good reason to turn down God's job for him?

Nope.

8. (:18) Does Moses finally obey God? Why?

God isn't asking him to. He's telling him to. The Great I Am has decided. Moses had to.

9. (:19-23) Moses takes his family with him to go to Egypt. What does that tell you about Moses' plans for the future?

He isn't planning on ever coming back to Midian. Burn the oars.

10. (:24-26) This is a picture of an encounter between God and Moses and his wife. Do you think Moses' wife was entirely on board with the plan of God? What could have been holding her back?

It looks like Moses' wife was not a believer in the One, True God. She may have been going with Moses, but it was not willingly. And she especially didn't like the plan of circumcising her son so that he would be identified with the children of Israel.

Seems like both Moses and his wife needed to obey God in the small things, (circumcision being one of them) so that they could learn to trust Him in the big things yet to come (moving 2 million people out of Egypt).

11. (:24-26) Why did this circumcision need to happen? (Genesis 17:9-14)

The children of Moses would not be considered part of the Jewish nation if they were uncircumcised. Some day those same children would need to come to a place of personal faith in the One, True God. This was not that moment of faith for them. It was Moses' chance to declare to the world that he was identifying with God, with His plan, and with His ways. It was an act of obedience for Moses and his wife...and act of obedience, by the way, which was long overdue. The child should have been circumcised at birth.

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12. (:27-30) Who did God provide to be the spokesperson?
Moses' brother, Aaron. Had he seen him in those 40 years? Perhaps. It doesn't say. But they did know each other somehow. And Aaron was willing to do what God and Moses asked. Much better attitude than Moses had.

13. (:31) How did the people of Israel respond to Moses and Aaron's leadership? Just like God said they would. (3:16-18) They believed. And they worshipped God. The walk of faith begins.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

14. Sometimes, before you can do a job for God, you have to get some things right between you and Him. What types of things might that be?

15. If a believer has a spouse who does not want to serve God, does that free up that believer from serving God? What practical advice might you have for someone in that situation?

**First, Take a Step of Faith,
Then, Things Get Harder**

Exodus Chapters 5&6 - Questions

1. (5:1-9) What happened to Moses and Aaron when they obeyed the Lord God and went to Pharaoh?
2. (5:10-19) What happened to the Israelites as a result of this obedience of Moses and Aaron?
3. (5:20-21) What happened to Moses and Aaron when the Israelites realized life was going to be very hard?
4. (5:22-23) What did Moses & Aaron do then?
5. In chapter 5, what strikes you as not fair?
6. If you were God, how would you answer Moses and Aaron at this point?
7. Have you ever taken a step of faith and had this type of thing happen to you? What did you do about it? What was the final outcome?
8. This is when bitterness against God often starts in a person's life. Is there any bitterness against God in your life?
9. (6:1) What is God's answer to Moses and Aaron?
10. (6:2-3) God tells Moses here that when He spoke to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob He made Himself known to them as "God Almighty" (El Shaddai). But He is making Himself known to Moses as "LORD" (YHWH). Why is this distinction important? What is God saying here?

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A Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Study of Exodus Chapters 1-15

11. (6:4&5) *God reminds Moses that He knows He made a covenant with the Israelites...that He has not forgotten that covenant. How will this help Moses?*

12. (6:6-8) *What does God promise again to do? Has He added anything to this promise which the Israelites had never heard before?*

13. (6:9) *How did the Israelites respond to Moses?*

14. (6:10-13) *God tells Moses to again go to Pharaoh and ask to be let go. How does Moses respond? How does God respond to Moses after that?*

15. (6:14-30) *This genealogy proves that Moses and Aaron are direct descendants of Levi. It proves that Moses and Aaron are actually the same two men to whom God originally spoke in Midian. Why do you think God cares so much about detail?*

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

16. *What do these 2 chapters teach us about keeping ourselves free from bitterness against God?*

17. *If someone has a past bitterness against God, no matter how old that bitterness is, what can he/she do about it now?*

18. *If things don't always get easier when I begin to walk by faith, why would I want to walk by faith?*

**First, Take a Step of Faith,
Then, Things Get Harder**
Exodus Chapters 5&6 - Discussion Notes

1. (5:1-9) What happened to Moses and Aaron when they obeyed the Lord God and went to Pharaoh?

Things got harder.

2. (5:10-19) What happened to the Israelites as a result of this obedience of Moses and Aaron?

Things got harder.

3. (5:20-21) What happened to Moses and Aaron when the Israelites realized life was going to be very hard?

Things got harder.

4. (5:22-23) What did Moses & Aaron do then?

They blamed God.

5. In chapter 5, what strikes you as not fair?

6. If you were God, how would you answer Moses and Aaron at this point?

7. Have you ever taken a step of faith and had this type of thing happen to you? What did you do about it? What was the final outcome?

8. This is when bitterness against God often starts in a person's life. Is there any bitterness against God in your life?

9. (6:1) What is God's answer to Moses and Aaron?

This is going to happen just like I said it would happen.

