



destroyer of gods

MOSES



WELCOME TO MOSES

MOSES READING PLAN

WEEK	DATE	READING
Week 1	June 3 - 9	Exodus 1-5
Week 2	June 10 - 16	Exodus 6-10
Week 3	June 17 - 23	Exodus 11-15
Week 4	June 24 - 30	Exodus 16-20
Week 5	July 1 - 7	Exodus 21-25
Week 6	July 8 - 14	Exodus 26-30
Week 7	July 15 - 21	Exodus 31-35
Week 8	July 22 - 28	Exodus 36-40
Week 9	July 29 - Aug 4	Deuteronomy 28-30; Deuteronomy 32-34

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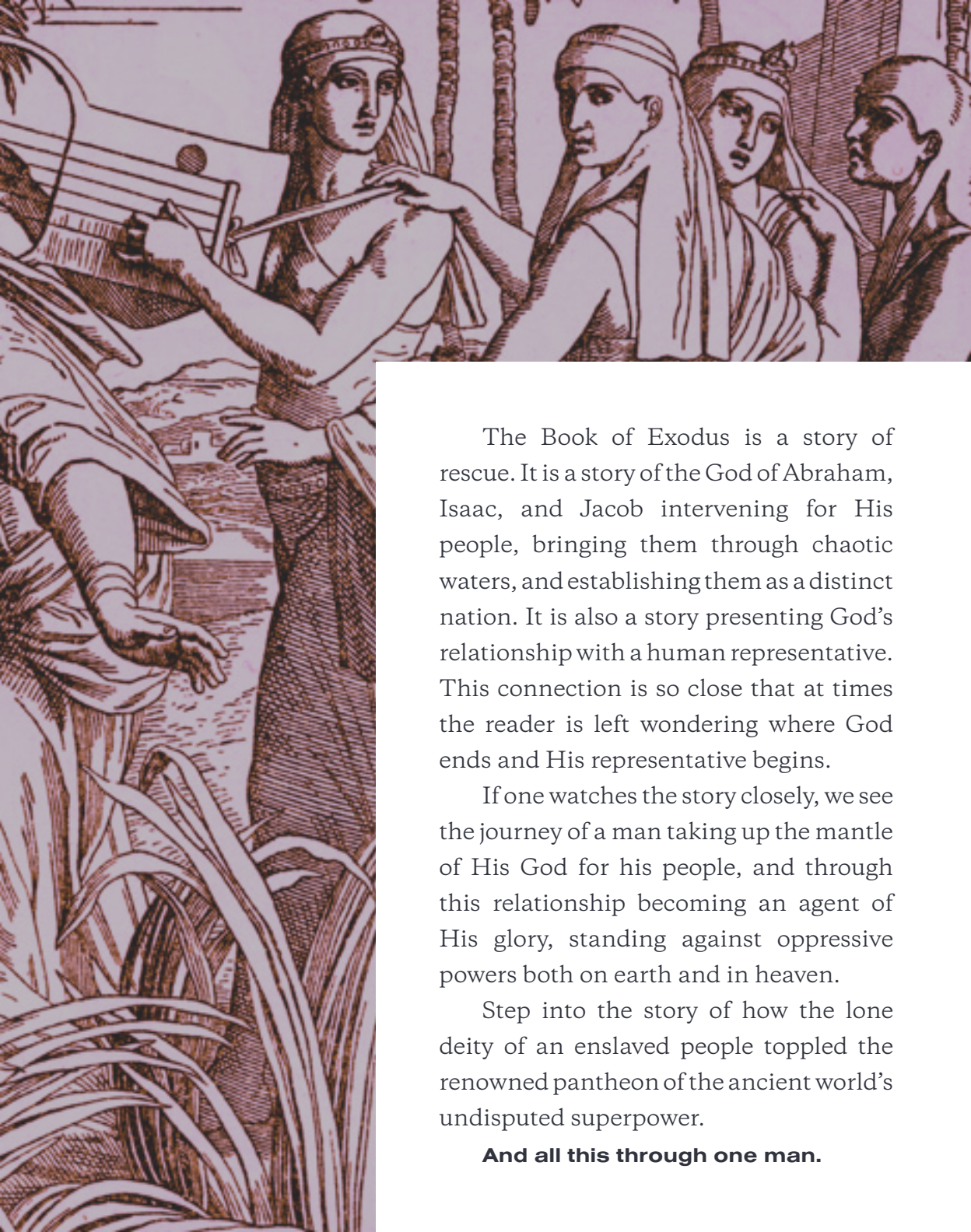
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INTRODUCTION

