

EXODUS

YHWH GOES TO WAR

Small Group Guide: Can We Trust Yahweh When Things Get Worse?

Based on Exodus 5-6

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand His character more deeply and to help the group trust Him even in difficult circumstances.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you prayed for something and the situation seemed to get worse before it got better. How did you respond?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Yahweh is God Supreme** - He is all-knowing (omniscient), all-powerful (omnipotent), and present everywhere (omnipresent)
 2. **God works on His timeline, not ours** - His delays are purposeful and designed for His greater glory
 3. **Sometimes things must get worse for God to be glorified more** - The worsening situation in Egypt set the stage for God's mighty acts
 4. **Our purpose is to glorify God** - We exist to worship Him, not for our own comfort or convenience
 5. **God is our Kinsman Redeemer** - He delivers, redeems, takes us as His people, and gives us an inheritance
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (15 minutes)

1. **What was Pharaoh's response when Moses asked him to let God's people go?** How did this make the Israelites' situation worse?
2. **Compare the different responses to the worsening situation:**
 - The Hebrew foremen (verses 15-19)
 - Moses (verses 22-23)
 - God (chapter 6:1-9)

What do these responses teach us?

3. **In Exodus 6:2-9, God uses "I will" seven times.** What does God promise to do? What does this reveal about His character?

Personal Reflection (20 minutes)

4. **When things go from bad to worse in your life, where do you typically turn first?**
 - To God in prayer?
 - To other people for solutions?
 - To blame others (like the foremen blamed Moses)?
 - To despair or giving up?
5. **The sermon mentioned that "God never looks at your situation and goes, 'hmm, if I push this button, hopefully I get this, but it might make it worse, I don't know.'"** How does knowing that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and always present change how you view your current struggles?
6. **Moses complained to God with bitterness and blame (Exodus 5:22-23).** Is it okay to bring our complaints and disappointments to God? What's the difference between honest lament and rebellious complaining?

Applying God's Character (20 minutes)

7. **The pastor said, "You were delivered from sin and death so that your lives might worship Yahweh."** How does understanding that your salvation is primarily for God's glory (not just your benefit) change your perspective on:
 - Your daily struggles?
 - Your purpose in life?
 - Your expectations of God?
 8. **God told Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh" (Exodus 6:1).** God's timing was perfect for maximum glory. Can you think of a time when God's delay in your life ended up being better than if He had answered immediately?
 9. **The Israelites "did not listen to Moses because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery" (Exodus 6:9).** When have you been so discouraged that you couldn't receive hope or encouragement? How can we help each other in those moments?
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Practical Application (15 minutes)

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Trust Exercise

- Identify one situation in your life that has gone from "bad to worse"
- Each day this week, write down one attribute of God (all-knowing, all-powerful, always present, faithful, deliverer, redeemer)
- Pray specifically, asking God to help you trust that attribute in your situation

Option 2: Perspective Shift

- When something difficult happens this week, pause and ask: "How might God be glorified in this?"
- Journal your thoughts and share with the group next time

Option 3: Honest Prayer

- Like Moses, bring your honest complaints to God this week
- But follow each complaint with a truth about God's character from Exodus 6:2-9
- Example: "God, this situation is getting worse and I don't understand why... but I know You are Yahweh, the God who delivers, redeems, and keeps His promises."

Group Prayer Time (15 minutes)

Prayer Focus:

1. **Praise God for who He is** - Use the "I will" statements from Exodus 6:6-8 to worship God for His character
2. **Confess** - Where have we turned to "Pharaohs" (other people, solutions, or blame) instead of trusting Yahweh?
3. **Trust** - Pray for specific situations where group members are waiting on God's timing and things seem to be getting worse
4. **Surrender** - Ask God to help each person align their lives with His glory, not their comfort

Closing Thought

"God will glorify himself in his own pace because he knows what's best. Can we trust Yahweh? Absolutely we can trust Yahweh. He's God supreme. We can trust Yahweh for the purpose of his own glory. He works everything out on his own timeline."

For Next Week

- Read Exodus 7-11 (the plagues)
- Think about: How do the plagues demonstrate that Yahweh is exactly who He said He would be?
- Memorize: "I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment." (Exodus 6:6)

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to group members who may be in genuinely difficult situations where things are getting worse
- Encourage honest expression of doubt and disappointment while pointing back to God's character
- Don't offer easy answers or platitudes; sometimes the most faithful response is to sit with someone in their pain while affirming God's sovereignty
- Remind the group that trusting God doesn't mean understanding His plan, but knowing His character