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10. (6:2-3) God tells Moses here that when He spoke to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob He made Himself known to them as "God Almighty" (El Shaddai). But He is making Himself known to Moses as "LORD" (YHWH). Why is this distinction important? What is God saying here?

Here's the whole point of the whole story. Moses and Aaron knew a little about God - enough to realize Who He was, and that they needed to be obedient to Him. They knew as much about God as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had known.

But they were about to learn a whole lot more about Him. He was going to show them not just that He was a powerful and loving and giving God Who wanted to bless them and take care of them. He was going to show them that life was all about HIM. He was going to reveal HIMSELF to them.

They had a lesson to learn here, and the only way to learn it was to walk through difficulty. Their small steps of faith so far were great - but this was no time to stop. They still needed to come to the end of themselves so they could realize the HUGENESS of God.

Our view of God makes all the difference in the world. If we see Him as a Santa Claus who owes us gifts, we have no idea of Who He is. If we see Him as a frightening Being Whom we fear, we have no idea of Who He is. If we see Him as a loving Father who wants the best for us, we still have no idea Who He is.

It's not until we walk through the darkest times of life - trying to walk by faith - that we get a tiny glimpse of Who God is - and we finally realize:
IT'S NOT ABOUT ME.

11. (6:4&5) God reminds Moses that He knows He made a covenant with the Israelites...that He has not forgotten that covenant. How will this help Moses?

Remembering God's promises always re-kindles faith.

12. (6:6-8) What does God promise again to do? Has He added anything to this promise which the Israelites had never heard before?

Not only is He going to free these people, but He is going to use his ARM to do it. God, who put the stars in place with His fingers, is going to use His ARM!

13. (6:9) How did the Israelites respond to Moses?

Forget it, buster - we're through following you!

14. (6:10-13) God tells Moses to again go to Pharaoh and ask to be let go. How does Moses respond? How does God respond to Moses after that?

Moses says - "They won't listen to me!" God says: Do it.

15. (6:14-30) This genealogy proves that Moses and Aaron are direct descendants of Levi. It proves that Moses and Aaron are actually the same two men to whom God originally spoke in Midian. Why do you think God cares so much about detail?

There is no detail unimportant to God. Family names are important.

Measurements are important. The tiniest animal or most insignificant person are important. God is HUGE - but He also knows every minute detail. God is God. We can't make Him be just like us. We have to see Him for what He is, and bow before Him.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

16. What do these 2 chapters teach us about keeping ourselves free from bitterness against God?

If things aren't going well, don't stop. Don't quit too soon. Stay to see the end God has in mind.

17. If someone has a past bitterness against God, no matter how old that bitterness is, what can he/she do about it now?

Admit it. Put your finger on when it started. Ask for forgiveness. God does not need to apologize to you because things got hard. You need to apologize to Him because you quit.

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18. If things don't always get easier when I begin to walk by faith, why would I want to walk by faith?

It's the only way to know *God*. It's the only way to please *God*. It's all about *God*, not all about me.

**Rod Becomes Serpent, Nile Becomes Blood,
Frogs and Insects**

Exodus Chapters 7&8 - Questions

1. (7:1-2) What does the Lord mean when He says to Moses: "I will make you as God to Pharaoh..." ?
2. (7:2) What part is Aaron going to play? What is the job of a prophet?
3. (7:3) What does the Lord mean when He says He is going to "harden" Pharaoh's heart? Did Pharaoh even have a chance to believe? (Romans 2:4-6) (Romans 9:14-22)
4. (7:4-7) How old were Moses and Aaron when they undertook this task? What does that tell you?
5. (7:8-13) What is God's first miracle for Pharaoh?
6. (7:14-25) What is God's second miracle for Pharaoh?
7. (8:1-15) What is God's third miracle for Pharaoh?
8. (8:16-32) What is God's fourth miracle for Pharaoh?
9. Compare these four miracles:

#1	#2	#3	#4
Snake	Bloody Sea	Frogs	Insects

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A Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Study of Exodus Chapters 1-15

**Rod Becomes Serpent, Nile Becomes Blood,
Frogs and Insects**

Exodus Chapters 7&8 - Discussion Notes

1. (7:1-2) What does the Lord mean when He says to Moses: "I will make you as God to Pharaoh..." ?

The NASB study Bible says: "As God transmits His word through His prophets to His people, so Moses will transmit God's message through Aaron to the pharaoh. "

So, in a sense, Moses will be as God Himself to Pharaoh.

2. (7:2) What part is Aaron going to play? What is the job of a prophet? Aaron will be Moses' mouthpiece. The job of a prophet is just to take God's words and give them to someone else. The prophet himself doesn't have anything to say. He is just telling what God has told him. And he needs great courage to do it.

3. (7:3) What does the Lord mean when He says He is going to "harden" Pharaoh's heart? Did Pharaoh even have a chance to believe? (Romans 2:4-6) (Romans 9:14-22)

What does it mean...."He hardens whom He wants to harden"? (Romans 9:18)

God will do what God will do. OK, I'm going to warn you. Wars have been fought over this. Not World Wars, of course, but wars, none the less. People have argued, disagreed, shown anger and frustration, and been just plain miserable over the seemingly irreconcilable truths found in Romans 9.