**PHARAOH.
PLAGUES.
THE POWER OF GOD.
A PEOPLE FOR
GOD'S POSSESSION.**



The Book of Exodus is a story of rescue. It is a story of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob intervening for His people, bringing them through chaotic waters, and establishing them as a distinct nation. It is also a story presenting God's relationship with a human representative. This connection is so close that at times the reader is left wondering where God ends and His representative begins.

If one watches the story closely, we see the journey of a man taking up the mantle of His God for his people, and through this relationship becoming an agent of His glory, standing against oppressive powers both on earth and in heaven.

Step into the story of how the lone deity of an enslaved people toppled the renowned pantheon of the ancient world's undisputed superpower.

And all this through one man.

SESSION ONE

THE CRY OF THE PEOPLE

And God heard their groaning, and God **remembered His covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel — **and God knew.**

Exodus 2:24-25

START HERE

IN RETROSPECT

- What did God promise Abraham in Genesis 15:12-14? What do we learn about God from this?
- In the final verses of Genesis, Joseph says to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” Joseph speaks of a future exodus, a departure from a place. Where do you want God to lead you?

READ TOGETHER: **EXODUS 1:7-14, EXODUS 2:11-25**

From which places are you trying to leave...or escape? To where will you go? From which places does God want to free you? To where does God want to lead? In Israel's case, that place was “slavery, pain, and oppression.” Ruthless pain. Sometimes ruthless pain lasts for a long time. For God, a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day, but to those of us confined to the rising and the setting of the sun, unrelenting, ruthless oppression can twist and contort the fabric of our being. Exodus can teach us. God hears. God remembers. God sees. And God knows.

REVIEW

- 1 What covenant promise did God remember between Himself and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Recall Bible stories that back this up. What do you learn about God's people from this? How do these promises apply to you and your current situation?
- 2 Which key characters are named in Exodus 1:8-22? Who remains nameless? Why might this be important?
- 3 Why did Pharaoh order the murdering of Israelite boys? Do you recall another story like this from the New Testament?
- 4 As Egypt oppressed the Israelites, what happened to them? What happened to the early church when they were persecuted?
- 5 It says in Exodus 2:11 that Moses saw his people's burdens. What did he do about it? Why was it right? Why was it wrong?

REVIEW

CONTINUED

- 6 Moses finds himself in Exodus 2:15 at a well. Why is he there? What happens to him? Where are other instances of God doing specific things at wells in Scripture?
- 7 Sometimes there is a tension between God knowing but not stopping our suffering. Why would God not stop our suffering if he can? What are some reasons God might allow suffering? Do we always know why? What are you suffering through right now that causes confusion?
- 8 Knowing God's ultimate good for us can help us to be encouraged in the "big picture," but how can that help us in our day-to-day lives? Is it possible? How can we support one another through suffering?



APPLY

Our lives are like the water that runs through riverbanks. At some point the water meets the sea. The race we run will have a finish line. Sometimes the water is peaceful, quiet and calm. We may be tempted to stay and camp in those areas and be content not to move on. Sometimes the river rushes fiercely or we go through dark ravines with little hope. We are tempted to despair. But the water moves on and on until reaching its end. What are you holding on to? What do you fear will never end? Remind yourself this week that all of this is temporary scenery on our way home. How can you use your painful experiences or current contentment to bless someone else?

Think of one small and measurable way you can help someone else experience the truth this week that God hears. God remembers. God sees. And God knows.

SESSION TWO

BURNING BUSH

When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And he said, “**I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.



START HERE

IN RETROSPECT

- Why was Moses in Midian?
- Reread Exodus 2:23-25. What is the implication of the section ending “God knew”?

