

Explore the Bible®

DEAF PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE



Exodus; Leviticus

Fall 2017

Steve Gaines, General Editor

LifeWay | Adults

LIFE BY DESIGN

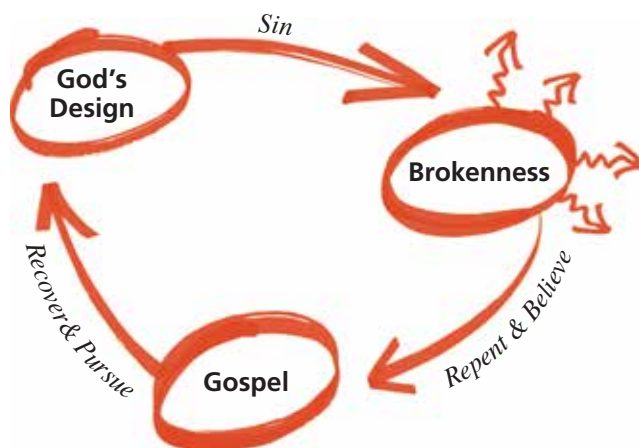
We live in a broken world. This brokenness is seen in suffering, violence, poverty, pain, and death around us. Brokenness leads us to search for a way to make LIFE work.

The Bible tells us that God originally planned a world that worked perfectly—where everything and everyone fit together in harmony. God made each of us with a purpose—to worship Him and walk with Him. (See Genesis 1:31 and Psalm 19:1.)

Life doesn't work when we ignore God and His original design for our lives. We selfishly insist on doing things our own way. The Bible calls this sin. Sin leads to a place of brokenness. The consequence of our sin is separation from God—in this life and for all of eternity. (See Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.)

At this point we need a remedy—some good news. Because of His love, God did not leave us in our brokenness. Jesus, God in human flesh, came to us and lived perfectly according to God's Design. Jesus came to rescue us—to do for us what we could not do for ourselves. He took our sin and shame to the cross, paying the penalty of our sin by His death. Jesus was then raised from the dead—to provide the only way for us to be rescued and restored to a relationship with God. (See John 3:16, Colossians 2:14, and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.)

We don't have the power to escape this brokenness on our own. We need to be rescued. We must ask God to forgive us—turning from sin to trust in Jesus. This is what it means to repent and believe. Believing, we receive new life through Jesus. God turns our lives in a new direction. (See Mark 1:15, Ephesians 2:8-9, and Romans 10:9.)



When God restores our relationship to Him, we begin to discover meaning and purpose in a broken world. Now we can pursue God's Design in all areas of our lives. God's Spirit empowers us to recover His Design and assures us of His presence in this life and for all of eternity. (See Philippians 2:13 and Ephesians 2:10.)

Now that you have heard this Good News, God wants you to respond to Him. You can talk to Him using words like these: My life is broken—I recognize it's because of my sin. I believe Christ came to live, die, and was raised from the dead—to rescue me from my sin. Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in You. I know that Jesus is Lord of all, and I will follow Him.

Excerpted from *Life on Mission: A Simple Way to Share the Gospel*.

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» MEET THE WRITER



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BIBLE READING PLAN

SEPTEMBER

- Exodus 1:1-22
- Exodus 2:1-25
- Exodus 3:1-22
- Exodus 4:1-17
- Exodus 4:18-31
- Exodus 5:1-6:1
- Exodus 6:2-27
- Exodus 6:28-7:25
- Exodus 8:1-19
- Exodus 8:20-32
- Exodus 9:1-21
- Exodus 9:22-35
- Exodus 10:1-20
- Exodus 10:21-11:10
- Exodus 12:1-20
- Exodus 12:21-42
- Exodus 12:43-51
- Exodus 13:1-22
- Exodus 14:1-14
- Exodus 14:15-31
- Exodus 15:1-21
- Exodus 15:22-16:12
- Exodus 16:13-36
- Exodus 17:1-16
- Exodus 18:1-27
- Exodus 19:1-25
- Exodus 20:1-21
- Exodus 20:22-21:11
- Exodus 21:12-36
- Exodus 22:1-20