"...He has mercy on whom He desires, and he hardens whom He desires." (:18) Does God choose some people to be shown mercy? And choose others to be sent to eternal punishment? Yes.

Arbitrarily? No. Look ahead a few verses in chapter 9, at verses 30 - 32. Here it is clear that God declares the Jewish people guilty based on their unbelief. Their unbelief.

So how is *God's* decision made? Does He love some and not love others? No - John 3:16 tells us that *God* loves the whole world.

So how is *God's* decision made?

Here's an illustration which helps me understand, I think, what *God* does:

When the sun shines on butter, it melts. When the sun shines on clay, it hardens. The sun is the same in both cases. The reaction is determined by the nature of the substance the sun is shining on.

I know...the illustration doesn't answer all the possible questions here. Like, for instance, did *God* decide who would be butter, and who would be clay? Is the butter responsible for being butter?

But *God* is *God*. He says here in Romans that He decides who gets His mercy, and whom He hardens. He also says (II Peter 3:9) He doesn't want anyone to perish.

Irreconcilable truths? There's only one conclusion. They're both true.

Then why does *God* blame us for unbelief?

Paul, in Romans 9, is posing the question which he knows some of his readers may ask: "If *God* decides whom He will harden, then how can it be their fault when they say decide not to have faith in *God*?"...in other words - "How can anyone resist what *God* wants?"

Paul's answer is this: "Who are you to question *God*?"

That reminds me of something most of us parents eventually learn to do with our kids when they are little.

All five of our children loved to ask questions. I encouraged it when they did, because I am a firm believer in asking questions in order to learn. In my mind, there are no bad questions when you are trying to learn something.

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But you know how it goes. Why is the flower yellow? Because God made it yellow. Why? Because He liked yellow flowers. Why? Because He likes lots of stuff. Why? Because that's the way God is. Why? ...after awhile you realize the child has left the "I am exploring my world"-stage and entered the "I'm not interested in the answer, I just like asking 'why?' "-stage, and you have to end the question and answer session. Usually it ended with "Because I said so." - and a look which meant "time to stop being self-centered."

I think that is what Paul is doing here. He anticipates the question some of his readers will ask - knowing that this is the "why" question which shouldn't be asked. The reader who will ask this question has stopped wanting to learn about and worship God...and started to think of God in terms of how He could be used.

So the answer, of course, has to be: "Because God said so." Now quit being so self-centered and start focusing on God again.

Yes, Pharaoh had a choice. And he chose to rebel against God, not to obey him. And God's perfect presence hardened Pharaoh's heart.

4. (7:4-7) How old were Moses and Aaron when they undertook this task?

What does that tell you?

Moses was 80. Aaron was 83. What does that tell me? Even in that day 80 was old. It tells me Moses and Aaron had a heart for obeying God, but perhaps not as much strength as they would have wanted. God was taking frail flesh and showing His own glory through it. I like that, because I'm feeling a little frail myself these days.

5. (7:8-13) What is God's first miracle for Pharaoh?

The rod becomes a serpent.

6. (7:14-25) What is God's second miracle for Pharaoh?

The Nile is turned to blood.

7. (8:1-15) What is God's third miracle for Pharaoh?

Frogs cover the land.

8. (8:16-32) What is God's fourth miracle for Pharaoh?

The plague of insect.

9. Compare these four miracles: (and come to conclusions based on your comparisons)

#1	#2	#3	#4
<p>The first plague was a simple one. Moses' rod becomes a serpent.</p> <p>And the Egyptian workers of magic could duplicate it easily.</p> <p>Moses' snake swallowed up the others, but that didn't phase Pharaoh.</p> <p>There was no suffering involved for the Pharaoh or his people or for the Hebrews.</p>	<p>The second plague was also pretty simple.</p> <p>The waters of the Nile become blood. The things that lived in the Nile died, and the stink filled the land of Egypt.</p> <p>Again, the magicians of Egypt could duplicate the miracle.</p> <p>The people of Egypt had to experience the stink and the lack of drinking water. For 7 days.</p> <p>It was inconvenient. Frustrating,</p>	<p>The third plague was more uncomfortable. Frogs filled the land - and filled every area of comfort for all the people. It was disgusting.</p> <p>The magicians of Egypt again could duplicate it. But apparently they could not remove it, because Pharaoh had to ask Moses to remove the plague.</p> <p>Moses does pray to God to remove the plague, but Pharaoh does not let the Hebrews go as he said he would.</p>	<p>The fourth plague was gnats filling the air and disrupting life for everyone in Egypt.</p> <p>The magicians of Egypt could not duplicate this plague. At this point they believe it is the God of the Hebrews Who is doing this - they are ready to admit defeat.</p> <p>Pharaoh is not.</p> <p>The gnats don't change Pharaoh's heart, so God sends insects everywhere but where the Hebrews live.</p>

