

## LESSON 9 | THE BEGINNINGS

# WEEK 9: DAY 1

# THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” - John 8:51*

This week you’re going to be really picking up the pace with the big-picture story of the Bible. You’re about to get into one of the most important narrative threads in Scripture: God delivering His people out of oppression in Egypt. It’s a miraculous story full of God’s mercy and power. But it’s also important because of the relationship we see between God’s actions and His Word.

God made Moses His mouthpiece, and through him, God delivered His Word to Pharaoh. Through God’s Word, Moses would warn Pharaoh what would happen if he did not let God’s people go. And through God’s Word, Moses predicted deliverance for the Israelites. In other words, through God’s Word, there was life! The same is still true today.

**Today, memorize John 8:51.**

We are saved from the penalty of our sins when we hear the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus Christ) and believe in it. Remember the importance of knowing, following, and sharing God’s Word.

## LESSON 9 | THE BEGINNINGS

# WEEK 9: DAY 2

# THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

*“The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.”*

- Exodus 1:19-21

**Read Exodus 1:11-25.**

Look closely at verses 19-21. You may be confused. After all, how could they just lie to the Pharaoh and have God bless them anyway? Doesn't that go against the 10 Commandments!?

Throughout Scripture, we see people portrayed accurately with no attempt to paint over their sins. David committed murder to deceptively cover his adultery. Abraham lied and sent his wife to be married to the Pharaoh to save his skin. Peter denied even knowing Jesus (multiple times). The fact that the Bible includes all the flaws of our favorite heroes only makes it that much more believable. God sees the true heart of sinners. He also sees their sin. He loves them and works through them despite their sin. Should the midwives have lied? No. What would have happened if they had told the truth? We can't know for sure.

God never “winks” at sin. But He loves us and works through us even though we are sinful. That is what we see in the passage above. God's will is going to be accomplished with or without our good behavior. The fact that God can achieve His perfect will using imperfect instruments is pretty incredible, don't you think?

### Something To Think About . . .

- Are you making excuses for sin in your life when you know you should come clean? Confess and repent now.
- Can you think of someone you need to forgive because his/her actions were hurtful, even though you know that they have a heart of love for you?

## LESSON 9 | THE BEGINNINGS

# WEEK 9: DAY 3



*But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”*  
- Exodus 3:11

It hurts when our best friends fail us. It’s inexcusable. Sure, people let you down every day. But not your best friend! Not the one who sticks closer than a brother or sister. Not the one who’s always got your back.

**Read Exodus 3:1-12.**

Reread verse 11. God came to Moses (the same Moses who was hiding out in the desert, herding sheep) and spoke to him audibly. And what did Moses do? He argued with God. But so much is made of the fact that Moses argued with God that we entirely miss Moses’ initial response in verse 4. “Here I am.”

Heroes of the Old and New Testament echo Moses’ response throughout the Bible. Guys like the prophet Isaiah (see Isaiah 6:8); the prophet Samuel (see 1 Samuel 3:4); and even the Apostle Peter (Mark 14:29) who said, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” Peter was telling Jesus, “I’ve got your back no matter what.”

But sometimes, “no matter what” is more frightening than we originally thought. That’s true for Peter, Moses, and your best friend. In Moses’ case, God was asking him to go back to Egypt, where he was wanted for murder and treason. Then He wanted Moses to speak up to the king, Pharaoh, and demand freedom for the Israelites. That’s a big ask. But in the end, Moses does the job.

### **Something To Think About. . .**

- Is God calling you to action, and you can’t believe what He wants you to do? Don’t argue. Do it in obedience to Him! Reread verse 12: “I will be with you.” God has got your back.
- How does knowing that many people before you were also scared to follow through on God’s instruction make you feel?

## LESSON 9 | THE BEGINNINGS

# WEEK 9: DAY 4



*“But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.” - Exodus 7:22*

**Read Exodus 7:14-25.**

Remember that Moses was probably raised with the Pharaoh. They would have eaten together, studied together, and played pranks together. Maybe they even fought the way brothers do. The point is that these two guys had a history. Their history also includes Moses abandoning his stepbrother. Moses murdered an Egyptian guard and thanklessly ran out on the whole family. You can imagine Pharaoh feeling like his family gave Moses everything, and yet Moses rejected them all. After all that, Moses has the nerve to come back to Egypt and tell his big brother what to do!? Not a chance.

Can you relate to Pharaoh's pain? Sprinkled throughout the Bible, God warns us to protect our hearts. Check it out:

- Psalm 51:10
- Proverbs 4:23
- Luke 6:45
- Philippians 4:6-7

Apparently, having a hard heart is something we humans struggle with. Fortunately, in Ezekiel 11:19, God promises: “And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,” God isn't going to force this on you, though. You must be a willing participant in the heart exchange. Are you willing?

### **Something To Think About. . .**

- Pray that God's Holy Spirit will expose to you your heart of stone.
- What action is God recommending that will crush your heart of stone? Try doing it now!

## LESSON 9 | THE BEGINNINGS

# WEEK 9: DAY 5

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*“Therefore thus says the Lord God: Your slain whom you have laid in the midst of it, they are the meat, and this city is the cauldron, but you shall be brought out of the midst of it.”- Exodus 11:7*

Remember what it felt like in elementary school when it was time to pick teams? The waiting was the worst. But being chosen . . . what a sense of relief and belonging! God makes a clear distinction in today’s passage that the Israelites are His people and under His protection.

**Read chapter 11 of Exodus.**

The Israelites had come to Egypt in a time of famine and gained refuge under the reign of Joseph. After Joseph’s death, they grew in number and were ultimately subdued into slavery. Now, God had appointed Moses to be the one to lead His people to freedom. Nine previous plagues had revealed God’s power over nature, and Pharaoh still refused to allow the Israelites to be free. This new threat would create a dividing line between Egypt and Israel that made it clear: God’s people have life, but without Him, there is only death and destruction.

The firstborn of Pharaoh would have been his successor to the throne. The plague of the firstborn meant not only great anguish to Pharaoh as a father but also a clear threat to his royal line of Egypt. Preserving the firstborn of the Israelites shows God’s fatherly affection for His children while still remembering His promise to create in them a great and powerful nation.

### **Something To Think About. . .**

- How does knowing that God has chosen you for His team give you peace when you face frightening situations?
- Look closely at verses 6-7. Why do you think God went so far as to say that “not even a dog shall growl against” His people?