

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL

(BFA)

SMALL GROUPS

BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL

Introduction

This series of studies on the book of Exodus focuses on the theme of **Knowing God**. God makes Himself known through the redemption of His chosen people Israel. This purpose of this study is to align ourselves to the vision of disciple-making in the five-year vision for ORPC. This series of studies will last till the end of June covering the first twenty chapters on the Book of Exodus.

Studies

03 Mar 2019 **Exodus 3** God Speaks Through The Bush

17 Mar 2019 **Exodus 4:1-17** Recognise God's Signs

24 Mar 2019 **Exodus 4:18-31; 18** God Speaks Through Jethro

31 Mar 2019 **Exodus 5** The Encounter With Pharaoh

03 Mar 2019

Exodus 3

God Speaks Through The Bush

CONTEXT

The long period of God's silence during the suffering and enslavement of Israel was about to be broken as hinted in Exodus 2:24-25. With Moses' failed attempt to liberate his fellow Hebrew by his own power and initiative, leading to his own need for deliverance, the stage is set for God to act on his covenant promises, to intervene and deliver His people. This backdrop, together with God's divine revelation, declares that salvation belongs to God alone. This section records the beginning of God's call to Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt. Although God was ready to act, Moses was unaware of God's plan.

OBSERVATION

1. What was so special about the bush that attracted Moses' attention? What did Moses find out that caused him to hide his face? (v6)

2. What plan did God reveal to Moses? What was Moses' role in the plan?

3. How did Moses respond? What additional information about Himself and His plan did God then reveal?

4. What would be the sign to Moses that God will be with Him in carrying out His redemption plan? When could this sign be observed?

MEANING

5. What are the aspects of His character that God revealed about Himself to Moses in verses 1-11? What is the significance of the repetitions in vv. 6, 15, 16 and also vv. 8 and 17 (See 2:24 and Gen 15:18-21)?

6. What could be the purpose of God calling Moses and the elders of Israel to play a part in His redemption plan if He has the power to instantly rescue the Israelites from Egypt?

7. Why do you think God gave Moses a sign (v12) that could only be witnessed when his task has been completed?

8. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? Why do you think the Holy Spirit gives us this text?

APPLICATION

9. How have you personally responded to God's holiness, His mercy, and what He has done?

10. What has God called you to do? Read 2 Tim 2:8-9, Eph 4:1, 2 Peter 1:3-11

11. How has this text encouraged you in fulfilling your calling?

12. What truths revealed in this text seem especially significant to you? How would you respond? How can the group pray for you in responding to what God is saying through the text?

Memory Verse – 2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

17 Mar 2019

Exodus 4:1-17

Recognise God's Signs

CONTEXT

Once Moses learned about God's plan for rescuing Israel from Egypt, he wanted no part of it. While Israel was suffering, Moses was stalling.

OBSERVATION

1. Recall that Moses had already raised 2 objections to God's call in Ex 3. What further objections did he raise in Ex 4:1-17?
2. What were the signs that God gave Moses to show the Israelites? What was the purpose of giving the signs to Moses?
3. How else did God assure Moses and what other help did God provide for him to complete his task?
4. How did God respond when Moses rejected the call from God and asked Him to send someone else? What concession did God make for Moses?

MEANING

5. In verse 1, Moses attributes unbelief to Israel. To what extent do you think it was fair, and to what extent do you think it reveals Moses' lack of faith?
6. What does God reveal about Himself to Moses in Ex 4:1-17?
7. What does this text reveal about Moses at this stage of his life?

8. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? Why do you think the Holy Spirit gives us this text?

APPLICATION

9. Like Moses, what are some excuses we make for not doing what God has called us to do?

10. If you, like Moses, feel that you are not eloquent enough to proclaim the Gospel, how does Ex 4:12, together with 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5 and 1 Thessalonians 5:24 encourage you to do so?

11. How has God provided the resources, both within you and from others, that you need to fulfil your calling from God?

12. What do you think God wants you to know through the text? How can the group pray for you in responding to what God is saying through the text?

Memory Verse – 1 Corinthians 1:17

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

24 Mar 2019

Exodus 4:18-31; 18

God Speaks Through Jethro

CONTEXT

Apart from speaking directly to Moses and through him, God also spoke to Moses through others. In this study, we begin with Jethro, Moses' father-in-law. Jethro, also named Reuel, was first mentioned in Ex 2:16-22, and makes a brief appearance here in Ex 4:18. At the centre of the narrative in Exodus 4:18-31, we wonder why God threatened to put Moses to death. We then make a detour through Ex 18 to see the wisdom that God gave to Moses through Jethro's advice, at the heart of which is Jethro's own confession of Yahweh as Lord.

OBSERVATION

1. Who were Jethro and Zipporah and what do Ex 2:16-22, 4:18-31, 18 reveal about them? Why did Moses have to ask Jethro for permission to go to Egypt?
2. What did God call Israel in Ex 4:21-23 and what will be the result of Pharaoh's refusal?
3. In a strange twist of events we are abruptly told that the Lord was about to kill Moses but relented when Zipporah performed an act. What did she do? As described in Genesis 17:9-14, what would happen to a male Israelite who did not undergo this act? What will be Pharaoh's punishment for opposing God (v23)?
4. What did Jethro do upon hearing Moses' testimony about what God had done for Israel? (Ex 18:7-12) How was this similar to what the Israelites did when they heard about what God was going to do in Ex 4:29-31?