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	maybe.	Pharoah is a liar. As soon as the frogs are dead, Pharoah has his wish.	Pharoah again asks Moses to pray to God to remove the plague....and again refuses to honor his word as soon as the plague is finished.
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Conclusions: Here are mine:

- The plagues get worse each time.
- The people of Egypt suffer more each time.
- The leader of Egypt cares not for his people's suffering - only his own.
- The leader of the Hebrews (Moses) is getting stronger and stronger in his faith as they go. Moses begins talking directly to Pharoah - bypassing the mouthpiece he was so sure he needed. (8:26-27)
- The magicians of Egypt are relying on the power of Satan. Satan is no match for God.
- God continues to grant Pharoah's requests, not because He thinks Pharoah will eventually change his mind (God knows what Pharoah will do), but because it suits God's plans to allow Pharoah's heart to get harder and harder and harder.
- The plagues are beginning to set the Hebrew people apart from the Egyptians. They are beginning to see themselves as separate from the people they have grown up with.
- The Hebrew people are beginning to realize they are not slaves any more.

Livestock Die, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness

Exodus Chapters 9&10 - Questions

1. Compare the next 5 plagues:

How are they the same?

How are they different?

Do you see a progression from Plague #1 to Plague #9?

#5	#6	#7	#8	#9
Livestock	Boils	Hail	Locusts	Darkness

2. What lessons can be learned from these next 5 plagues?

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Livestock Die, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness

Exodus Chapters 9&10 - Discussion Notes

1. Compare the next 5 plagues:
How are they the same?
How are they different?
Do you see a progression from Plague #1 to Plague #9?

#5	#6	#7	#8	#9
<p>All the livestock left out in the field dies.</p> <p>This affects only Egyptian livestock.</p> <p>Hebrew livestock was automatically protected.</p> <p>Pharoah's heart is hardened</p>	<p>Dust from Egyptian ovens (those used to burn up the dead livestock?) is thrown into the air by Moses.</p> <p>Boils appear on all Egyptians people and animals (those animals not killed by the last plague)</p> <p>Even the magicians of Egypt are affected and cannot undo</p>	<p>Hail is sent from God.</p> <p>Egyptians are given a chance to escape this plague...they can protect their livestock by bringing them in from the field.</p> <p>Many Egyptians did take precautions, especially the servants</p> <p>No hail in Goshen, where the</p>	<p>Locusts appear in the land, eating every green thing not touched by the hail.</p> <p>The locust plague was unheard of in its severity</p> <p>Pharoah's people plead with him to let the Hebrews go.</p> <p>Pharoah offers to let the men of Israel go only.</p>	<p>There is no warning for Pharoah with this plague.</p> <p>Darkness covers the whole land except the homes of the Hebrews.</p> <p>People were afraid to even move for 3 days.</p> <p>Pharoah again begins to say they can go...but then changes his mind when Moses</p>

	<p>their torment.</p> <p>The Lord hardened Pharoah's heart</p>	<p>Hebrews lived</p> <p>Pharoah's heart was hardened even though he said he was sorry for what he had done.</p> <p>There is a difference between sorry and repent.</p>	<p>Moses calls forth the locust. They eat everything.</p> <p>Pharoah again says "I have sinned". But he doesn't mean it.</p> <p>His heart gets harder.</p>	<p>reminds him they must take all their possessions an livestock with them.</p> <p>Pharoah warns Moses to never come back into his presence again.</p> <p>Moses agrees.</p>
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2. What lessons can be learned from these next 5 plagues?

- a. Pharoah is like the man with his hand caught in the candy machine. He so desires the candy that he cannot let go of it, even though it will be the death of him. In this sense Pharoah is an accurate example, too, of the power of addiction. When a person has given him/herself wholeheartedly to sin, that sin controls him/her. It controls to the point that even when it is perfectly obvious what suffering is in store for the sinner, the sinner will not, can not, let go of it.
- b. Pharoah was addicted to his kingdom. His power. His things. His authority. He bowed to no one.
- c. Moses is a changed man. He has become a leader. The plagues have trained him to trust God. To speak the words God gives him. To obey God.
- d. The Egyptian people are responding to God even when their leader is not. Their eyes are opening to the truth of the One, True God.

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Was God doing this for their sakes? We know that He is the God of the world, not just the Hebrews. Perhaps He had a beloved child amongst those idol-worshipping Egyptians...someone who just needed to have the truth of His existence made plain so they could believe. I look forward to my first day in heaven to do a little foot-work and see if an Egyptian from 1,500 BC is there.

- e. The livestock of the Egyptians are killed in Plague #5, then afflicted with boils in Plague #6, then rained on with killing hail in Plague #7. I wouldn't have wanted to be an Egyptian cow in those days! This is a sad illustration of how God's whole creation suffers from the sin of it humans. Romans 8:19-22

One more plague to go before the Lord lowers the boom!

