



Exodus & Freedom- PART I

Weekly Group Bible Studies

Study 1: Oppression & Deliverance

A) Relate

Share about a time when you needed someone to help or rescue you.

B) Read Exodus 1:5-22 & Exodus 2:1-10

C) Reflect

The Exodus was such a powerful and significant event in Biblical history that it is regularly referenced in other parts of the Old and New Testaments when reflecting on our relationship with God. As we journey through Exodus, we will consider the freedom that Jesus offers all of us.

In this first session, the scene is set after Jacob's generation passed away. The thriving Israelite population were beginning to fill the land of Egypt unsettling the king of Egypt who decides to enslave the Israelites.

D) Respond

1. What motivated Pharaoh to enslave and mistreat the Israelites? (See Ex 1)
2. Why did the Hebrew midwives resist Pharaoh's destructive orders, and what happened as a result? Are there times you feel pressured to disobey God's ways?
3. Describe the various elements God used to miraculously rescue Moses from Exodus 2:1-10. Do any surprise you? Have you ever been surprised by God's strategies?
4. As Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses as a son, how might Pharaoh's household be part of God's plan for Moses to rescue His people?
5. What are the similarities between Jesus' and Moses' infant story?



6. Like Moses we need God's rescue and God calls us to help others experience His freedom. How do you feel about God's freedom for you and others?

E) Rely

As a group, share about ways in which you and others in your life are experiencing oppression (or are in need of God's help and rescue). Spend time praying for Jesus to deliver/rescue/heal each of these situations. A significant area we as Wesley Mission are praying for is for freedom for those who are struggling with gambling addiction. Spend some time praying for this area to be transformed so that people might be set free.



Study 2: Justice My Way

A) Relate

Share about an area of injustice in the world that angers or frustrates you.

B) Read Exodus 2:11-17

C) Reflect

At this stage of the narrative, Moses is now a grown man having been educated and brought up in Pharaoh's palace. Upon a visit to his people (the Hebrews), he could see their oppression and hard labour. Incensed by witnessing racial injustice, Moses takes matters into his own hands with destructive consequences. As you reflect on this passage, consider our tendency to take our own freedom and the freedom of others into our own hands and what God might be saying about this.

D) Respond

1. From this passage, what can you tell matters deeply to Moses?
2. What can you infer about how Moses felt regarding his own method of justice?
3. Was the angry Hebrew justified in his question to Moses (vs 14)?
4. What is the danger of taking injustice into our own hands? Have you done this before?
5. What does Exodus 2:17 reveal to us about the kind of person Moses is?
6. From what you know about Jesus, in what ways is He similar and different to Moses?
7. What is God saying to you personally through this passage?

E) Rely

Take time to share or confess ways you've dealt with injustice which may have been unhelpful or unhealthy. Pray for a heart that is moved with compassion for the oppressed. Ask God to transform how we deal with injustice and oppression in a way that honours God and loves people.



Study 3: The Call to God's Freedom Plan

A) Relate

Have you ever felt God call you to do something? How did you respond? What was it like for you?

B) Read Exodus 3:10 - 4:17

C) Reflect

The oppression of Israel is getting so intense that they cry out to God and He hears their cry. In direct response, God now calls Moses into God's plan to deliver His people.

D) Respond

1. As Moses encountered God at the burning bush, what stands out to you about what God reveals about:
 - Himself?
 - Moses?
 - His people?
2. Moses resists God's call with doubts about his own: worth (3:11); words (3:13); reception (4:1); and abilities (4:10) such that he does not want to be part of God's freedom plan. Can you relate to Moses?
3. What stands out to you about God's responses to Moses' concerns? What does this reveal about God's purposes and plans and how He can use people to fulfil His plans.
4. Jesus announced His freedom plan at the outset of His public ministry in Luke 4:18. What similarities do you see between Jesus' ministry and God's Exodus plan?
5. In Luke 5:4-11, Peter resists Jesus in self-doubt. How does Jesus respond?



6. Jesus calls you to actively be part of His freedom plan in this world. In light of this passage, how do you respond to that call today?

