



Yahweh Sees

Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act. Ex 2:23-25

Getting on the Same Page

Long ago, the Lord brought Abraham to the land of Canaan. God promised Abraham that this land would belong to his descendants. Abraham's grandson Jacob left that land and moved with his family to Egypt to escape a famine. Jacob's family grew, becoming an entire people known as the Israelites. Several hundred years passed, and by this time, they had become a huge nation. The Pharaoh, or ruler of Egypt, fears that this multitude of people may join Egypt's enemies and fight against Egypt. So, Pharaoh decided to make the Israelites his slaves. Even so, God blessed this captive nation of people with more and more children. This made the Pharaoh even more nervous. He ordered his soldiers to throw every baby boy into the Nile River. What happens next is the making of legend, the content of many epic movies, and even greater, the story of a God who saw the plight of His people and chose to act. This is the story of Exodus.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Have you ever read through the book of Exodus? What do you know about the book? How would you summarize the events in the book?
- How would you describe one of the most challenging seasons of your life? Can you identify how God worked to bring you through/out of that situation?
- What trial is currently keeping you in waiting? Is it wrong to want our times of trial to be short? Why or why not?

Study

Read Exodus 1:1-9 & Acts 7:1-18

- What is significant about the new king's lack of knowledge about Joseph? (read Gen 47:1-10 & Gen 50:1-11)
- What did the king mean by his fear that "if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."
- Talk about the courage and deep faith of Moses' mother.
- Given Moses' upbringing, what do you think he thought about his life in Midian? (Gen 46:33-34; Exodus 3:1; Acts 7:25) Put yourself in Moses' position of taking care of your father-in-law's sheep for a long time in a foreign place in contrast to the position that he had once known.
- In Acts 7, Stephen stands before the Sanhedrin and delivers a sermon which summarizes the history of the nation of Israel. In Acts 7:5-7, what do you learn about the Egyptian captivity? About the hope Israel held?
- During the 400 years of waiting in Egypt, what do you think the Israelites thought regarding God's promise of the land of Canaan? Regarding God's character?
- Why do you think God allowed for His chosen people to spend 400 years as slaves in a foreign land before freeing them from that bondage and bringing them out of Egypt and into the land which He had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to Jacob's sons (see Gen 15:13-14; Gen 50:24-25)

Apply

- Having to wait is part of being human, but waiting through trial and hardship is particularly difficult. Have a group member read 2 Peter 3:8-9 aloud. How does it relate to Israel's situation in the opening lines of Exodus? How is it relevant to your current circumstances?
- What attribute of God did you see in this week's passage that particularly struck you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?
- Where have you seen God make and keep His promises over the last few months?

Personal Reflection

- Throughout our study, we will see many different attributes of God. Think of as many words as you can to describe God, and praise Him for who He is.
- Ask God to tune your heart to the Holy Spirit as He makes you aware of time, moments, and milestones to leverage this series for personal growth and fruitful family conversations and discipleship.

Exodus 2 concludes with this statement, "During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them." (Ex 2:23-25)

What perspective, encouragement, comfort, and hope should we draw from these verses?