READ TOGETHER: **EXODUS 3:1-4:17, HEBREWS 5:1-4, HEBREWS 7:11-18**

There is nothing boring about Moses’ “calling” story. With our modern thinking, we find colorful stories of talking serpents and conversations with fiery shrubs just that— *stories*. We should be cautious taking the powerful images from the Bible and reducing them to only symbol and metaphor. The message of our God comes emblazoned with purifying and holy fire, so why would His “call” to obedience look any different? Just like Moses, we too are invited to step into His presence on holy and sacred ground. Moses did not feel up for the challenge, but God’s power will not be hindered by our human weaknesses when His people, plan, and glory are at stake.

REVIEW

- 1 How did you start your career? What drew you to it? Did you feel “called” to it? Why/why not?
- 2 As a group, come up with a working definition of “calling” (as in “vocation”). How would you differentiate a “job” from a “calling”?
- 3 How would you describe Moses “calling” from this section of Exodus?
- 4 Exodus 3:7 says “I know their sufferings.” What do you believe this means? Read Hebrews 2:9-10, 18. How does this Hebrews text enhance the meaning of the sufferings noted in Exodus 3:7?
- 5 God’s name is presented in Exodus 3:14. What do you know about this special name? What seems connected to this name in the following verse and what is the significance?

REVIEW

CONTINUED

- 6 In Exodus 3 and 4, how many times does Moses respond to God? What is the tone of his responses? Describe a time when you responded in a similar way.
- 7 How does God respond to Moses' hesitation in Exodus 4:13? How does God accommodate Moses' weakness? Now read Hebrews 5:1-4 and 7:11. What was God's ultimate plan?

APPLY

Sometimes in our ongoing search for God's will in our lives, we get lazy and complacent. We think that going through the same intermittent religious motions within the course of our distracted and busy lives is somehow going to connect God's purposes with our lives. Are we looking for God in the busy and the mundane? It's a minor point, but the text in Exodus 3:4 says "when the LORD saw that [Moses] turned aside to see, God called . . ." Are we looking for God to speak, to act, to interrupt our busy lives? Even in the exile of Midian in the middle of the daily grind of shepherding, Moses' attention was caught by God. **Every day this week, in the middle of your normal day-to-day, stop, pray, and ask God to speak. Ask what He wants from you in that moment and in the future. Report back to your group what, if anything, happened.**

SESSION THREE

LET MY PEOPLE GO

Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’ ” But Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, **I will not let Israel go.**”

Exodus 5:1-2



START HERE

IN RETROSPECT

- God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and Moses found himself standing on holy ground. How did that moment establish the right relationship between God and Moses?
- God has called and provided Moses with signs to validate his assignment to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Why did Moses keep raising objections? Are the objections false issues or legitimate ones?
- Did God's plan change by including Aaron as the spokesman?

READ TOGETHER: **EXODUS 5:1-6:9**

The Exodus story is the account of the Hebrew people discovering who they are, who their God is, and how they are to live with this God. This is a God who fights for his people; who redeems and frees from oppression. The Hebrew people are still struggling with trusting this God as the battle between Pharaoh and God begins to play out. But Moses is beginning to understand God's ways and his confidence in God grows as God displays acts of judgment. Pharaoh, on the other hand, will require severe judgments before he will pay attention to God.

REVIEW

- 1 The first request of Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh aggravates the situation. How do you think Moses and Aaron felt in response to Pharaoh's answer in Exodus 5:4-5? How about the Hebrew people in response to Exodus 5:10-12? How about the foremen who made their own appeal to Pharaoh in Exodus 5:15-18?
- 2 The first request seems to confirm all Moses' fears and misgivings. Moses then did the only thing he knew...he turned to God. What is your reaction to Moses' complaint in 5:22-23? What do you think of Moses' reactions up until this point in Exodus?
- 3 Read Exodus 6:1. What is your initial response to God's reply? How would you paraphrase God's initial response?
- 4 In Exodus 6:3-4, God reminds Moses that He is the mighty, covenant making God as reflected by His revealed name of God Almighty (El Shaddai). List at least seven verbs or actions in Exodus 6:5-7 that God says He will do as YHWH. What do these descriptions add to your understanding of God's character?