OCTOBER

- Exodus 22:21-23:9
- Exodus 23:10-33
- Exodus 24:1-18
- Exodus 25:1-22
- Exodus 25:23-40
- Exodus 26:1-30
- Exodus 26:31-27:8
- Exodus 27:9-28:5
- Exodus 28:6-30
- Exodus 28:31-43
- Exodus 29:1-21
- Exodus 29:22-46
- Exodus 30:1-21
- Exodus 30:22-31:11
- Exodus 31:12-32:14
- Exodus 32:15-35
- Exodus 33:1-23
- Exodus 34:1-28
- Exodus 34:29-35:19
- Exodus 35:20-36:7
- Exodus 36:8-38
- Exodus 37:1-29
- Exodus 38:1-31
- Exodus 39:1-21
- Exodus 39:22-43
- Exodus 40:1-38
- Leviticus 1:1-17
- Leviticus 2:1-16
- Leviticus 3:1-17
- Leviticus 4:1-21
- Leviticus 4:22-35

NOVEMBER

- Leviticus 5:1-19
- Leviticus 6:1-23
- Leviticus 6:24-7:21
- Leviticus 7:22-38
- Leviticus 8:1-21
- Leviticus 8:22-36
- Leviticus 9:1-24
- Leviticus 10:1-20
- Leviticus 11:1-23
- Leviticus 11:24-47
- Leviticus 12:1-13:17
- Leviticus 13:18-46
- Leviticus 13:47-59
- Leviticus 14:1-32
- Leviticus 14:33-57
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- Leviticus 16:1-34
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- Leviticus 20:1-27
- Leviticus 21:1-24
- Leviticus 22:1-33
- Leviticus 23:1-22
- Leviticus 23:23-24:9
- Leviticus 24:10-25:7
- Leviticus 25:8-31
- Leviticus 25:32-26:13
- Leviticus 26:14-46
- Leviticus 27:1-34



INTRODUCTION TO EXODUS AND LEVITICUS

The Jewish people saw the Books of Exodus and Leviticus as a part of a history that began in Genesis and was completed in Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These five books are called the books of the Law. The Greek word is *Pentateuch* which means “five scrolls.” The Jewish people call these five books the Torah. *Torah* is a **Hebrew** word that means “instruction.” **Exodus** is a Latin word that came from the Greek word that means “to go out.” *Leviticus* is from a Latin word referring to the Levites and priests.

Exodus is a book about the **redemption** of God’s people. It tells how God made people free again. Leviticus is a book about **atonement** and living in **holiness**. It tells us how redeemed people became cleansed from sin, how those people must **worship**, and how those people must serve God.

»» Who wrote the Books of Exodus and Leviticus?

Most Bible teachers believe Moses wrote Exodus and Leviticus. Several verses in Exodus tell us Moses wrote at least part of the book (Exodus 17:14; 24:4; 34:27). Joshua said the command in Exodus 20:25 was “explained in the Book of the Teachings of Moses” (Joshua 8:31). Several New Testament verses identify Moses as the author of all five books of the Law. (See Mark 7:10; 12:26.)

»» When were the Books of Exodus and Leviticus written?

According to 1 Kings 6:1, the Exodus from **Egypt** took place 480 years before the fourth year of King Solomon’s reign. From other sources, we know that was about 966 B.C., so counting this way the Exodus occurred about 1446 B.C. If you read a Bible commentary on the Exodus from Egypt or if you look it up online, you will find that it is not easy to find the perfect date for the Exodus. Exodus tells the history of the Jewish people for a little more than forty years, ending just before they entered the **promised land**.

Moses wrote Leviticus while the Jewish people were camped at Mount Sinai (Leviticus 7:38; 27:34). God spoke the words of Leviticus during the first month of the second year after the Exodus from Egypt. Moses probably wrote them before the wilderness journey recorded in Numbers.

»» Why were the Books of Exodus and Leviticus written?

The Book of Exodus is a history book to help the Jews remember how God led them out of Egypt and into the promised land. Leviticus was written to help the Jews remember God’s holiness and their need to be holy and worship God in the right way.

The sacrificial rituals point us to the atoning death of Jesus, our great High Priest. The letter to the Hebrews explains the Book of Leviticus in

this **relationship** with Jesus. Other New Testament books refer to and quote from the Book of Leviticus. Romans 10:5 and Galatians 3:12 refer to Leviticus 18:5. Matthew 19:16-20; Mark 12:28-33; Luke 10:25-28; Galatians 5:14; and James 2:8 all refer to Leviticus 19:18.

