

Women in the Word
Exodus 1:1-22

January 17, 2017



1. Please share any New Year's resolutions you have made.
2. This semester we will be studying Exodus. Have you ever studied Exodus?

What comes to mind when you think of the book of Exodus?

3. Read Exodus 1:1-7. Remember God gave Jacob the name Israel in Genesis 32:28. How many descendants of Jacob went to Egypt?

Why did these sons of Jacob and their families go to Egypt? Read Genesis 41:56-57; 42:1-2 and 45:25-46:4. How has God blessed them according to Exodus 1:7?

4. Read Exodus 1:8-14. Several hundred years have passed since Jacob and his family moved to Egypt, and a new Pharaoh is in power. What does he think of the Israelites?

What is the new Pharaoh's plan for the Israelites? What is the result of his plan?

5. Read Exodus 1:15-21. Pharaoh has a second plan to keep the Israelites from growing in number. How is this plan thwarted?

How do you imagine the midwives felt when they heard Pharaoh's command? What motivates the midwives to disobey Pharaoh?

Think of a time when your relationship with God gave you courage to do the right thing. Please share.

6. Consider and share what you learn about God from this story in Exodus 1.
7. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

4. From a human perspective, the story in Exodus 2:3-10 is hard to believe! What do we know to be true about God that helps us better understand why this unlikely series of events occurred? Also read Job 42:2; Isaiah 14:27 and Jeremiah 32:17, 27.

Consider a difficult or even seemingly impossible situation in your life. How does Moses' story and God's character encourage you today?

What can you do today to hold on to that encouragement?

5. Read Exodus 2:11-15. In verse 11, what motivated Moses to leave Pharaoh's palace and visit the Hebrew slaves?

What clue do we get in verse 12 that Moses knew his intentions were wrong before he acted on them?

Rather than seeing Moses as their defender and protector, how did the quarrelling Hebrews respond to Moses in verse 14? Why might they have responded in this way?

6. Read Exodus 2:16-22. What action does Moses take that again reveals him to be defender of the defenseless?

List the series of events set in motion after Moses' initial interaction with the seven daughters.

God uses Moses to defend and rescue His people throughout the book of Exodus. Ultimately, however, it is God who is our true defender. Read God's words to His people in Psalm 91:14-16. Ponder and record the many ways God guards those who love Him.

How will the promise of God's protection impact your life today and in the days to come?

7. Read Exodus 2:23-25. As the people cry out for help and God hears, what covenant promise to Abraham does He remember? See Genesis 13:14-17 and 22:17-18.
8. Moses' life experiences shaped him for a future of serving God and His people. How have your past experiences prepared you for trusting and serving God today?
9. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Exodus 3:1–4:17

January 31, 2017

GO! | *The Story
of Exodus*

1. Write down in your own words what you learned about Moses' life from Exodus 2. What is unusual about Moses' life? Read Exodus 2:10-11.

2. Read Exodus 3:1-6. Describe the unique situation that Moses encounters in these verses.

What do you observe about Moses from these verses?

What do you observe about God from these verses?

3. Moses' conversation with God continues in Exodus 3:7-12. How do these verses reveal God's heart for His people?

What is God's plan to relieve their suffering?

4. How does Moses react in Exodus 3:11 to God's sudden interruption in his life?

Think back to a time when your life took a different turn than what you anticipated. What was your reaction to an interruption in your plans or expectations?

5. In Exodus 3:12, God reassures Moses. Record the two promises He makes to him.

Read the following verses and in your own words record the promises He makes to us when we trust Him with our circumstances.

Philippians 4:19

Deuteronomy 31:6

Isaiah 40:30-31

Jeremiah 29:11

How do God's promises to Moses and His promises to us give you courage to face unplanned interruptions in your life?

6. Read Exodus 3:13-22. Moses is fearful that the Israelites won't listen to him. In verse 13, what credential does he request to validate that the one true God had sent him?

What names does God use to describe Himself in verses 14-16?

Why would calling Himself "I Am" and identifying Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob resonate with the Israelites? Read Genesis 15:7, 13-14 for insight.

7. Summarize God's specific instructions for Moses and the elders of Israel in Exodus 3:16-18.

8. Although God gives Moses a big job to do, He is not sending him without encouragement and support. How does God plan to intervene and direct the outcome according to Exodus 3:19-22?

Share with your group a time when you have witnessed God's mighty hand at work in your circumstances or the circumstances of others. How did it grow your faith?

9. Read Exodus 4:1-17. How would you characterize Moses' attitude as he continues to talk with God in verse 1?

What do you appreciate about God's response to Moses as he continues to object?

List the three supernatural signs that God gives Moses to prove that he is sent by God.

10. Read Acts 7:22 and compare Stephen's comments concerning Moses to Moses' own comments in Exodus 4:10. What discrepancy do you see?

Why would Moses downplay his abilities as he continues his discussion with God?

God overrules Moses' last objection in Exodus 4:11-16. Describe His creative solution.

11. We may never be given as great a responsibility as Moses, but as believers, God uses us to advance His plans and purposes as well. Does God's interaction with Moses give you courage to say *yes* to being a part of His plans? How?

12. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Exodus 4:18–5:23

February 7, 2017

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of Exodus*

1. Consider times in your life when you were faced with very difficult obstacles. What were the results when you faced them in fear? What were the results when you faced them in faith?
2. Moses has met with the Lord and been given the divine task of freeing Israel from Egyptian bondage. After Moses' initial fears, how can we see him moving forward in faith? Read Exodus 4:18-20.