REVIEW

CONTINUED

- 5 Now begins a series of judgments to teach Moses, the Israelites, Pharaoh and Egypt who God is and His power over all creation. Read Exodus 8:9-11. This doesn't sound like the old reluctant Moses. How do you explain Moses' new found confidence and trust in God?
- 6 So far in this story, how has God affirmed His own trustworthiness?
- 7 We, along with Pharaoh, don't pay much attention to frogs, gnats or flies. Pharaoh listened for a while and then went back to his old ways when relief came. Being in control is his only mode of operation. Describe situations in which we insist on having control. What does it take for us to turn control over to God?

APPLY

The story of the Bible is about salvation; God doing for us what we can't do for ourselves. The book of Exodus is foundational to understanding God's salvation as described in the Bible. One of the greatest aspects of the Exodus story is that it is about freedom. About a God who fights for the captives and sets them free. The story becomes a promise, a hope, that the God who has done it for the Israelites will do it for all. Exodus can happen again. **Write down two or three bullet points that highlight your own exodus story thus far. In what ways has God freed you? Has God called you to do something beyond your natural inclinations or abilities? Briefly share your exodus story with your small group.**

SESSION FOUR

PLAGUES TO PASSOVER

All the people of Israel did just as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. And on that very day, **the LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land** of Egypt by their hosts.

Exodus 12:50



START HERE

IN RETROSPECT

- How has God's judgement been revealed so far?
- How has Pharaoh responded?
- Imagine yourself as an Egyptian, watching this story unfold. How would you respond?

READ TOGETHER: **EXODUS 12:1-32**

Boils, hail, locusts, and three days of pitch darkness in Egypt. The four plagues recorded in Exodus 9-10 left Egypt devastated physically, economically, and psychologically. But none of them would compare to the final plague threatened by Moses and ignored by Pharaoh: the death of all the firstborn in the land of Egypt.

As this threat looms over Egypt, Moses is instructed by God to inaugurate a ritual meal that would not only shelter the Israelites from the plague to come, but would also become central to their story and identity as a people. More than a millennium later, it becomes our story as well.

REVIEW

- 1 Read Exodus 9:14-16. What do these verses reveal about God's power? About God's intentions? What does the statement by Jethro the Midianite in Exodus 18:10-11 contribute?
- 2 Many of the plagues are said to have *not* impacted the Israelites or the areas where they lived (Exodus 9:4, 26; Exodus 10:23). What message does this send? What might the Egyptian people have done in light of this? Exodus 9:20-21 gives an interesting example.
- 3 In the above examples, and in many of the prior plagues, God spared Israel without requiring any action on their part. Why do you think the final plague is different?
- 4 In Exodus 12:11, God describes the manner in which the Israelites are to eat the Passover meal. What does this symbolize?

REVIEW

CONTINUED

- 5 In Exodus 12:24-27, God commands that the Passover meal become a perennial part of the Israelite calendar. What purpose would this serve in the ongoing life and developing culture of Israel?
- 6 What regular rhythms do you, your church, or your family have to be reminded of the goodness and faithfulness of God, and to teach them to your children or other loved ones? If these are absent, what are some already present recurring holidays, rituals, or celebrations that could be used in this way? As a group, share some ideas for new ones that could be added.
- 7 Read Luke 22:14-20. Jesus and his disciples are celebrating the Passover meal on the very night that he is betrayed. Once again, it will be the blood of a slain “lamb” that will save the lives of God’s people. What other areas of symbolic overlap do you see between the story of Jesus’ crucifixion and the first Passover?