The Tenth Plague

Exodus Chapters 11 & 12 - Questions

Chapter 11

1. (:1) What does God promise Moses will happen with the 10th plague?
2. (:2&3) Why would the Egyptian people have given valuable things to the Israelites as they prepared to leave Egypt?
3. (:4-6) Moses is speaking to Pharaoh here.... What is going to happen in the 10th plague?
4. (:7-10) What was going to happen to the Israelites during this plague?

Chapter 12

5. (:1) What was going to be special about this month from now on?
6. What are the steps the Jews should follow in order to be ready for the 10th plague?
 - a. (:3-5)
 - b. (:6)
 - c. (:7)
 - d. (:8&9)
 - e. (:10)
 - f. (:11)
7. (:12) Why is this event called the "Passover"?
8. (:13) What protected the children of Israel from this plague?
9. What is the significance of this for us today?

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10. What 2 Feasts were the Jews told to celebrate from this time on? Why?
 - a. (:14-20)
 - b. (:21-27)

11. (:28-32) When the 10th Plague took place, at midnight, what happened?

12. (:32) What did Pharaoh mean when he said; “..and bless me also”?

13. (:33-39) How fast did the people of Israel have to leave Egypt?

14. (:35-37) How many Israelites left?

15. (:40-41) How long had they been in Egypt?

16. (:42) Why did God turn this event into an “ordinance”? What is an ordinance?

17. (:43-49) What were some of the rules which would go along with this “ordinance”?
 - a. (:43)
 - b. (:44)
 - c. (:45)
 - d. (:46)
 - e. (:47)
 - f. (:48-49)

18. (:50-51) Who delivered the Israelites from Egypt?

The Tenth Plague

Exodus Chapters 11 & 12 - Discussion Notes

Chapter 11

1. (:1) What does God promise Moses will happen with the 10th plague? He promises that after this plague Pharaoh will let them go, in fact, he will drive them out.

2. (:2&3) Why would the Egyptian people have given valuable things to the Israelites as they prepared to leave Egypt?

Because Moses and his people had become well-respected and even loved by the Egyptians. They were sensitive to their plight, and perhaps anxious to appease this powerful God of the Israelites. By giving them silver and gold they were giving away what any other enemy army would have taken by force. They perhaps were saying, "Please don't attack us...just go."

3. (:4-6) Moses is speaking to Pharaoh here.... What is going to happen in the 10th plague?

At midnight all the firstborn of man and beast will die.

4. (:7-10) What was going to happen to the Israelites during this plague?

They were going to be protected. Not even a dog would bark at them.

Why was it so important for Pharaoh to realize God made a distinction between the Jews and the Egyptians? I mean, wouldn't Pharaoh have been more likely to soften if he was treated just as well as God's chosen people? Wouldn't he have responded to love rather than judgment?

Apparently not. Love is a wonderful thing to show. It is a strong motivator. But choice still exists. And Pharaoh, loved or judged, was making a choice....he would not bend his knee to the God of the Israelites. In other words, he would not humble himself before the Almighty God. There was no other. And Pharaoh was entirely clear about that before the 10th plague had hit. But still, he would not bow down.

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Chapter 12

5. (:1) What was going to be special about this month from now on?

From this point on, this month, the month of Abib (also called "Nisan"), which fell sometime in the early spring....in March or April...., would be the first month on the Hebrew calendar.

Up until this time the month had been the 7th month in the Hebrew calendar, but this event was so important, so life-changing, that it was chosen to mark the beginning of every year.

The Jewish people from this point on maintained 2 calendars:

- A "civil" calendar, which began in Tishri (our September/October)
- A "sacred" calendar, which began in Abib (our March/April)
- *(see attached copy of both calendars, from my NASB Study Bible)*

Sound confusing? It really wasn't. Just think in terms of our own calendar.

Our year starts on January 1, and finishes on December 31.

But our school year starts in September and finishes in May. It's not difficult to think in terms of two calendars.

6. What are the steps the Jews should follow in order to be ready for the 10th plague?

- a. (:3-5) On the 10th of the month they were to set apart a lamb for each household. If a household was small, and could not by themselves consume a whole lamb, then they could share with another household. The lamb had to be entirely eaten. And the lamb also had to be perfect. No blemishes. A year old. And it could be a goat or a sheep.
- b. (:6) It was to be kept in isolation (apart from the other animals) until the 14th of the month. This was to be sure the lamb was not sick or blemished in some hidden way. Then, on the 14th, the lamb was to be killed, out in the open, as all the other families were doing the same thing, as the sun went down.

- c. (:7)f Blood from the slain lamb was to be applied to the two doorposts and the lintel (above the door) of the household which was going to eat the lamb. This was a very personal activity. It wasn't just for the whole congregation to learn a lesson. It was for every individual person in every individual household to realize they were being given a way of escape from certain disaster.
- d. (:8&9) They were to roast the lamb, not boil it, and they were to eat it with unleavened bread (bread that had been cooked before it had a chance to rise...like crackers), and bitter herbs.
The bitter herbs were to remind them of the bitterness of the Life they were being rescued from. The time would come, soon enough, when they would forget how bitter their slavery had been.
- e. (:10) None was to be "left over". It was to be all eaten or burned up. The perfect little lamb was sufficient to do the job which needed to be done. No more. No less.
- f. (:11) It was to be eaten in haste. Every person was to be dressed and ready to flee. There was no relaxing by the fire with a glass of wine this night. They were to eat it expecting to be set free soon after. They were to eat it in faith.