OUTLINES OF EXODUS; LEVITICUS

EXODUS

- I. Preparation for Deliverance (1:1–4:31))
- II. Moses Confronts Pharaoh (5:1–13:16)
- III. Freedom Gained (13:17–15:21)
- IV. Into the Wilderness (15:22–18:27)
- V. At the Foot of Mount Sinai (19:1–34:35)
- VI. Building the Tabernacle (35:1–40:38)

LEVITICUS

- I. Laws for Sacrifices and Offerings (1:1–7:38)
- II. Ordination and Ministry of Priests (8:1–10:20)
- III. Purity Laws (11:1–16:34)
- IV. God's Requirements for Holiness (17:1–27:34)



SLOW TO OBEY

God called Moses and empowered Moses to serve Him and His purposes.

EXODUS 3:4-14; 4:13-16

FIRST THOUGHTS

God called Moses to serve Him. God also calls us to serve Him. When God calls, He also gives the power to do the work. You may wonder if God talks to us today like He did in the Bible. He does, but we may not be ready to listen to Him.

Think back about a time when you felt strongly that God was speaking to you. You may want to share it with your Bible study group this week.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT (EXODUS 1:1–3:3)

From Genesis 50, we learn how Jacob's family continued to live in **Egypt**. Many years later, Jacob's family was very large (1:9). The king became afraid they may cause trouble, so he forced them to become slaves. Later he said that all **Hebrew** baby boys must be killed at birth. One Jewish woman chose to save her son and put him in a basket on the Nile River. The king's daughter discovered the child and raised him. She named him Moses.

When Moses was forty years old, he went to Midian, a town near Mount Sinai. He met Jethro, a priest, and married Jethro's daughter. He worked for Jethro as a shepherd for forty years.

God saw the suffering of His people, and appeared to Moses in a burning bush (Exodus 3:1-3).

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. God's Presence (Exodus 3:4-6)

VERSE 4

⁴When the LORD saw Moses was coming to look at the bush, God called to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

Moses saw the bush was burning, but not burning up. He thought this was strange. When Moses went closer to the bush, God spoke from it and called Moses by his name. Moses' answer, "Here I am," was a servant's answer. Moses showed he was available to God."

VERSES 5-6

⁵Then God said, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground."

⁶"I am the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

God told Moses not to come close to the bush. He then told Moses to remove his shoes because the place was **holy** ground. The place itself was not holy. It became holy because God was there. In some nations today, people remove their shoes when they go into their church.

The Almighty God is holy, but we can be thankful He chooses to show His faithfulness and plans through people. God had a plan and a person ready to save His people and bring them out of Egypt.

Why did God tell Moses He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

Why was Moses afraid?

How might we fear God?

KEY DOCTRINE: *God's Holiness*

Throughout the Bible we read about God's holiness. Moses said there is no one like God (Exodus 15:11). The psalms frequently speak of God's holiness, as in Psalm 99:9. Isaiah heard the angels singing, "Holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:3). John wrote that God alone is holy (Revelation 15:4).

"Holy" has two main meanings. The first is "to be separate, different, set apart." God is set apart and is different from all others. The second meaning is "to be good and right in ones actions and thoughts." God is always good and right. Thus, He is always holy.

God's people become holy as we become what God wants us to be, separated for His use. The Holy Spirit guides Christians to holiness (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8).

2. God's Call (Exodus 3:7-10)

VERSES 7-8

⁷*The LORD said, "I have seen the troubles my people have suffered in **Egypt**, and I have heard their cries when the Egyptian slave masters hurt them. I am concerned about their pain,*

⁸*and I have come down to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them out of that land and lead them to a good land with lots of room—a fertile land. It is the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites."*

This is the first time God used the words "my people." God said He saw the troubles of His people and He was ready to save them. He said He would lead them to a good land. That land is called the **promised land**.

Verses 9-10

⁹ *"I have heard the cries of the people of Israel, and I have seen the way the Egyptians have made life hard for them.*

¹⁰ *"So now I am sending you to the king of Egypt. Go! Bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt!"*

God said He would use Moses to save the **Hebrew** people. This was God's call to Moses. God often does His work through people like He did with Moses. He has a plan for every person's life. It took eighty years for Moses to find God's plan for his life. God always works with His timetable, not ours.

When we pray for help in terrible situations, we can be thankful. God may help us in unexpected ways and through unexpected persons.

Can you think of a time when you had a strong feeling God was calling you to do something? Share that experience with your Bible study class. Write a few words about that experience here.

3. God's Name (Exodus 3:11-14)

VERSE 11

¹¹ *But Moses said to God, "I am not a great man! How can I go to the king and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?"*

Moses felt he was not important enough to go talk with the king. The Bible has other stories of men who felt like Moses. Read about Gideon (Judges 6:14-16) and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:6-8). God also told both of these men, "I am with you."