APPLY

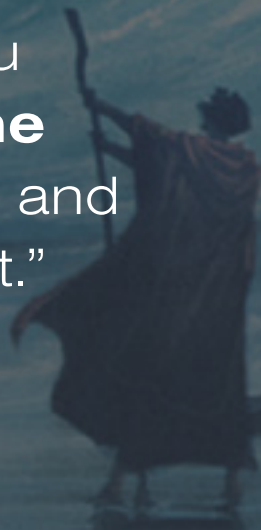
It is easy to read the ancient stories of Israel with a feeling of disconnection. After all, this took place thousands of years ago, in a faraway land. But the story of Passover gives Christians the opportunity to see our own story foreshadowed in dramatic fashion. **As a group, take communion together. Take this opportunity to hold, taste, and see the great price of our own Exodus from slavery to sin and death, and to remember the night on which the God who graciously spared the firstborn sons of Israel gave his own precious Son to save us.**

SESSION FIVE

CROSSING CHAOS

And Moses said to the people,
“**Fear not, stand firm**, and
see the salvation of the
Lord, which he will work for
you today. For the Egyptians
whom you see today, you
shall never see again. **The
Lord will fight for you**, and
you have only to be silent.”

Exodus 14:13-14





START HERE

IN RETROSPECT

- Who was affected by the last plague? Who wasn't?
- Discuss the purpose of the Passover.

READ TOGETHER: **EXODUS 13-14**

There are those moments in our lives where we stand at the threshold of chaos, when all alternatives seem ruinous. The Greeks gave us an idiom capturing these dreadful moments. They would say “caught between Scylla and Charybdis” which refers to the poet Homer’s two sea monsters known for crushing vessels that attempted to travel between them. We might say “caught between a rock and a hard place,” but this phrase doesn’t seem to capture the intensity. Sometimes there is no escape, but ultimately, we who serve the God of the Exodus have been given a vision of what true rescue can be. He went before Israel, and He goes before us in the person and work of our King.

REVIEW

- 1** Describe a time when you felt stuck between two bad options. What did you do? How did it resolve?

- 2** Memorials are important. In Exodus 13:3-16, Moses uses an identical phrase four times. What is it and what is this section calling the Israelites to do?

- 3** In Exodus 13:8 and 13:16 there is an ongoing “sign” and “mark” that was to help memory extend beyond the feast. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. What marks or signs could you use to remember every day that you were saved by grace through faith in our God?

- 4** Throughout the first half of Exodus we read of the “hardness” of Pharaoh’s heart. Read through the following “hardening” passages and determine “who” is hardening, and “when” the hardening is taking place: Exodus 7:3, 13-14, 22; Exodus 8:19, 32; Exodus 9:7, 12, 35; Exodus 10:1, 20, 27; Exodus 11:10; Exodus 14:4, 8.

REVIEW

CONTINUED

- In light of how Exodus begins, is Pharaoh a good guy? Why/why not? How are God's sovereignty and Pharaoh's human will operating in tandem? How many times was Pharaoh given the opportunity to change his mind?
- 5 Have you ever had someone fight a battle on your behalf at work, school or at home? How did you react and why?
- 6 Read Exodus 14:15-16. What is the LORD's tone with Moses? What was His expectation of Moses? Was Moses empowered? Did he believe it? Now read Exodus 7:1.
- 7 God's salvation of the Israelites is met with a song. It celebrates His rescue and it looks forward. Read Exodus 15:1-18. How does this song apply to you?
- 8 Read Colossians 1:13-14. Do you ever look back to your own conversion? Your baptism? How can you memorialize it and make it a key part of your story?

APPLY

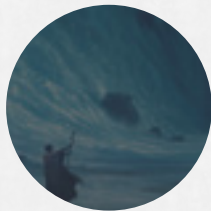
God brings His chosen people out of slavery under evil regimes through chaotic waters and into the land of His promise. Where do you find yourself on this journey? Talk about it. Do you still feel like a slave? Are you on the edge of chaotic waters? Or, are you singing the glories of the One who brings you into the promised land? Our King has invited you out of the darkness and into His glorious light. **If you haven't been baptized, now is the time. Maybe someone you know needs to experience being rescued through the chaotic waters. If you have been baptized, encourage somebody else that now is the time.**

SESSION SIX

WANDER AND WHINE

And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.”

Exodus 16:2-4



START HERE

IN RETROSPECT

- When Moses responded in conversations with YHWH in the early chapters in Exodus, what was his general tone?
- What did the Israelites just experience in Exodus 14 and 15?

