

Exodus
Leader Guide
(NASB and ESV)

LET MY PEOPLE GO

Exodus Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 1–4

GOD’S PROMISES

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they learned from the passages in Day One of the lesson. Why was Israel in Egypt? What had God promised about this nation?

There is a time line at the end of this lesson’s guide that you can draw as your group discusses this lesson. There is also a map they can look at as another visual aid.

Acts 7:2-5

God called Abram when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. Abram left Ur of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran until his father died; then God led him to the land of Canaan, the land of promise.

Genesis 12:1-7

God promised Abram that he would be a great nation and that all families of the earth would be blessed through him. He also promised the land of Canaan to Abram’s descendants / offspring. At this point Abram was 75 years old and childless.

Genesis 13:14-18

The land was promised forever, and Abraham’s descendants / offspring would be as numerous as the dust of the earth. At this point Abram was still childless.

Genesis 15:13-18

God told Abram that his descendants / offspring would be strangers / sojourners in a land not theirs, enslaved for 400 years. After that they would come out with many possessions.

Verse 16 says that they would return to the land of Canaan.

Verse 18, God made a covenant with Abram. His descendants / offspring were given the land.

Genesis 26:1-6

God established the covenant, or oath, with Isaac, Abraham’s son.

He promised Isaac descendants / offspring as numerous as the stars, that all nations of the earth would be blessed by them, and the land as promised to Abraham’s descendants.

Isaac stayed in the land of Canaan and never went to Egypt.

Genesis 28:10-15

God gave the same promises to Jacob, Isaac's son. Jacob's name was later changed to Israel. The land was given to his descendants / offspring who would be as numerous as the dust of the earth. In his descendants all families of the earth would be blessed.

Jacob went to Haran for about 20 years and returned to Canaan.

Genesis 37:23-28; 41:41

Joseph's brothers, sons of Jacob, sold him to a caravan going to Egypt. He was placed over all of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh.

Genesis 46:2-4

God told Jacob to go to Egypt, and He would make him a great nation there.

Genesis 50

Jacob, Israel died in Egypt. He and his family had gone to Egypt because of famine. The sons of Israel, twelve families, were treated well and given the best land of Egypt, Goshen, because of Joseph.

Jacob was buried in Canaan, and his family returned to Egypt. Joseph reminded his brothers of God's promise in verse 24 as he told them to bury him in the land of Canaan. He referred to Canaan as the land God promised on oath or covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He reminded them that God would bring them to that land.

EXODUS 1

Ask your group what this chapter is about.
Tell them to use their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

In Egypt Israel multiplied and became mighty.

Verse 5 says that there were only about 70 people of Israel's family who began the stay in Egypt.

After Joseph, his brothers, and all of their generation died, the sons of Israel were fruitful and became exceedingly mighty so that the land of Egypt was filled with them. The word "mighty / strong" used in verses 7, 9, and 20 means "numerous." This was what God had promised to Abraham many years previous to this time.

You can give a brief time here for your group to discuss application. Have any of them had to wait for God's promises to be fulfilled?

What are verses 8-11 about?

This new king or Pharaoh who didn't know Joseph had no care for Israel. He and his people were in dread of the many people in their land who were of Israel.

Oppression can result from fear.

The people of Israel were afflicted by hard labor and their lives were bitter; yet the more they were afflicted, the more they multiplied. God’s promise was still being fulfilled.

What are verses 15-22 about?

The king of Egypt was a murderer.

He was trying to keep Israel from growing even stronger in number because of fear.

Discuss what a powerful emotion fear is. It can cause difficult and devastating situations.

Ask your group how Pharaoh tried to take care of his problem.

First he went to the Hebrew midwives to command them to kill the Hebrew baby boys when they were born.

When that didn’t work, according to verse 22 he then told his own people, the Egyptians, to murder the Hebrew baby boys by casting them into the Nile River at birth.

NOTE: Don’t be too dogmatic about statements you make concerning the Hebrew midwives. It might seem like they lied to Pharaoh and that God rewarded them for it. However, it is very possible that what they said about not getting to the Hebrew women in time was exactly what happened.

The main point is that the midwives feared God more than they did the king of Egypt, and for that God rewarded them by giving them families of their own.

And the people of Israel were still multiplying and becoming very mighty.

The kings of the world cannot nullify God’s promises.

EXODUS 2

If some in your group have not filled out the At a Glance chart, now is a good time for them to do that. Use it as a visual aid so that they can complete it if they haven’t already.

What is this chapter about?

This chapter gives some details of Moses’ birth and childhood and about his life in Egypt and Midian.

NOTE: There might be some in your group who have never heard this before. Don’t assume that they know all about it.

Verse 1 states that Moses was of the house of Levi.