E) Rely

If you feel resistance to God's call to help set people free, take some time to surrender these things to God in prayer. Pray for the boldness, courage and strength to actively engage with Jesus' freedom plan.



Study 4: Divine vs Demonic Power

A) Relate

Share stories of when you have seen divine power at work. What convinced you that it was God? Have you seen or witnessed demonic power? What did it look like?

B) Read Exodus 7:8-13; 8:16-19

C) Reflect

As Moses and Aaron confront Pharaoh to release the people of Israel to meet with God, we see a clashing of divine and demonic power. The effect of the demonic power is that it hardens Pharaoh's heart towards setting the people free. The battle between God and the devil is very real.

D) Respond

1. What stands out to you about the conflict between divine and demonic in the following demonstrations of power:
 - Snakes (7:10-13)
 - Water to Blood (7:14-25)
 - Frogs (8:1-15)
 - Gnats (8:16-19)
2. What role does God play in guiding Moses and Aaron to confront Pharaoh with His power?
3. Demonstrations of divine and demonic power can significantly impact people. How do the reactions change in each situation for:
 - Pharaoh?
 - The Magicians?
4. The phrase "So that you may know" is repeated in 7:17; 8:10; 8:22- God's demonstrations of power are meant to reveal something about Him. What do you discover in each instance?



5. What does Luke 10:17-20 reveal about the battle between divine and demonic power?
6. How does this passage speak to you personally about divine and demonic power in your life and the lives of those around you?

E) Rely

What specific situations come to mind where divine power is needed to set people free? Take time to pray for these for yourselves and for others. If there are situations where it appears demonic power is at work, pray in the authority of Jesus's name that the demonic activity would cease and that the person/s would be set free. Remember to check the progress of these areas as God begins to move!



Study 5: King over False Idols

A) Relate

Have you had any significant experiences with idols or other religions in your life? What are some modern idols in our culture? Share some of your experiences and how your relationship with Jesus has impacted on how you view those situations now.

B) Read Exodus 11:1-10; 12:12.

C) Reflect

Each of the ten plagues that God sends to Egypt may seem random at first, but they represent God's power over and above the Egyptian "gods" represented by each of these plagues.

- Water turned to blood (Hapi- god of the Nile)
- Frogs coming from the Nile (Heket- goddess of Fertility, Water, Renewal)
- Lice from the Earth's dust (Geb- god of the Earth)
- Swarms of flies (Khepri- god of creation, movement of the Sun, rebirth)
- Death of cattle and Livestock (Hathor- goddess of Love and Protection)
- Ashes turned to boils and sores (Isis- goddess of Medicine and Peace)
- Hail in the form of Fire (Nut- goddess of the Sky)
- Locusts sent from the sky (Seth- god of Storms and Disorder)
- Three days of complete darkness (Ra- The god of the Sun)
- Death of the firstborn (Pharaoh- Ultimate Power of Egypt, the son of Ra)

What do you think is the significance of this? Are there other bible stories that demonstrate God's power of these different aspects of life that come to mind?

D) Respond

1. Reflecting on each of the ten plagues of Egypt, what stands out to you about God?



2. God continually gives Pharaoh a chance to do His will. Why is this significant?
3. In what ways can you relate to Pharaoh's response and reaction to God and to Moses?
4. What are the things you turn to besides from God to find security and satisfaction? What would you say could potentially be an idol in your life?
5. An idol can be anything that takes the place of God in our lives. Some have experienced the following as potential modern idols we can be trapped in or bound by. What do you think of these?
 - Identity
 - Fame/Influence
 - Physical Appearance
 - Sex
 - Comfort
 - Friend/partner/spouse
 - Money/Material Possessions
 - Job/Work/Status
 - Entertainment
 - Phone/Technology
 - Family/Children
 - Ministry

Freedom from idols does not come from our willpower, but from Jesus.

What are some potential idols you would love Jesus to set you free from?

E) Rely

Share with someone those things which could be an idol for you and take time to pray for each other for freedom from these things. Pray that God would show that He is truly the King over these areas of our lives and for Him to be our true satisfaction and joy in this life into eternity.