MEANING

5. What does God reveal about Himself in calling Israel His firstborn son? See Jeremiah 3:19, 31:9, Hosea 11:1, Isaiah 64:8-9. How does this contrast with what will happen to Pharaoh's firstborn son?
6. Apparently, Moses' son had not been circumcised as the Law demanded, thus incurring God's wrath against Moses. This may have been because Zipporah found the practice revolting (v25). What was the significance of circumcision? Why would God confront Moses with his sin as he set off on his mission?

7. How is it significant that Jethro, a gentile, worshipped God because of what He did for Israel and not because God had blessed him personally or his people? Compare that with what prompted the Israelites to worship God in Ex 4:31.

8. Which words that Jethro attached to his advice in Ex 18:17-23 suggests he knew that good advice was not enough for Moses to be a good judge? Contrast with what Jethro says in Ex 4:18.

9. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? Why do you think the Holy Spirit gives us this text?

APPLICATION

10. What are the situations, thoughts, or feelings that often prompt you to praise and worship God? What would cause us to worship God when we do not personally feel blessed or loved by God? 2 Corinthians 4:15, Ephesians 1:5

11. What does it mean for you that God is your Father? What are the responsibilities and privileges of God's children revealed in these passages?

12. What does this passage tell you about God's expectations for the personal lives of spiritual leaders? How can you support and pray for our spiritual leaders in ORPC?

13. What do you think God wants you to know through the text? How can the group pray for you in responding to what God is saying through the text?

Memory Verse – 1 Corinthians 4:15

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

31 Mar 2019

Exodus 5

The Encounter With Pharaoh

CONTEXT

Moses did his best to get out of what God told him to do. He doubted if the people of Israel would believe him and if he would be able to carry out the task that God had specifically chosen for him. To his astonishment, the people did believe him and sent him and Aaron off to meet Pharaoh. Just as things were looking good, Moses' fears proved true. It was not a swift rescue for the people of Israel. In fact, things got worse for God's people. Rather than being hailed as a rescuer, Moses was blamed for the Israelites' sufferings. Was this really all part of God's plan?

OBSERVATION

1. What are the similarities and differences you observe between what actually happened in Ex 5:1-5 and what God revealed in Ex 3:18-20?
2. What is similar in the way that Moses and Aaron began their message and the way that Old Testament prophets began theirs? For example, see Amos 1:3, Isaiah 43:1, and Jeremiah 31:2.
3. What was the reason that Pharaoh gave for refusing to obey God's command given through Moses? In his mind, why did the Israelites make the request to go sacrifice to God?
4. What did Pharaoh make the Israelites do? Who did the overseers blame for the Israelites' suffering and what did they do to him? Who did Moses blame for the Israelites' troubles?

MEANING

1. Whose message was Pharaoh rejecting? What is the main reason that Pharaoh refused to entertain Moses and Aaron's request? *What is the real battle about?*
2. Although Ex 4:29-31 recorded that the people of Israel believed in God's message given through Moses and Aaron, they were quick to turn on them in Ex 5:20-21. What does this say about their belief and their expectations of God?

3. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? Why do you think the Holy Spirit gives us this text?

APPLICATION

4. In what way are you an ambassador of Christ? See 1 Cor 5:20. How have you faced similar setbacks as Moses and Aaron did as an ambassador of Christ? What did you learn from those experiences?
5. Pharaoh looked at religious sacrifice as an idle distraction from work (v17). How does this resemble modern secular thought? In what ways may we have similar ideas about worship and work?
6. For Moses, serving God meant involvement with suffering people but not instant remedies. In what ways can your presence with those who are suffering be a tangible proof of God's compassion?
7. What do you think God wants you to know through the text? How can the group pray for you in responding to what God is saying through the text?

Memory Verse – 1 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

Daily Prayer Guide

Sunday: The Church

Church members & families
Visitors
Pastor & church leaders
Sunday School teachers
Worship leaders
Small group leaders
Other churches
Outreach efforts

Monday: The Workplace

Supervisor
Co-workers
Subordinates
Customers & suppliers
Difficult situations
Work attitude
Work performance

Tuesday: Acquaintances

Mentors & mentorees
Accountability partners
Friends
Neighbours
Merchants
Public servants
Teachers & other school Workers
Children's friends & their families

Wednesday: My Country

Public officials - executive, legislative,
& judicial
Armed forces
Public morality
The media
The economy

Thursday: The World

International peace & understanding
Missions and missionaries
Persecuted churches
Hunger, sickness, & disaster relief

Friday: My Spiritual Growth

Maturity
Understanding
Faith
Love toward God
Love toward others
Servanthood

Saturday: My Family

Spouse
Children
Grandchildren
Parents
Brothers & sisters
Extended family
Unsaved loved ones

*"Call to me and I will answer you and
tell you great and unsearchable things
you do not know."-Jeremiah 33:3*

Little Steps To Great Learning!

Preparation:

- Attempt all questions in the relevant Bible study before your group meeting.
- Expect spiritual growth by thoughtfully working on the Bible study questions (and the suggested reading, if any) throughout the week.
- Seek the Holy Spirit's insight and guidance by praying daily in reflection of what you have learned through the Bible study.

Group Time:

- On the following Sunday, take notes during sermon to assist in focusing your thoughts.
- Be punctual for your group meeting.
- Share the insight gained through the sermon with your group.
- Be frank in sharing your response to the questions in the discipleship pointers.
- Encourage others by attesting to God's goodness and reality by sharing to the group (and others) how the Word has changed your thinking and action in response to your study in the past week.
- Using the front sheet, summarise how the lessons have helped you to understand God's revelation in the Bible through Jesus Christ, and your response to the revelation.

THE BIBLE is to be...

Read through...

Reflected in...

Lived out...

Given away...