

THE EXODUS

THE EXODUS

FALL

Lesson 08

OCTOBER 26, 2025

LESSON TEXT

Exodus 4–15

FOCUS VERSES

Exodus 6:6–8

⁶Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

⁷And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

⁸And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.

TRUTH ABOUT COVENANT

God delivered His covenant people.

MY RESPONSE TO COVENANT

I will trust God to deliver me.

COVENANT CONTEXT

When Israel cried out to God, He delivered His covenant people after a series of ten devastating plagues on Egypt. God brought them to the Red Sea where He set them free and drowned their enemies on their way to the Promised Land.

TEACHING OUTLINE

Icebreaker: What is the most unlikely victory you have seen, either between teams or armies?

Teacher Tip: Connect the group's answers to point to a most unlikely victory between the enslaved nation of Israel and the formidable army of Egypt.

Lesson Connection: Share the Lesson Connection.

I. MOSES APPROACHED PHARAOH

A. Pharaoh's Hard Heart (V)

B. Pronouncing Judgment

DISCUSS: *Why are we sometimes hesitant to believe God can forgive anyone of their sin? How can we remind ourselves He can and will forgive us when we repent?*

C. I will faithfully declare God's covenant.

II. GOD'S ACTS TOWARD PHARAOH

A. The Plagues

DISCUSS: *If you were one of Egypt's magicians, would you have tried to make matters worse by adding to the plagues? How would you have responded?*

B. The Passover

DISCUSS: *In what ways do we apply the blood of Jesus over our own lives? How do you explain that to someone new in their faith?*

C. I will trust God for safety by living in covenant.

III. THE EXODUS

A. The Cloud and the Fire

DISCUSS: *What passages of Scripture give you direction when you don't know which way to go?*

B. The Red Sea Crossing (I)

C. I will follow God as He leads me into closer covenant relationship.

DISCUSS: *What obstacles have you overcome that resulted in a closer connection with God?*

Internalizing the Message

PRAYER FOCUS

Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:

- For God to soften our hearts and open our ears to hear His voice
- For God to increase our faith and trust in Him to deliver us

LESSON CONNECTION

Kim Duk-Soo and his father, a pastor of forty-two years, were found by North Korean soldiers as they hid in the family cellar on November 20, 1950. His father had instructed him that no matter what, they could not tell a lie to save their lives; they needed to trust in God for deliverance. They were taken to prison and told they would be executed the next morning. Separated from his father, Kim was approached by a captain who asked the question, "Are you a Christian?" Although his desire to lie was strong, Duk-Soo remembered the words of his father, "Trust in God to deliver."

He boldly replied, "Yes, I am a Christian." The captain, looking stealthily around, moved closer to him and whispered, "I am a Christian too. I used to be a Sunday school teacher before the war. You must escape tonight. I will help you." Duk-Soo fled that night, having to leave his father, who was surrounded by heavy guards. Duk-Soo made his way to an American base in South Korea, where he played organ in the chapel services. Although his

deliverer came unexpectedly clothed in a North Korean soldier's uniform, Duk-Soo was thankful God had delivered him.

The hardest part of deliverance is waiting for God's timing and plan to be perfectly executed. The Israelites never expected their deliverance to come through a polished prince of Egypt. However, they had to trust that God was working out His plan for their freedom. Like Kim Duk-Soo, the Israelites did not have the power to save themselves.

Are you facing a situation only God can deliver you from? Trust in God. This will be a difficult test of your patience, but God knows how to make a way of escape for His people. Instead of focusing on your circumstances, focus on developing your trust. Read verses in the Bible that speak about trust. Study the passages where God came through for His people. Verbally declare your trust that God is listening and working on your behalf. Trust knows God is able, no matter what your situation looks like.

BIBLE LESSON

I. MOSES APPROACHED PHARAOH

A. Pharaoh's Hard Heart

Moses, the shepherd-turned-deliverer, was about to march into Pharaoh's royal court to answer God's call. The Lord revealed this would not be easy because Pharaoh's heart would be hard. (See Exodus 4:21.) The Lord knew what Moses did not yet know: this was not a contest between Pharaoh and Moses but between Pharaoh and God.

Pharaoh's response pitted him against God, not just against Moses. "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2). Not only did Pharaoh dismiss God, but Pharaoh deprived God of His due worship. Pharaoh's action of keeping the Israelites enslaved announced to God that Pharaoh's projects were more important than God's people giving Him praise. Pharaoh's hardened heart manifested as an increased burden upon the Israelites. Pharaoh made their lives more miserable.

Pharaoh was waging a war against Almighty God, a war he could not win. Soon all Israel and Egypt would witness as God's mighty hand broke Pharaoh's yoke and delivered God's people. When Moses first asked Pharaoh to let God's people go into the wilderness to worship God, Pharaoh hardened his own heart (Exodus 7:13). During a few more visits, Scripture records again that Pharaoh's heart was hardened. (See Exodus 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 34–35.)