7. (:12) Why is this event called the "Passover"?

Because on this night the angel of the Lord is going to "Pass over" the whole land of Egypt. Every household which does not have the blood of an innocent lamb covering the doorposts will lose their firstborn to death. The Angel of the Lord will be looking for this sign that the people in the household have believed the one, True, God, and followed His directions.

This "judging" was for the purpose of pointing out the sinfulness of the Egyptians. Only the blood of an innocent lamb could protect them from the judgment.

It also was for calling out the "Gods" of Egypt...which were really nothing but demons in disguise,,,and making it obvious that those evil beings were powerless in the face of the One, True God.

8. (:13) What protected the children of Israel from this plague?

Yes, the blood protected them. But the blood of even an innocent little lamb couldn't actually save them. (Hebrews 10:4) It was their faith in the One, True

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God which prompted them to apply that blood to their doorposts. It was God Himself Who protected them....once they made the decision to believe and act on His Words.

9. What is the significance of this for us today?

What saves us?

- There is no doubt that we need to be saved. We all have sinned. Something needs to "purge" us....to make us clean so that we won't be separated from God. (Isaiah 59:2)
- And all the things we try to do to be good enough for God are not enough to make us good enough for God. So our own efforts do not save us. (Isaiah 64:6)
- But God has provided a perfect lamb for us. One Who was totally unblemished. No sin at all. All the other little lambs who were sacrificed in Old Testament were just a "picture" of this perfect lamb. The Old Testament lambs could never actually save someone. But this perfect lamb of God could. Because He was the Son of God, who lived a perfect life, then died a death He didn't deserve, and then ROSE FROM THE DEAD. What saves us? Jesus saves us.
- When we believe that He died for us (not just the whole world, but actually, personally, for me...and you), we take our step of faith. We tell Him we accept the gift of salvation He is offering. When we do that, we are applying His blood to the doorposts of our life.
- When the Angel of Death passes over us, what will he see? Will he see the blood of the Lamb of God, or all the good works we have tried to do? Will he see the faith we have in Jesus or the faith we have in religion? Will he see a person who knows and loves Jesus or a person who knows about Jesus?
- What saves us? Jesus. When is the blood of Jesus applied to our lives? When we believe He died for us. When we give our lives back to Him, wanting to obey Him for the rest of life.

10. What 2 Feasts were the Jews told to celebrate from this time on? Why?

- a. (:14-20) The Feast of Unleavened Bread. This was to be celebrated for the 7 days following Passover. No leavened food of any kind was to be eaten.

b. (:21-27) The Feast of Passover. To be celebrated year after year as a memory of what the Lord had done for them when He snatched them out of slavery.

Why?

Let's start with Passover. The yearly remembrance was for the ones who experienced it, but even more so it was for the generations to come. (:26 &27)

The Feast of Unleavened Bread? A time to remember that the Passover rescued the Jews from Egyptian slavery. But the true Passover - the one which all of us experience, rescues us from the slavery of sin. Leaven always represented sin. The 7 days of eating bread with no leaven was a symbol to the Jews that someday the Lord would rescue them from sin forever. Not just for a night flight out of a foreign country...but forever.

11. (:28-32) When the 10th Plague took place, at midnight, what happened?

Just as God said, the firstborn in every house not covered by the blood died.

Man and animal. The grieving was loud. And Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron to him and asked them to leave.

12. (:32) What did Pharaoh mean when he said; "...and bless me also"?

He did not want to bow his knee to the God of Israel, but he definitely believed their God was powerful. It reminds me of James 2:19. "The devils also believe, and tremble" Belief is not necessarily faith.

13. (:33-39) How fast did the people of Israel have to leave Egypt?

So fast they didn't have time to let their dough rise. When they eventually baked and ate that bread, it was flat...like crackers...because they had not had time to let it rise while they were in Egypt that night.

14. (:35-37) How many Israelites left?

Six hundred thousand men....not counting children.

And also a "mixed multitude" went with them....probably meaning that some Egyptians also went. They had seen the One, True God and would never again settle for the Gods of Egypt.

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15. (:40-41) How long had they been in Egypt?

Four hundred thirty years from the time Joseph and his family had moved to Egypt to escape a plague.

16. (:42) Why did God turn this event into an "ordinance"? What is an ordinance?

An ordinance is something you do to remember something. The ordinance doesn't save you, or make God any happier with you. It just reminds you of what you don't want to forget.

17. (:43-49) What were some of the rules which would go along with this "ordinance"?