READ TOGETHER: **EXODUS 16:10–18, EXODUS 17:1–7**

The Israelites enter the wilderness for the first time. Compared to Egypt, the breadbasket of the Mediterranean, entire families find themselves without food and water—a very scary situation. How will they respond? Will they use these “opportunities” to strengthen their faith, or to demonstrate their faithlessness? The New Testament writers use their response to these tests as a practical example for our daily living. We can learn a lot about ourselves by how we face everything from inconveniences to outright disasters. This story provides an opportunity for us to learn how we should view our trials and see how God provides.

REVIEW

- 1 Read Exodus 15:24, 16:2-3, 17:1-3. What were they complaining about and who were they complaining to? According to Exodus 16:8, who were they really complaining about?
- 2 Read Exodus 15:25; 16:11-13; 17:6. How does God respond to their grumbling in each situation? What does this tell us about God?
- 3 What are common triggers for grumbling in your life? Where do you typically do it most and why? Do you grumble with others or on your own?
- 4 Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. This passage seems unusual since it is linking two very different times. Who was the rock and what might that mean? What do you think the Apostle Paul was trying to achieve by writing this (keep reading through 1 Corinthians 10)?

REVIEW

CONTINUED

- 5 The writer of Hebrews tells us that however great Moses was, Jesus the Son is better! Using the Israelites as an example, he warns us to obey from the heart. Read Hebrews 3:5-14 and identify situations that might make your heart go astray. List some practical ways to avoid these by utilizing your church community.

- 6 God already knows you and your faith intimately. Read James 1:2-4 and 1 Peter 1:6-7. What benefits do you see in the testing of your faith? Describe a time you experienced these benefits and what you learned about your own faith.

- 7 Read Philippians 4:11-13. What makes you content or even grateful? What makes you grateful when you are in a difficult season? What stops your contentment?

APPLY

It's easy to condemn the Israelites for their grumbling. But are we really that different? When we complain about our job or paycheck, are we not complaining about God's provision? When we complain about our neighbors, are we missing God given opportunities to love? When we grumble about any situation, are we any different from the Israelites? **Confess some areas of discontent and let others pray with you and exhort you to grow in the faith.**

SESSION SEVEN

THE TEN

“Now therefore, if you will indeed **obey my voice and keep my covenant**, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a **kingdom** of priests and a **holy nation**.”

These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.

Exodus 19:5-6



START HERE

IN RETROSPECT

- Identify one thing from last week's lesson that impacted you.
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 to see how Paul used the grumbling Israelites as a warning.

READ TOGETHER: **EXODUS 20:1-17; GALATIANS 3:16-29**

God gave Abraham a promise to bless all the nations through him during a conversation. However, God gave Moses the Law under terrifying, life-threatening circumstances. This dramatic event and clear instructions leave no room for disobedience by the Israelites, and yet they prove they are no different than us by failing to live up to the Law. Thanks be to God that the Promise came to Abraham first, and that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law for Jew and Gentile. Let us discover how this Law of God compares to the joyous Promise of God found in Jesus our King.

REVIEW

- 1 Read Exodus 19:3-6. What three things did God promise for their obedience?
- 2 Read Exodus 19:16-20. Describe in your own words what that scene must have looked like and how you would feel. Then read Exodus 20:18-21 to see how the people respond. Why do you think Moses was so brave?
- 3 Review Exodus 20:1-17. Which commandment do you find is the easiest to keep? Which is the most difficult?
- 4 Along with the Ten Commandments, the Law includes regulations and ethics. Read each of these passages and describe a modern regulation, lawsuit, or situation that demonstrates a similar principle: Exodus 21:28-29; 22:6; 22:21; 23:4-5.

REVIEW

CONTINUED

- 5 Considering Galatians 3:16-29, explain the relationship between the Promise to Abraham and the Mosaic Law in your own words. Who is under the Promise? Who was under the Law? What was the purpose of the Law? What role does Jesus play in the Law and the Promise?
- 6 The Law of God was given on Mount Sinai and the people stood in fear and trembling. Read Hebrews 12:18-24. What mountain represents the New Covenant? List all the occupants of this heavenly mountain. Compare the images of Mount Sinai and the mountain of the New Covenant.
- 7 Based upon the story of Exodus so far, what came first? Rescue or rules? Why do you think this is important? What does it say about the character of the rescuer and rule-maker? What does it say about your identity as a Christian?