Finally, the LORD accelerated the process and hardened Pharaoh's heart. (See 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27.) In their book *When Critics Ask*, authors Norman Geisler and Thomas Howe write, "The sense in which God hardened [Pharaoh's] heart is similar to the way the sun hardens clay and also melts wax. If Pharaoh had been receptive to God's warnings, his heart would not have been hardened by God."

B. Pronouncing Judgment

Throughout this story, God continuously told Moses how it would all happen. His ultimate plan was setting His covenant people free, but the path was filled with difficult obstacles. Pharaoh's stubbornness against God brought God's judgment down on him and the nation of Israel. However, God prepared Moses and the Israelites each step of the way. (See Exodus 4–12.) The Israelites had the same choice as the Egyptians: heed the voice of God and obey or

harden their hearts and rebel. In other words, God was willing to forgive the Egyptians if they would have repented because God's judgment is to bring us to repentance so He can forgive us.

We read a merciful verse in I Chronicles 4:17–18: “And Mered’s wife bore Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa....And these were the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered took” (NKJV). Bithiah is a Hebrew name meaning “daughter of Jehovah,” but she was originally born as a daughter of Pharaoh. However, at some point, she chose to leave Egypt and marry an Israelite. She may have left with Moses when he led Israel out of Egypt. This daughter of Pharaoh became a daughter of the covenant because she turned to God and God forgave her.

***DISCUSS:** Why are we sometimes hesitant to believe God can forgive anyone of their sin? How can we remind ourselves He can and will forgive us when we repent?*

C. I will faithfully declare God’s covenant.

The Bible details God’s covenant with humanity. It reveals not only our obligations but also His. Therefore, when Moses spoke to the children of Israel and they did not believe, and then he spoke to Pharaoh and he did not believe, Moses could have thrown in the towel. But at that moment God began to rehearse the covenant again before Moses. Repeatedly God promised “I will” and then declared what He was going to faithfully do to fulfill His part of His covenant. (See Exodus 6:6–8.) When the people doubted, God began to rehearse His portion of the covenant before them.

Open your Bible and declare God’s Word over your life. Rehearse His promises. Incorporate them into your daily conversations. There is power when you faithfully and consistently declare God’s covenant over yourself. Why not start right now? Make a list of His promises and then say them out loud, beginning each sentence with the words, “God will.”

II. GOD’S ACTS TOWARD PHARAOH

A. The Plagues

Pharaoh dismissed Moses’ command. He would not release the Jews, and God wasted no time in beginning the barrage of judgments. Although correlations exist between the gods of Egypt and each plague, the plagues were not necessarily a direct attack on each individual Egyptian god. Egypt served hundreds of gods. Jehovah was showing His people and the Egyptians that He is the I AM and everything their gods were not.

Egypt relied on their Nile River as a life source, but God turned its life-giving water into blood. Fish died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water. Then God multiplied frogs in Egypt until frogs were everywhere, even in their ovens and their beds. After these two plagues, Pharaoh’s magicians were somehow able to duplicate them, and Pharaoh hardened his heart and chose not to listen. (See Exodus 8:15.)

***DISCUSS:** If you were one of Egypt’s magicians, would you have tried to make matters worse by adding to the plagues? How would you have responded?*

For a while Pharaoh felt like he was evenly matched with God, but that was about to change. God chose to do what only He can do: create. From the dust (one of His favorite building materials) He formed lice. The magicians could

not answer. They confessed: “This is the finger of God” (Exodus 8:19.) The judgments progressively worsened to swarms of flies, to the death of cattle (the first instance of death as judgment) to boils (the first instance of judgment directly on humanity). After the boils, the magicians could no longer stand in the presence of Moses. The boils were on the magicians and all the Egyptians (Exodus 9:11).

Then God rained down hail to destroy Egypt’s crops and locusts to destroy what the hail did not. And then He blanketed Egypt in darkness, but there was abundant light where Israel lived. Through it all, God proved His mighty hand as He systematically decimated the pride and prosperity of Egypt and revealed Himself as the I AM.

B. The Passover

The last plague was the most severe: the death of all firstborn sons and firstborn male animals. This plague was universal. Israel was not exempt from it, but God provided a way of deliverance for them. The head of each household was to slay a lamb and smear its blood on the doorposts of their homes as a sign they were obedient to these terms of the covenant. When the LORD came through Egypt that night, He would pass over (hence the name of the festival Passover) and spare the firstborn males. (See Exodus 12:13.) Much like in the Garden of Eden, a substitute sacrifice paid the price for sinful humanity.

