

Showdown in Egypt Part 1 *What's Your Problem?*

Message to Conversation Guide

Exodus 1:6-14

6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, 7 but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. **8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 9 “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”** 11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. **12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields;** in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. NIV

Discussion Questions

1. How to the Israelites wind up in Egypt? What role to Joseph play in ensuring their survival?

Ge. 45:4-7

*4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, **because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.** 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 **“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.** NIV (also see **Ex. 12:40**)*

Ge. 46:5-7

5 Then Jacob left Beersheba, and Israel’s sons took their father Jacob and their children and their wives in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to transport him. 6 So Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt, taking with them their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan. 7 Jacob brought with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons and his daughters and granddaughters—all his offspring. NIV

2. How do the verses below indicate God knew Adam and Eve, and ultimately all humankind, would sin in the garden? What was the preplanned solution for sin according to these verses? Why would God create man if he already knew he would sin?

1 Peter 1:18-21

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 **He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.** 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. NIV

Rev. 13:8

8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, **the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.** NIV

3. God created man because he desired to have a holy family to reflect his glory and purposes on earth. Read and discuss the verse below.

Eph. 2:19

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. **You are members of God's family.** NLT

4. Discuss the principle: **God has a solution for your problem before you know you have a problem.**
5. Exodus 1 covers one problem that was solved only to reveal another situation, a new King that didn't care about or honor Joseph. Reflect on the series of problems you have encountered in life and how God helped you navigate them. (See **Ex. 1:8-14**)

"All life is a series of problems which we must try and solve, first one and then the next and then the next, until at last we die." Maggie Smith in Downton Abbey

6. Moses was God's solution to Israel being oppressed in Egypt. What problems did his early beginnings have? Read **Exodus 2-3**.

Ex. 2:1-3

1 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. NIV