How many times have you answered God by signing, "But..."? "But I am Deaf." "But I am too old (or too young)." "But I am too busy right now, maybe later." We all tend to do this. It means we are thinking of some excuse or reason not to obey Him!

VERSE 12

¹² God said, “I will be with you. This will be the proof that I am sending you: After you lead the people out of Egypt, all of you will worship Me on this mountain.”

Moses was on a mountain named Horeb. The same mountain is also called Sinai. We read about this mountain often in our Bible.

To answer Moses’ excuses to obey His call, God promised to be with Moses. When God asks us to do something, He is with us too. Jesus promised to be with His disciples always (Matthew 28:20).

VERSES 13-14

¹³ Moses said to God, “When I go to the Israelites, I will say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors sent me to you.’ What if the people say, ‘What is his name?’ What should I tell them?”

¹⁴ Then God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. When you go to the people of Israel, tell them, ‘I AM sent me to you.’”

Moses had another question for God. Maybe he was still trying to understand all God wanted him to do.

God told Moses his name is “I AM.” The Old Testament **Hebrew** language did not have any vowels (a-e-i-o-u). Later vowels were added by different sets of dots under the other letters. The word that means “I AM” is spelled YHWH in Hebrew. The Jews felt it was not respectful to say that word for God. They spoke another word, *Adonai*, which means “Lord.” When vowels from Adonai were added to YHWH, it became YAHWEH. Some people say that word as *Jehovah*. In English, we use the word *Lord* when we translate the word *Jehovah*. Some Bible translations use capitals, LORD, for this.

I AM may seem to be an odd name. But it is full of meaning. Whatever else it may mean, it certainly means this—God is. He is alive and always has been. That name had such power over all other gods because they were only idols, and they were not alive or real. But the “I AM” is alive and real.

**Sometimes when we pray, we say God, or Our Father, or Our Lord.
When you pray, what name do you use for God?**

Why do you choose that name?

What does "I AM" tell us about God??

BIBLE SKILL

God made promises to Abraham and his children after him. Look up the promises and write down what God promised.

Genesis 12:1-3 _____

Genesis 15:13-16 _____

Genesis 26:2-4 _____

Genesis 28:13-15 _____

After doing this study write why you think Israel is often called the promised land. _____

4. God's Plan (Exodus 4:13-16)

VERSES 13-14

¹³ But Moses said, "Please, Lord, send someone else."

¹⁴ The LORD became angry with Moses and said, "Your brother Aaron, from the family of Levi, is a skilled speaker. He is already coming to meet you, and he will be happy when he sees you."

In verse 3:4 Moses called out "Here I am" when God called his name from the burning bush. But now, when God told him to go to the king of **Egypt** and lead the people out of slavery, Moses' answer was basically, "Who, me?"

After giving reasons why he was not able to do the job, Moses asked God to send someone else to do it. God promised to help Moses and said Moses could use his brother, Aaron, to speak for him. It will help you understand this better if you read all the conversation between God and Moses in Exodus 3:9-4:9.

The Lord became angry with Moses. Does that seem odd to you? God's anger does not simply mean God becomes unhappy. God's anger is always directed toward **sin** and toward the people who do not obey His will (Deuteronomy 9:7-23), and especially to the **worship** of idols (Psalm 78:56-66). John wrote, "Those who believe in the Son have eternal life, but those who do not obey the Son will never have life. God's anger stays on them" (John 3:36). God's anger is often described as burning or coming as fire. His anger will finally lead to punishment. King Josiah read the Old Testament Books of the Law that the Jews ignored for many years. He said, "The Lord's anger is burning against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book" (2 Kings 22:13).

VERSES 15-16

¹⁵ "You will speak to Aaron and tell him what to say. I will help both of you to speak and will teach you what to do.

¹⁶ "Aaron will speak to the people for you. You will tell him what God says, and he will speak for you."

Aaron and Moses were descendants of Levi, a son of Jacob (Exodus 6:20). Aaron spoke for Moses to the Jewish people and to **Pharaoh, the king of Egypt** (Exodus 7:1-2). God named Aaron as the high priest (Exodus 28:1-3). He failed to be faithful to God when Moses left him in charge while Moses went up the mountain (Exodus 32:1-26). Later, he and his sister Miriam became jealous of Moses (Numbers 12:1-9).