God was hinting toward a day the spotless Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, would shed His blood to forgive us of our sins. As early as the Old Testament books of Genesis and Exodus, God was pointing to the gospel. Blood has always covered and revealed those who walk in covenant with God. God had always planned to come incarnate to lay down His life. Revelation 13:8 declares Jesus Christ as the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Through the gospel, we have a new covenant plan of salvation for all. (See John 3:3–5; Acts 2:37–39.) When we apply the blood of Jesus Christ to our hearts through the gospel, our lives are covered, and we are revealed to be bearers of the covenant.

***DISCUSS:** In what ways do we apply the blood of Jesus over our own lives? How do you explain that to someone new in their faith?*

C. I will trust God for safety by living in covenant.

Just like the Israelites had no power to win a war against the Egyptians to set themselves free, we cannot save ourselves. We need the precious, sinless blood of Jesus Christ, shed for all people for all time, to save us. We respond to His glorious gospel when we repent of our sins and God forgives us; we are baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ, and He washes our sins away and writes His name on our lives; and we are filled with His Holy Spirit, adopted into His covenant family as His children. Then, and only then, we are able to live free because we have chosen to live in covenant with the Creator.

III. THE EXODUS

A. The Cloud and the Fire

The Egyptians awoke in the middle of the night to find their firstborn dead. They could have repented and applied the blood of a lamb to their home, but they chose not to. Pharaoh called for Moses and demanded he leave and take

all the Hebrews with him. In one night, the Israelites walked out of Egypt free from slavery, carrying the spoils of a war they did not fight. The Lord appeared to them in a pillar of cloud to lead them by day and a pillar of fire so they could continue to travel at night. (See Exodus 13:21–22.) When we live in covenant with God, He faithfully guides us by His Spirit and His Word.

DISCUSS: *What passages of Scripture give you direction when you don't know which way to go?*

B. The Red Sea Crossing

Not long after Israel left Egypt, they ran into their first obstacle. They stood staring at the Red Sea, too deep to walk through and too wide to walk around. Suddenly Pharaoh and his army were chasing them to bring them back to bondage. God's people began to cry out once again for God to save them—and He did. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, God divided the sea into walls of water, and Israel walked across the dry bed of the Red Sea.

Egypt pursued Israel into the sea, and God had them right where He wanted them. Once Israel was safe on the other side, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord sent the water walls crashing down and drowned the Egyptians. It seems providential that the one Pharaoh was trying to drown in the Nile ended up causing him to drown in the Red Sea. And God—and only God—got the glory.

C. I will follow God as He leads me into closer covenant relationship.

Israel's rescue from Egypt was not the end; it was only the beginning. God was calling them toward a closer relationship with Him. Soon, the nation of Israel will learn the terms of that covenant relationship as Moses prepares to climb a familiar mountain: Mount Sinai. There God called Moses to lead His people and hear from God again exactly what it means to be in covenant with the Almighty. Israel may not have known those terms quite yet, but they did know the God they served delivered them with a strong hand from the most powerful nation in the world.

In a similar way, God wants to have a closer relationship with each of us. No matter what battle we are fighting or foe we are facing, our God is able to deliver us and set us free to serve Him with our whole heart. He asks us to put all our faith in Him and trust He will bring us out of bondage and into right relationship with Him. He did it for Israel; He will do it for us.

DISCUSS: *What obstacles have you overcome that resulted in a closer connection with God?*

Teacher Option: *Tell the story below or share one of your own to illustrate the value of doing what we can do and trusting God to do what we cannot.*

INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

It was an extremely foggy evening with ground visibility at zero percent. The young pilot was experiencing difficulty landing his small plane since he could not see the runway. After expressing his concern, the control tower informed him they would use radar to help him land. He was thankful and began to express his profound gratitude until he suddenly remembered there was a tall pole directly in his flight path. Overcome with panic, he radioed the

tower and anxiously reminded them of the pole in his way. A blunt reply came back: “You obey instructions; we will take care of the obstructions.”

Like the control tower, God only needed the Israelites to obey His instructions. He knew every obstruction standing in the way of their deliverance. He knew the hardness and resistance of Pharaoh’s heart. God saw the Red Sea before them before they ever got there and the Egyptian army closing in behind them before the Egyptian army ever got there. None of those obstacles concerned Him. He only needed the Israelites to place their trust in Him and keep following the cloud by day and the fire by night. Only God knew what was waiting for them on the other side—complete deliverance, safety, and a full covenant relationship with Him.

Like the young pilot, we often tell God all about the obstacles rather than trusting Him to deliver us. However, our trust is all God needs. Rather than focusing on all the difficulties before you, choose to trust God today. Take a moment and tell God out loud how much you trust Him. You may need to change the way you pray. Rather than reminding God of the obstacles He already knows are there, begin to declare like Moses, “I will stand still and see the salvation of God.” Stand firm and say, “I trust You to deliver me.”