- a. (:43) No non-Israelite shall eat it.
 - b. (:44) If a servant who is not an Israelite wants to join the Hebrew nation and be circumcised, then he can eat of it.
 - c. (:45) No foreigner or hired servant shall eat of it.
 - d. (:46) It shall be eaten in a home...not carried from home to home. And no bone of the animal shall be broken.
 - e. (:47) It shall be partaken by all of Israel...not just a few. This was not an ordinance just for the nation as a whole. It was for each individual. It was personal.
 - f. (:48-49) Those who would join themselves to Israel could do so...and even their servants in their household must be circumcised to indicate the total commitment of the whole household to the God of Israel.
- What is the significance of these rules? The Passover was not just an exercise in religion. It was a symbol of a personal relationship with the One, True God.

18. (:50-51) Who delivered the Israelites from Egypt?

The LORD. Himself. Why would He do such a thing?

Redeemed!

Exodus Chapter 13 - Questions

1. (:1&2) What does the Lord ask Moses to do now that Israel is freed from slavery?
What is He actually asking them to do?
This is a pretty huge sacrifice, isn't it?
Why does He ask this (what's the obvious reason?)
2. (:3-10) What else does He ask them to do?
3. (:11-16) What could the Israelites do with the animal first-borns?
Why only the males?
What could the Israelites do with the human first-borns?
4. (:17-18) Which way would have made the most sense for the people of Israel to travel?
Why didn't God send them that way?
What does that tell you about your own life?
Which way did God send them?
5. (:19) What did Moses make sure they took with them?
Why? (Genesis 50:25)
Why did Joseph care about what happened to his bones?
6. (:20-22) How did God lead them from place to place as they traveled to the Promised Land?
How does God lead you?

APPLICATION QUESTION:

7. Have you ever thought of your children as belonging to the Lord? What does that imply? Should you look differently at your children or even your things when you realize what Jesus did to buy us back from slavery? If your son or daughter had to be redeemed (bought back) from slavery, how much would you pay to do it?

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Redeemed!

Exodus Chapter 13 - Discussion Notes

1. (:1&2) What does the Lord ask Moses to do now that Israel is freed from slavery?

He asks Moses to tell the Israelites to set apart the first-born sons and first-born male animals to the service of the Lord.

What is He actually asking them to do?

He's asking them to declare that the first-born, the most valuable of their families and possessions, belongs to the Lord, not to the family. Literally they would be giving up all rights to this son. Giving up all rights to raise him. They would be declaring that they deserve no future income or security from the first-born. There would be no parental choice or even direction for a future career....no inheritance of a family business.

This is a pretty huge sacrifice, isn't it? Huge.

Why does He ask this (what's the obvious reason?)

The obvious reason is that, actually, God had bought them. They were rescued by Him from certain death. They do totally belong to God. The Lord is only asking them to acknowledge the truth. He found a way to save the whole nation....He only asks that the first-born be declared set apart for His service.

2. (:3-10) What else does He ask them to do?

He also asks them to follow His instructions for a ceremony which would last a week and require a certain amount of self-sacrifice. They were to eat unleavened bread only for 7 days...then have a feast.

Why? So that they would never forget what God had done, and what it had cost to free them. So they would realize they were freed not from Egypt, but from sin.

They were to repeat this 7-day Feast of Unleavened Bread once a year, always right after the Passover celebration.

3. (:11-16) What could the Israelites do with the animal first-borns?

Sacrifice it. In other words, kill the animal in the proscribed manner, and roast it on a sacrificial fire.

Why only the males?

Because they were the most valuable.

What could the Israelites do with the human first-borns?

Of course God is not going to ask them to make a blood sacrifice out of their own sons. "Humans were to be consecrated to the Lord by their life, not by their death." (NASB STUDY BIBLE) So He tells them they can buy them back from Him. A certain amount of money was determined which would symbolically say: We know our first-born son belongs to God, and we are buying him back, acknowledging that we do not have the right to just claim him as our own without paying a price.

Just as an interesting side note: Joseph and Mary obeyed this command from God when Jesus was born. Look at Luke 2:21-24.

4. (:17-18) Which way would have made the most sense for the people of Israel to travel?

It would have made the most sense geographically for them to take the northern route into Israel, through the country of the Philistines. That would have been the most efficient...the shortest...route.

Why didn't God send them that way?

God knew they would have to battle their way through those fierce people. He wasn't sure they would have the determination to press forward. They might just go back to Egypt...to slavery.

What does that tell you about your own life?

Which way did God send them?

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He sent them the long way...the southern route. It was dangerous because it was a desert...a wilderness...and food and water would have been impossible to find for such a huge group of people. In so doing, He put them into an impossible situation where they would have no choice but to trust Him for their provision...and would not have the option of turning back.

5. (:19) What did Moses make sure they took with them?

The bones of their ancestor, Joseph.

Why? (Genesis 50:25)

Because of a promise made by the tiny group of Israelites who were alive when Joseph died.

Why did Joseph care about what happened to his bones?

Because the future mattered. Joseph asked his descendants to do this because he believed the time would come when they would all go back. He was counting on the mighty hand of the God he knew and trusted. Joseph was making a statement of faith in God's yet unfulfilled promises. The Israelites, in following through with their promise, were also saying they believed God was faithful and they could trust Him to fulfill His promises.

