



EXODUS

WHEN OBEDIENCE MAKES THINGS HARDER

EXODUS 5:1-9

JOURNEY GUIDE

NOTICE

*Notice the resistance—
and the stories discouragement
begins to tell.*

REFLECT ◇ —————

Moses obeyed God and stood before Pharaoh. But instead of relief, the burden on God's people became even heavier.

Following God doesn't always make life easier. Yet God is still at work—even when our circumstances tell a different story.



NOTICE

Read Exodus 5:1–9 slowly.

As you read, pay attention to the movement of the story. Notice what Moses does, how Pharaoh responds, and how quickly circumstances change.

- ◇ —————
- What surprises you most about this passage?
 - Where do you see resistance or discouragement?
 - Have you ever experienced a time when doing what was right made life more difficult?



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Write: Where am I experiencing resistance or discouragement because I am trying to follow God?



IN COMMUNITY

Share about a time when following Christ became more costly than you expected.

- What happened?
- What emotions did you experience?
- Looking back, where do you now see God at work?

LISTEN

*God often speaks most clearly when
our circumstances are most confusing.*

— READ SLOWLY —

ROMANS 5 : 3 – 5

“Not only so, but we also boast
in our sufferings, because we know
that suffering produces *endurance*,
and endurance produces *character*,
and character produces *hope*,
and hope does not disappoint us,
because God’s love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

- What **word or phrase** captures your attention?
- What is God inviting you to **trust** today?
- What does **continuing in obedience** look like this week?



IN COMMUNITY

Read Romans 5:3–5 aloud together.

- Which word stands out to you most: *suffering*, *endurance*, *character*, or *hope*?
- Why do you think Paul describes what God produces instead of explaining why we suffer?
- How can we encourage one another to listen beyond our circumstances this week?

RESPOND

Continue.

This week, choose one simple way to live out what you've learned by listening and trusting God.



PRACTICE

Pick one step to take this week.

- Pray Romans 5:3–5** each morning, asking God to produce endurance, character, and hope in you.
- Write down one promise of God** for your situation. Read it each time discouragement returns.
- Continue one act of obedience** you've been tempted to quit this week.
- When discouraged, ask:** "What story am I believing?"
- Encourage someone** who is walking through hardship.



MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

*What is one specific step of obedience or trust you will take this week?
How will it help you respond to God's truth?*



IN COMMUNITY

Share your next faithful step with someone this week.

- What is your next faithful step?
- What might help you follow through?
- How can we pray for you this week?



BREATH PRAYER

*Throughout the week,
whenever something
frustrating happens,
simply pray:*

**“Lord,
help me listen
beyond my
circumstances.”**

