



EXODUS

KNOWING GOD'S GRACIOUS SALVATION
STUDY NOTES

All Saints Wick
Know, Love & Follow Jesus

INTRODUCTION

The second book of the Bible is called Exodus, from the Greek word for “departure,” because its central event is the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. Its Hebrew title, Shemoth (“Names”), is from the book’s opening phrase, “These are the names....” Continuing the history of Israel from the point where the Book of Genesis leaves off, Exodus recounts the Egyptian oppression of Jacob’s ever-increasing descendants and their miraculous deliverance by God through Moses, who led them across the Red Sea to Mount Sinai where they entered into a covenant with the Lord. (Adapted from Bible Gateway).

This is relevant for us not only through the way God kept his promise to the Israelites and eventually entered the world through Jesus. But also the New Testament, and Jesus own life, sees in this story a picture of our salvation and deliverance from sin into the promise of new life with God.

SMALL GROUPS

These notes are primarily intended for discussion and prayer in groups, but should also help personal reflection on God’s word. They’re a starting point, the Lord may well lead you into other helpful discussions around these stories.

Please feel free to include times of prayer, worship, fun and reflection around these discussions. You might also like to take a break or include socials at the beginning, during and end of our series.

EXODUS 1:6-17 - ISRAELITES IN SLAVERY

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

From these opening verses, what might you expect Exodus to be about?

Do you know or remember the promise made to Abraham about his descendants? (See Genesis 17:1-8)

How has the situation changed for Abraham's descendants from the high days of Joseph?

Are there modern parallels or similar types of situation that can illustrate how hard this must have been?

Is there anything distinct or unique about the situation for the Israelites in Egypt?

If Exodus is illustrative for us as God's salvation in Christ, what might be our equivalent of their slavery? (Hint: Romans 6:6-7)

Could you pray this week for specific freedom from sins that hold us back from the life God intends.

EXODUS 2:1-10 - BIRTH OF MOSES

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

How often does God seem to be at work through the unlikely and the unknown?

Why do you think that is?

What does this account tell us about one of the ways that God works his purposes out?

Does this story have something to say to us when we experience obstacles to our faith?

And also God's role in helping us to overcome them?

Are there things you'd love to do for God but you feel there are too many obstacles?

Could you pray in a group or 2s and 3s for faith to trust God to be with you.

EXODUS 2:11-25 - A FLAWED HERO

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

How would you describe this incident for Moses in your own words?

Why did Moses end up a fugitive and was this also a useful preparation?

What does this show us about how God often works in and through imperfect and fallen people?

V23: Do you know that feeling of waiting for God to answer prayers or even cries?

What has helped you in those times?

Is there anything now that you'd love prayer for patient faith?

Does v24 imply that God had forgotten his covenant with them, or something else?

Could you pray this week to remember that this same God remembers his promises to you in Jesus.

EXODUS 3:1-17 - THE BURNING BUSH

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

Why do you think so many key moments in scripture happen up a mountain?

How many different things do we learn about God from this encounter?

What were Moses' reasons for not initially accepting God's call on his life?

Are we ever tempted to make similar types of excuse?

How does God's name revealed to Moses in v14 connect us to Jesus in the gospels?

How does the Lord equip us with faith to do things for him we couldn't do in our own strength?

Do you have some examples you could share?

Could you pray for a new confidence in God's presence with us and his promises for us.

EXODUS 4:1-17 - GOD'S POWER AT WORK

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

Why does God show Moses these miracles in answer to his question in v1?

What is Moses' main concern with what God has asked him to do? (v10)

Have you ever had that experience of being equipped for something you didn't think you could do?

How does God reassure Moses in v11 and how might he reassure us to trust him?

Does the Lord take Moses' concerns on board?

Can we trust that he hears us when we're honest with him too?

Could you pray this week to be equipped for serving God in the ways he's called you to.

EXODUS 5:1-9 - OPPOSITION TO GOD'S PLANS

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

What does Pharaoh's response to Moses teach us about his attitude towards the Israelites and their God?

What is Pharaoh's priority for the Israelites and what they can offer to him? (v4)

Do we still see these sorts of attitudes? What should or could our response be?

How about where we see other people oppressed or enslaved?

Is there something about having a Pharaoh's power that has influenced his attitude?

How do we make sure that we remain humble and loving towards others?

Could you pray this week for those who suffer persecution or slavery today.

EXODUS 7:14-22 - THE WARNING OF PLAGUES

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

What was God hoping to reveal to the Egyptians through these miracles?

In what ways were they a way of revealing the truth about Egypt's gods?

Why was Pharaoh so reluctant to accept the truth of their being one true God?

Is that a condition of the heart we still encounter today - in us and others?

Can God soften our heart and is there anything in your heart you need to ask to soften?

How does this episode serve as a reminder of the holiness and sovereignty (power) of God?

Could you pray this week for a reminder of the awesome power of God, which we can rely on if we trust him.

EXODUS 12:1-14 - THE PASSOVER

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

Why has the situation become as serious as it has by this point?

Is there a proportionality in the way that this judgment falls against Pharaoh and his people?

Why didn't God just jump to the most serious consequence immediately?

What is the symbolism of the lamb? (See Hebrews 9:22, Leviticus 17:11)

Why did God ask them to apply the blood to the doorposts, wouldn't he have known them?

Maybe there are things in this account that you find hard or troubling, it's good to be honest and think it through together.

How does this story point us forward to the forgiveness and grace of God?

In what ways is our situation similar or different to the Israelites in Egypt, living after the cross and resurrection?

Or in other words, what is the promise we have if we live under the protection of Christ's blood shed for us?

Could you pray this week for a deeper heart of worship for the Son of God who died to save us.

EXODUS 14:5-27 - CROSSING THE RED SEA

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

How scary would Pharaoh's army have seemed?

What happens to the Israelites when they take their eyes off the way ahead following God and instead look back to the Egyptians?

Is there a message in that for us today?

How does Moses reassure them? (v13-14)

Does this have a modern parallel for us with the spiritual opponents we face?

What must it have felt like to experience the incredible miracle at the Red Sea?

Could you pray this week that we would fix our eyes on Jesus, trusting him and living with hope and promise.

EXODUS 15 - A SONG OF PRAISE

Is there a verse that stands out to you? Something that intrigues, puzzles, resonates, challenges or excites you?

How many times is the Lord mentioned in this hymn?

What does that say to us about who should be centre of our worship?

Maybe split into smaller groups and look at each of the four sections (1-5, 6-10, 11-16a, 16b-18) and then share the summary or focus of each section with the other groups.

What does this hymn tell us about God's care for his people?

What did it mean to the Israelites that God would fight for His people?

What does it mean for us today?

And yet how quickly do we slip out of worship and back towards grumbling and mistrust of God?

How did God's tests in the wilderness prepare them for their lives to come?

Could you pray this week that all God has been saying to us through Exodus and the picture it paints for our salvation from sin in Christ would make a real difference in every day of our lives.

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(Copies of these Study Notes can be found at allsaintswick.org.uk/Resources)