SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Oct 25th , 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Table

This space is meant to practice presence as a small group. Use this time to create space around the table where you journey each week to move from neighbours to family. This can look like everyone bringing their favourite treat or having coffee/tea together. You can even use the question below as a starter for conversation.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- What conditions seem to bring out your best self? How about your worst self?

Scripture

This section contains the scripture(s) and an overview of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained to help those remember the sermon. We believe that God's Word shapes us as we hear the Word and respond to it. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Scripture

Exodus 7:1-6

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. 2 You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. 3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, 4 he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites.5 And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."

Exodus 7:7-25, 8, 9, 10

Plagues of Blood, Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Plague on Livestock, Boils, Hail, Locusts, and Darkness.

Exodus 11:1-10

Now the Lord had said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely. 2 Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold." 3 (The Lord made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.)

4 So Moses said, "This is what the Lord says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5 Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the

firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. 7 But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.' Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. 8 All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave." Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

9 The Lord had said to Moses, "Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt." 10 Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

Overview

This fall, we have been working through the book of Exodus in a series called *Still God*. This week we explored Exodus 7-11, which records nine plagues as God, through Moses and Aaron, confronts Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt. After Aaron's staff swallows the magicians' staffs, the plagues escalate from blood in the Nile, frogs, and gnats to flies, livestock disease, boils, hail, locusts, and finally three days of thick darkness. Again and again, Pharaoh bargains and then goes back on his word, offering only partial freedom: letting just the men go, keeping the livestock behind, or allowing Israel to leave for only a few days to sacrifice to the Lord. Throughout these chapters, we see the theme of Pharaoh's hardened heart. Scripture says that at times Pharaoh hardened his own heart, and at other times God hardened it. We also see a recurring purpose: that Egypt and Israel would "know that I am the Lord." Chapter 11 closes by introducing the tenth and final plague, the death of the firstborn, setting the stage for Passover in chapter 12.

In this week's sermon, we learned that the plagues were not only for Pharaoh. God's purpose was threefold: that Israel would know Him, that Egypt would know Him, and that His uniqueness would be proclaimed throughout the earth. The Israelites needed these signs just as much as Pharaoh did, though for very different reasons, they had lost sight of his promises to them while they were in captivity. We also saw how repeated experiences shape our values, our expectations, and our ability to recognize God. In the words used on Sunday, "it's these repeated experiences that shape what we recognize as normal, important, and trustworthy." Just as a child learns what matters by watching those closest to him, we are constantly being formed by what we consistently expose ourselves to, for better or for worse. Finally, we were reminded that God was present and active even when His people could not see it. Throughout the long years of captivity, He was keeping His covenant, multiplying His people, and hearing their cries. The absence of dramatic miracles was not the absence of God, and His consistent faithfulness is meant to form a people whose lives reflect His values.

Discussion

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- What do these chapters teach us about God?
- God gives reasons for the plagues in Exodus 6:6-7, 7:4-5, and 9:14-16. What are they, and what do they tell us about why God didn't simply free Israel in an instant?

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- The sermon suggests that repeated, ordinary experiences shape what we recognize as normal, important, and trustworthy – in what ways have the daily rhythms and habits of your life been shaping your understanding of who God is, and are those habits forming you in the direction you want to go?
- God is described as having been actively present and working during Israel's time in Egypt long before the plagues arrived, yet that work was largely unrecognized – what might it look like to train yourself to notice God's quiet, consistent activity in your life rather than only looking for dramatic moments?
- The sermon draws a parallel between a child learning to pray through watching his parents and Israel learning to trust God through witnessing the plagues – who in your life has most shaped your understanding of faith through their consistent, everyday example, and how are you doing the same for others?

Practice + Prayer

This is the space where we lean into being imperfect practitioners of Jesus. The practice and prayer are opportunities to encounter Jesus, to obey His Word and to live into being a flourishing community centred on Jesus. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: What has been shaping me, and where has God been quietly present?

Take time this week to prayerfully reflect on these questions:

- Ask God to bring to mind the specific "gods" you rely on (comfort, control, success, security) or the area where you are bargaining like Pharaoh, offering partial trust or obedience while holding the rest back.
- Ask God to show you what has been shaping what you see as normal, important, and trustworthy.
- Be sure to take time to listen to God's response as you ask these questions. Where has He been present and faithful, even when you couldn't see it? What promise of faithfulness might He be extending to you?

Prayer:
Psalm 135:5-9, 13

5 I know that the Lord is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. 6 The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths. 7 He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses. 8 He struck down the firstborn of Egypt, the firstborn of people and animals. 9 He sent his signs and wonders into your midst, Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants.

13 Your name, Lord, endures forever, your renown, Lord, through all generations.

Intercessory Prayer

In this last space, take time to seek God and invite Him to work the lives of your group. You can split into pairs, guys/girls, whole group, or whatever works. The important part is that you create space for everyone to pray if their comfortable.