What is the significance of Moses carrying the staff of God? Read Exodus 4:17.

What are the elements of faith that we must “carry” with us as we journey into frightening situations?

What are some of the “miraculous signs” of faith that others might see in us as we overcome hardship in God's power?

3. Four hundred years earlier, God used Joseph to bring Jacob and his sons to Egypt to survive a famine in the land. What did Joseph believe about the future of Israel in Egypt? Read Genesis 50:24-25.

Read Exodus 4:21-23. List the evidences of God's love for Israel from these verses. Also read Hosea 11:1.

How do we see the balance of God's will and man's personal responsibility for his actions both at work when considering the heart of Pharaoh? Read Exodus 3:18-19 and 7:13 with 4:21.

4. Read Exodus 4:24-26 to learn about a serious obstacle that confronted Moses along his journey. Read Genesis 17:10-14 and record the reason that God was judging Moses.

Record the deeper issue behind this command after reading Jeremiah 4:4.

In what way is disobedience a heart issue?

What obstacles might we face when we ignore the commands of God on our spiritual journey?

5. Read Exodus 4:27-31. Summarize what Aaron told the elders of Israel after reading 3:16-17.

What were the three signs that Moses performed before the elders according to 4:1-9?

What was the cause of the elders' worship?

We also have reasons to worship God during our misery. What do these verses teach us about this truth? Read Psalm 23:4; Hosea 5:15–6:1; Romans 8:28 and Romans 8:35-39.

6. Read Exodus 5:1-5. List the reasons that Pharaoh refuses the request of Moses and Aaron.

What things can we deduce about Pharaoh from these verses?

What similarities can we find between Pharaoh and people today that are firmly opposed to the plans of God?

7. Read Exodus 5:6-14 to see Pharaoh's punishment on the people as he responds to the words of Moses and Aaron. What does Pharaoh see as the real issue behind Moses' request for the people's deliverance according to verse 8?

Summarize Pharaoh's unwise command and everything that resulted from it.

8. Read Exodus 5:15-18. What do the Israelite foremen call themselves as they stand before Pharaoh and how many times do they repeat this title?

What can we learn about Pharaoh's relationship with the Israelites as we consider his response to their pleas?

What does Proverbs teach us about our responses toward others?

Proverbs 17:5

Proverbs 17:26

Proverbs 18:1

Proverbs 18:2

9. Read Exodus 5:19-22. What can we learn from Moses when we see the action he takes in response to this surprising obstacle?

What is Moses' main concern even in the midst of his own hurt?

10. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Exodus 6:1–7:13

February 14, 2017

GO! | *The Story
of Exodus*

1. Write down your whole name. Do you know the meaning of your first name? Why is your name important to you?

2. In last week's lesson, Pharaoh responded to God by making life much harder for the Israelites which prompts Moses to go to God with a question. Read Exodus 6:1 for God's answer. Does God seem surprised by Pharaoh's initial response?

How does God reassure Moses?

3. Read Exodus 6:2-8. God speaks again to Moses and continues to reveal Himself to him. What important phrase does God use to begin verse 2 and end verse 8?

Moses knows God by what name? By what name did Abraham, Isaac and Jacob know Him according to verse 3?

Thinking back on previous lessons in Exodus, why do you think God's name is so important? Also read Deuteronomy 10:17.

4. According to Exodus 6:4-5, what is the covenant promise God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

5. Read in verses 6-8, the seven "I will" statements God makes because of His covenant promise. What attributes or characteristics of God do you see displayed in His actions?

Which "I will" statement stands out most to you and why?

6. How do the Israelites respond to Moses in verse 9 after he gives them this amazing report from God?

Think of a time when your discouragement or hardship initially blinded you to the promises and power of God. Please share.

7. Read Exodus 6:10-11. What one word do you think expresses God's directive to Moses?
8. Moses responds to God with a question in verse 12. What does this reveal about Moses?

What has Moses been slow to understand about God in spite of God's revelation in verses 1-8?

What Bible verses or experiences do you remember when you lack confidence or doubt God?

9. Read Exodus 6:13-27 which includes a partial genealogy. Three sons of Jacob (Israel) are mentioned at the beginning of verses 14, 15 and 16. What are their names? See Genesis 35:22b-23 for help. Remember Jacob is renamed Israel by God.

According to Exodus 6:19b-20, who is the father of Moses and Aaron? From which son of Jacob do they descend?

Why do you think this genealogy is placed here in Exodus 6 and why is it important? See Exodus 3:15; 6:3 and 6:26-27.

10. Read Exodus 6:28-7:2. The story continues by repeating God's commission for Moses along with Moses' question from 6:12. What does God do for Moses to resolve his concern?

11. Read Exodus 7:3-7. How does God use Pharaoh's stubborn disobedience to fulfill His plans for the Egyptians as well as the Israelites? See verse 5.

In verse 7, the ages of Moses and Aaron are stated. Do their ages surprise you? How does this encourage you to keep serving God throughout your entire life? Read 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

12. Read Exodus 7:8-13. How does Aaron's staff/serpent show God's superiority and authority over Pharaoh?

13. Read Exodus 7:6, 10 again. In spite of Moses' past discouragement and lack of confidence, he obeys God. What do you think brought him to this decision to obey God?

14. After God's display of power, what is the state of Pharaoh's heart in verse 13?

How do you keep a soft heart towards God?

15. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.