In verse 3:12, God said, "I will be with you." God did not say to Moses that everything would be fine. He did not say it would be easy. He did not promise that only good would happen to Moses. He only said, "I will be with you." That is exactly what He says to us today.

**When you feel afraid to serve God because you may fail,
what can you do?**

IN MY CONTEXT

God wanted to move Moses from his comfortable life into the work God planned for him. Moses was never the same again. He had a new **relationship** with God. He knew God as a friend (Exodus 33:11).

Think of a time when you realized God is your friend. Share that experience with your Bible study group.

Moses forgot his past failures. He received new power for his call to service. The same can be true for us. God's job description for you will not be the same as for Moses, but it will be real and challenging. God does not look for ability. He looks for availability.

Write a few sentences about what you understand God wants you to do for Him.

If you are not sure about God's plan for you, ask God today to show you what He wants you to do.

What are some excuses people make when they feel God leading them to do something?

Tell God you are available and ready to do His will. Instead of giving excuses, thank God for being with you.

List some ways you can use what you have learned in this lesson, and how this lesson can help you grow in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. When you go to the people of Israel, tell them, 'I AM sent me to you.'"

—Exodus 3:14

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LEADER GUIDE



...of the land of Egypt.
12 That night to be kept holy to the Lord,
because he brought them out of the land
of Egypt: this is that night of the Lord,
when all the children of Israel must keep
themselves up for generations.
13 And the Lord said unto Moses and Aaron,
Thou art the eve of the Passover:
14 a stranger that is thereof.
15 But ye shall eat it that is bought for money,
when thou hast sacrificed him, then
shall he eat thereof.
16 A stranger or an hired servant shall not
eat thereof.
17 In one house shall it be eaten: ye shall
eat none of the flesh out of the house,
neither shall ye break a bone thereof.
18 All the Congregation of Israel shall observe
it.
19 But if a stranger dwell with thee, & will
observe the Passover of the Lord, let him
circumcise all the males that belong unto
him, and then let him come, and observe
it, and he shall be as one that is borne
in the land: for none uncircumcised person
shall eat thereof.
20 One law shall be to him that is borne
in the land, & to the stranger that dwelleth
among you.
21 Then all the children of Israel did as
the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

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SLOW TO OBEY

God called Moses and empowered Moses to serve Him and His purposes.

EXODUS 3:4-14; 4:13-16

MEMORY VERSE: Exodus 3:14

PLAN AHEAD

- Pray for group members. Pray that they will become quick to obey the Lord.
- Ask _____ to study the Introduction to the Books of Exodus and Leviticus and summarize it for the class.
- Make the lesson come alive! Find a map of the time of the **Exodus**. Be ready to show the group the area where the Israelites traveled as they left **Egypt**.
- Practice signing the story for today's lesson. It would be good to do in two parts, Exodus 3:4-14 and Exodus 4:1-14. Prepare so that you do not need to look at the book while you sign it. You could also ask one of the members to sign the story.

FOCUS ATTENTION

Ask the volunteer to explain the Introduction to the Books of Exodus and Leviticus. Show the group the area on the map where the action will happen in the lessons for this quarter.

Ask the class: Has God ever asked you to do something but you were afraid to do it? If they answered "yes" they will understand how Moses felt in this story. Sign the first part of the story for the class.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. God's Presence (Exodus 3:4-6)

Ask: Why did God ask Moses to take off his shoes? When we meet for **worship**, how can we show our respect for God? During our prayer time at home, how can we show respect for God?

2. God's Call (Exodus 3:7-10)

Sign this part of the story again. **Ask:** What do you notice about God in these verses? (He listens to His people's prayers, He answers, and He has a plan.)

3. God's Name (Exodus 3:11-14)

Ask: How did Moses answer God? **Ask:** When you ask your children to do something, how do you want them to answer? If your members do not have children **Ask:** When your parents asked you to do something, how did they want you to answer? Moses was not quick to obey, he had excuses. Perhaps we all understand how he felt.