APPLY

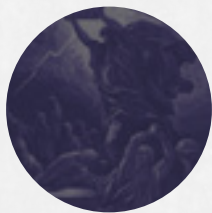
Isn't it such a wonderful feeling to know Jesus has fulfilled the Law on our behalf? Every time we fall short of God's standard, we are reminded that we are children of the Promise. Does this mean that we can sin all the more? Of course not. **Take a moment in your group to declare out loud how living under the Promise of grace motivates you to love and obey God. Be specific. If you feel like you are missing this motivation, take time in prayer together asking God to reveal His grace in deeper ways and to empower this motivation toward Him, His reign, and His way of life.**

SESSION EIGHT

CENTER OF WORSHIP

and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God **merciful** and **gracious, slow to anger**, and abounding in **steadfast love** and **faithfulness**, keeping steadfast love for **thousands, forgiving iniquity** and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

Exodus 34:6-7



START HERE

IN RETROSPECT

- Read Exodus 20:3-5. Why do you think this is the very first commandment?
- The Israelites have seen many miracles and manifestations of God in Exodus 1 through 23. Name as many as you can.

The Lord passed before him

READ TOGETHER: **EXODUS 24:1-18, EXODUS 32:1-7, EXODUS 32:31-32**

You know the pattern all too well. You learn how God wants you to live and it makes sense. You make a commitment to obey. Then, out of the blue, something happens and you totally fail to live up to that commitment. Somehow God reminds you of His holiness, but also His loving patience. You realize the horrible thing you've done and beg for forgiveness. He reminds you of His Son and opens the door for you to recommit yourself to Him. Let's watch this pattern played out in the wilderness of Sinai, and see Moses step into the role God intended for him.

REVIEW

- 1 Read Exodus 24:3-8. In light of God's power and provision, how did they respond to hearing God's law? Now read the same account in Hebrews 9:18-22. What else do we learn about blood and the law?
- 2 They saw the power of God firsthand. They made a promise sealed in blood. But Moses has been gone for 47 days. Read Exodus 32:1-6. How did they respond? Who were they following?
- 3 Describe a time when your fear and/or impatience drove you to act in a way that did not honor God, or did not help your situation.
- 4 Read Exodus 32:7-10. How does God respond to this 'breach of contract'? Now read Moses' response in Exodus 32:11-12 and again in Exodus 32:30-32 and a third time in Exodus 34:8-9. What is Moses doing?
- 5 Read Romans 8:32-34. How is Moses like Jesus? In what ways is Jesus even better than Moses?

REVIEW

CONTINUED

- 6 Have you ever had to intercede on someone's behalf? Tell the story and indicate your motivation.
- 7 In the midst of all this sin and faithlessness, God states His name and what He wants us to know about Him. Read Exodus 34:5-7. Identify at least five things God says about Himself.
- 8 Read Exodus 34:10 and 27. How does the ending of this episode demonstrate God's character in the light of human failure?
- 9 The majority of Exodus 25 through 40 (over one-third of the book) describes the design, construction, and use of the Tabernacle. Why do you think this is true? How does the Tabernacle reveal God's character and heart toward His people?

APPLY

God knows how fickle we are. He knows how easily we misplace our faith and violate His good laws. But praise be to God for His willingness to renew His covenant with us. Jesus sealed the covenant with His own blood. He lives forever and makes continuous intercession for us (Hebrews 7:24-25). Pick one area of misplaced faith in your life. In the last presidential election, were you hopeful? Were you fearful? Has a church leader disappointed you to the point where you questioned God? **Commit to transferring that hope and trust over to Jesus. Memorize Exodus 34:6-7 as a reminder of God's character to help you in this commitment.**

SESSION NINE

DEATH OF MOSES

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore **choose life**, that you and your offspring may **live, loving the LORD** your God, **obeying his voice** and **holding fast to him**, for he is **your life** and length of days, that you may **dwell in the land** that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20



START HERE

IN RETROSPECT

- Recite (or read if you didn't do your homework) Exodus 34:6-7 together.
- What is the purpose of the design and use of the Tabernacle?

