

Small Group Guide: Exodus

A Journey from Bondage to God's Presence

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: Have you ever been in a situation where you tried to do something your own way first, failed, and then had to do it God's way? Share briefly.

Key Themes & Takeaways (5 minutes)

Before diving into discussion, review these main points from the sermon:

1. **God's Faithfulness to His Promises** - Despite Israel's failures, God remains committed to His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
2. **The Passover Lamb** - A foreshadowing of Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice
3. **God's Patience and Grace** - Repeatedly shown to both Pharaoh and Israel
4. **The Presence of God** - The ultimate goal is not just deliverance, but dwelling with God
5. **Israel's Need for a Savior** - They couldn't keep the law even for 40 days

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Deliverance from Egypt (20 minutes)

1. Moses' Preparation

- Moses had two 40-year training periods: one in Pharaoh's palace and one tending sheep.
- What does this teach us about how God prepares us for His purposes?

2. Pharaoh's Hardened Heart

- The session emphasized that God was "super gracious" to Pharaoh, giving him multiple chances to repent. How does this challenge our view of the plagues?

3. The Passover Lamb

- Matt asked: "Is there anything special about blood?" and answered that it was the *faith* behind the act that mattered. How does this connect to our salvation through Christ? What role does faith play versus the "religious" actions we perform?

Part 2: Journey to Sinai (20 minutes)

4. Grumbling and Complaining

- Israel's default response to trouble was grumbling. The pastor joked, "Good thing we don't do that." Be honest: How can we break the cycle of complaining and learn to trust God's provision?

5. Moses' Intercession

- Moses said, "Lord, if you don't go, we ain't going." How important is God's presence in your daily life versus just receiving His blessings? What's the difference between wanting God's gifts and wanting God Himself?

Part 3: Application & Reflection (15 minutes)

6. Seeing Jesus in Exodus

- Throughout the session, we saw connections to Jesus: Moses in the ark (like Noah), the Passover lamb, Moses as intercessor. How does seeing these connections change the way you read the Old Testament?

7. "All that the Lord says, we will do"

- The Israelites made this commitment but failed quickly. Have you ever made a spiritual commitment at a retreat, conference, or emotional moment that didn't last? What helps commitments stick beyond the initial enthusiasm?

Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

Final Thought from the Session: "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth, who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin."

Closing Prayer

Pray together, thanking God for:

- His faithfulness to His promises
- Jesus, our Passover Lamb
- His patience with us when we fail
- His presence that goes with us

Ask God to help your group:

- Trust Him daily rather than grumble
- Value His presence above all blessings
- See Jesus throughout all of Scripture

"If your presence doesn't go with us, then we don't go." - Moses (Exodus 33)