4. God's Plan (Exodus 4:13-16)

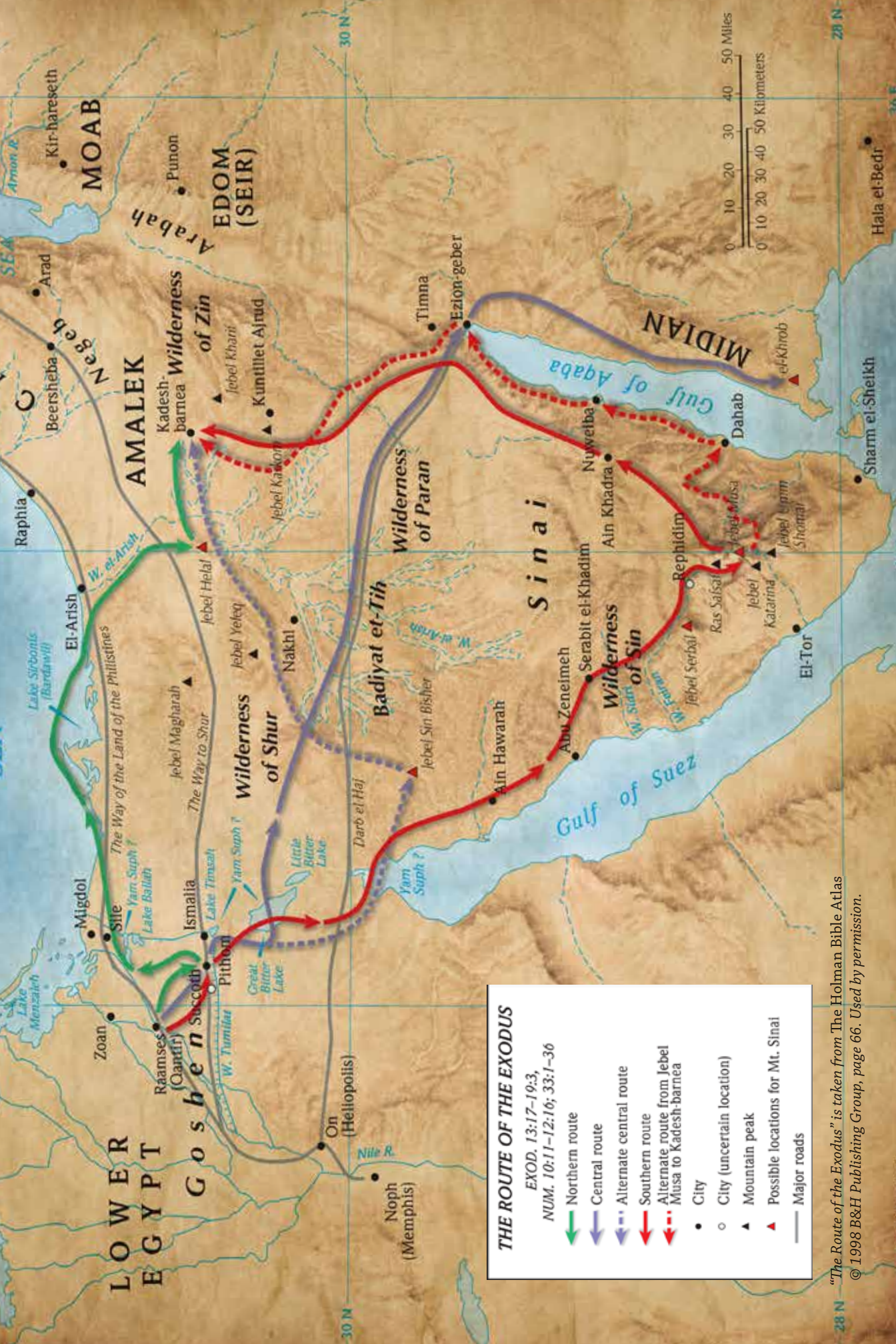
Sign the second part of the story. You can summarize verses 4:1-12 and focus on 13-16. **Ask:** What do you notice about God in these verses? (He can become angry, He promised to be with Moses, and He let Aaron help.) Why did God become angry? (See the discussion in the Personal Study Guide.)

IN MY CONTEXT

Discuss: God is still the same today. He does not change. He still listens to His people and answers our prayers. When He asks us to do something, He will make a way for us to obey (Philippians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). He is with us always (Matthew 28:20). We even have the **Holy** Spirit living in us to help us know what to do (John 14:26; Ephesians 4:11-13).

Ask the group to list some things that God wants Christians to do. Ask them to think about things that He wants them as individuals to do. They can share their answers from In My Context in the Personal Study Guide.

Pray together. Ask God to help us learn to obey quickly and trust Him to help.



THE ROUTE OF THE EXODUS

EXOD. 13:17-19:3,
 NUM. 10:11-12:16; 33:1-36

- Northern route
- Central route
- Alternate central route
- Southern route
- - - Alternate route from Jebel Musa to Kadesh-barnea
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ▲ Possible locations for Mt. Sinai
- Major roads

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