READ TOGETHER: **DEUTERONOMY 32**

As the book of Deuteronomy draws to a close, the people of Israel prepare to enter the Promised Land, and Moses prepares to pass away. Israel has been rescued from slavery, preserved through the wilderness, and brought to the Promised Land, and yet there is tension. God's people have again and again demonstrated their inability and unwillingness to follow His commandments and therefore fulfill His purposes for them. Now, Moses leaves them with a somber song; a song that speaks of failure and unfaithfulness still to come. Yet it is not without hope, and we who live on the other side of the Greater Exodus can read it with eyes that have seen the fulfillment of God's plan.

REVIEW

- 1 Read Deuteronomy 30:11-13. The book of Deuteronomy is an oral retelling of the Law. It begins to come to a close with the surprising statement that Israel “can do it.” How does this statement fit with your understanding of the Old Testament law?
- 2 In Deuteronomy 31:19-22, God commands Moses to teach Israel a song. What is the purpose of the song Moses is told to write? What do these verses (along with Deuteronomy 30:11-13, from the previous question) reveal about the people of Israel?
- 3 Read Deuteronomy 32:12-16. How will the blessings of the Promised Land contribute to the future faithlessness of Israel? Is there a message here for our own culture, and our own lives?
- 4 In this otherwise bleak song, there is a note of hope sounded in Deuteronomy 32:36. Compare this verse with Deuteronomy 32:4. How do these two verses balance each other? Describe the picture of God that they paint together.

REVIEW

CONTINUED

- 5 Read Deuteronomy 30:4-6. Surely, Israel is going to fail. And yet, God promises that He will rescue them again, and will transform *their hearts*. The prophets Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36:26) and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 24:7) proclaim the same hope. What do these verses tell you about Israel's greatest need? What do you think these images of new and transformed hearts really mean?
- 6 Jesus has fulfilled these prophecies, and brought the promise of new hearts to His people. Do you feel like a person with a new heart? Why or why not?
- 7 Read Romans 8:1-11. How does the finished work of Jesus change the way that God's people relate to the law? What does that mean for you? How does this make Christians today different than the Israelites about to enter the Promised Land?

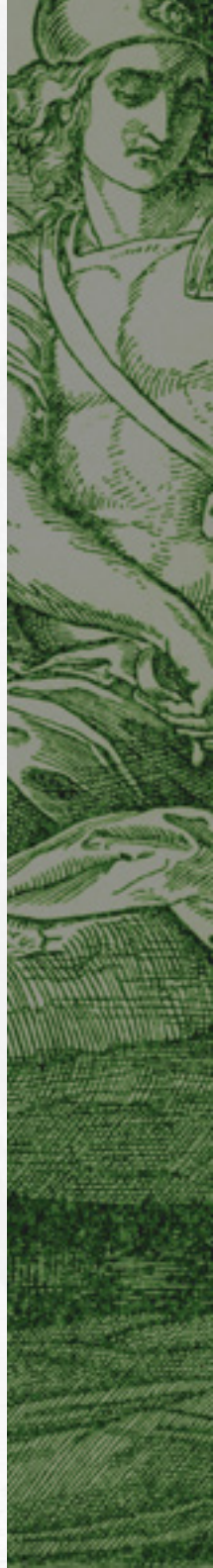
APPLY

We have spent the last nine weeks studying one of the most significant characters in the Bible, who was himself central to some of the most significant events in history. What stories have stood out to you during this series? What impact have these stories had on your faith? Your understanding of God? Your identity as a member of God's people? How will these changes impact the way that you live your life?

The same God who heard the cry of His suffering people, who called Moses from the burning bush, who toppled the gods of Egypt and led His people through the sea on dry land, who preserved Israel through the wilderness, who gave the ten commandments and dwelt among His people in the tabernacle has been fully revealed to us in Jesus Christ. The true and better Moses has rescued us from the ultimate slavery to sin and death and brought us into the Kingdom of God.

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. - Galatians 4:1-7

Remind yourselves of the truth of Paul's words to the Galatians together as a group.





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MOSES