6. (:20-22) How did God lead them from place to place as they traveled to the Promised Land?

A pillar of cloud by day.

A pillar of fire by night.

They were a huge group, and He gave them something that each individual member of the group could see, not just something private for the leaders. There was no doubt that God was leading when those pillars moved.

How does God lead you?

APPLICATION QUESTION:

7. Have you ever thought of your children as belonging to the Lord? What does that imply? Should you look differently at your children or even your things when you realize what Jesus did to buy us back from slavery? If

your son or daughter had to be redeemed (bought back) from slavery, how much would you pay to do it?

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Lessons Learned
Exodus Chapters 14 & 15 - Questions

Chapter 14

1. (:1-4) What does the Lord tell the Israelites to do now?
Why does He tell them to do this?
2. (:5-9) Why does Pharaoh change his mind? What lesson has Pharaoh not learned?
3. (:10-12) How do the Israelites react when they see Pharaoh coming? What lesson have they not learned?
4. (:13-14) How does Moses react to all of this? What lesson has he learned?
5. (:15-18) What is going to happen? Has this ever happened before in history?
6. (:19-20) What does God do first to protect this huge group of people? Has God ever protected these people this way before?
7. (:21&22) What does Israel do while God is providing this protection?
8. (:23-28) What does God do to the Egyptians? How many survive?
9. (:29-31) What have the Israelites just learned about God? Didn't they already trust Him? Why did they have to learn this again?

Chapter 15

10. (:1-21) Read out loud the song of Moses & Miriam. What things jump out at you as you read it?
11. (:22-27) What else did the Lord want to teach the Israelites as they started out their life of faith?

APPLICATION QUESTION:

12. In the last year, what lessons have you learned from the Lord? Were any of those lessons "repeat" lessons?

Were any of those lessons ones you asked Him to teach you?

13. Would you like to take greater steps of faith in your life? Are you willing to go through God's "lessons" to get there?

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Lessons Learned
Exodus Chapters 14 & 15 - Discussion Notes

Chapter 14

1. (:1-4) What does the Lord tell the Israelites to do now?

Why does He tell them to do this?

He tells them to stop their running. To camp by the shore of the sea. He tells them Pharaoh is on his way to catch up with them, and that their job right now is just to sit tight and wait to see what will happen. He tells them again that He can be trusted. He will honor His own name in whatever is about to happen.

2. (:5-9) Why does Pharaoh change his mind? What lesson has Pharaoh not learned?

He never actually bowed his knee to Almighty God. He caved for a few hours, but still believed he could get the best of these people, and get the best of their God. His pride and arrogance, and his lack of repentance, are going to be his demise.

3. (:10-12) How do the Israelites react when they see Pharaoh coming? What lesson have they not learned?

They react in fear, and they react by lashing out at Moses and at God. They still have not learned to trust their God and the man He has chosen.

4. (:13-14) How does Moses react to all of this? What lesson has he learned? He has learned. He has really learned, that God will do what He will do. He has reached down into himself and remembered the mighty acts of God in the past few days, and he knows deep within that God will keep every promise He has made.

5. (:15-18) What is going to happen? Has this ever happened before in history?

God is going to part the sea before the Israelites, allow them to cross over on dry riverbed, and then He will deal with the Egyptians.

6. (:19-20) What does God do first to protect this huge group of people? Has God ever protected these people this way before?

God stood in between His people and their enemies. He usually led them by a cloud during the day, at the front of their march. Now He moves behind them, giving them light to go forward, but giving their enemies darkness to ride into. All night long the Israelites crossed the sea, and the Egyptians could not find them, though they were right behind them.

7. (:21&22) What does Israel do while God is providing this protection? They walked in between two walls of water. Frightening. But the only way out was forward. They had to trust their God, or die.

8. (:23-28) What does God do to the Egyptians? How many survive? The waters of the sea close back over the Egyptians once the Israelites are safely on the other side. Not one Egyptian soldier survives.

9. (:29-31) What have the Israelites just learned about God? Didn't they already trust Him? Why did they have to learn this again? It took many strong and mighty acts of God before the Jews believed. And even this belief described here is going to wobble once hardship comes after this miraculous river-crossing. The Israelites have been slaves. They hated being slaves. They cried for freedom. But now they have to grow up. They have to learn to be a people who are free, and who trust their God to give them the strength to do the things free people do.

Chapter 15

10. (:1-21) Read out loud the song of Moses & Miriam. What things jump out at you as you read it?

11. (:22-27) What else did the Lord want to teach the Israelites as they started out their life of faith?

- Life is still hard, even when you are free. Learn to nip complaining in the bud, and look for God's provision.
- Be innovative, as God is, to provide your own solutions sometimes.
- When you look back at your old life, remember it for what it was - full of disease - not romantically as the "good old days".

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APPLICATION QUESTION:

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Were any of those lessons ones you asked Him to teach you?

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