This is an important fact to know, to give better understanding in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Verses 2-10

What are these verses about? Discuss cross-references where relevant.

Moses was hidden in his own home for 3 months, and then put into a basket in the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter found him crying and had pity on him.

He was raised for a time by his own family and then given back to Pharaoh's daughter to raise as her own son. She is the one who named him Moses.

Acts 7:22

He was educated in all the Egyptian learning / wisdom and was a man of power / mighty in words and deeds.

Verses 11-15

What happened in these verses?

Moses killed an Egyptian.

When he was 40 years old, Moses went out to look at the labors of his brothers, the Hebrews.

Hebrews 11:24-26

This gives some insight into his character when he had grown up. He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be associated with his brethren, the people of God, the nation of Israel.

He chose that ill-treatment rather than the pleasures of sin and the treasures of Egypt.

He was looking to a heavenly reward, and he considered the reproach of Christ, the Promised One, to be above the treasures of this world.

You might spend some time discussing application here.

When God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that through their descendants / offspring all families of the earth would be blessed, He was speaking of the Promised One, the Messiah, the Anointed One, Christ Jesus our Lord, who was born from the nation of Israel. This is how Moses knew of the one who was to come.

Exodus 2:11-12 and Acts 7:23-24 say that Moses was about 40 years old at the time he went out and saw the Egyptian mistreating one of the Hebrews and killed the Egyptian in defense of the Hebrew.

He took vengeance for the unjust treatment of the Egyptian toward his brethren. He also thought that the Hebrews understood that God was granting deliverance for them through him, but they didn't understand this at all. From this passage it seems that Moses knew before the events of Exodus 3 that God had plans for him to deliver Israel from their bondage in Egypt.

Exodus 2:14 and Acts 7:27 present an interesting question asked by the Hebrew who had been striking one of his brothers, "Who made you a prince / ruler or a judge over us?" The answer is that God did, and He would continue to even more in the years to come.

Exodus 2:15 says that Moses fled to Midian after Pharaoh tried to kill him.

NOTE: Midian was the son of Abraham and Keturah, Abraham's wife after Sarah died (Genesis 25:1-2).

Exodus 2:14-15 says that Moses was afraid and fled from the presence of Pharaoh. Hebrews 11:27 says that Moses left Egypt not fearing the wrath of the king. The verse in Hebrews is about the second time as he led the sons of Israel out of Egypt.

Verses 16-22

Ask your group what the main events are.

Moses helped some women by driving away shepherds from a well. This shows something about Moses' character. He also drew water for the women who were the daughters of the priest of Midian. He married one of them, Zipporah, and had a son named Gershom or Gershon.

Acts 7:29 gives more information. Moses and Zipporah had two sons while they were in Midian for 40 years.

Verses 23-25

What happened in Egypt during the years when Moses was in Midian?

Pharaoh died.

The sons of Israel cried for help because of their bondage / slavery, and God heard their groaning.

God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God saw the sons / people of Israel and took notice (ESV—and God knew).

How does this relate to Genesis 15:13-14 and 18?

God told Abraham that his descendants / offspring would be enslaved / servants and oppressed / afflicted four hundred years in a land not theirs. He would judge the nation they served, and afterward they would come out with many possessions. The Lord made a covenant with Abraham giving his descendants / offspring their land.

EXODUS 3

What is this chapter about?

God appeared to Moses at Horeb.

NOTE: When you group says something similar as a chapter theme, then have them put it on their At a Glance charts if they've not yet filled it in.

What are the main points?

Moses was pasturing his father-in-law's flock on the west side of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. He saw a strange sight, a blazing fire in the middle of a bush, and he stopped to see why it wasn't burning up.

Acts 7:30 gives more information about this. Moses was about 80 years old at this time; compare with verse 23. Mount Horeb was also called Mount Sinai.

The angel of the Lord appeared to him from a blazing fire in the bush. Moses turned aside to see why the bush was not burned up.

God called to him from the midst of the bush. Moses hid his face, afraid to look at God because of His holiness.

God said that He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

This was a reminder of what God had done in the past. He had made a covenant with them and their descendants / offspring, and Moses and the sons / people of Israel in Egypt were those descendants / offspring.

God said that He had seen the affliction of His people in Egypt. Remember that Moses had not seen that for 40 years.

God had not forgotten them. He was aware of their circumstances.

What did God say He was going to do and how?

God had come down to deliver them; Moses had tried that 40 years before.
And God was going to bring them to the land of Canaan.

This was near the end of their slavery in Egypt, so they had been in that bondage for 400 years. The events of Exodus 1–3 cover all these years and a few more.

God told Moses in verse 10 that He was going to send him to Pharaoh and bring Israel out of Egypt by him.

What happened next?

Have your group use their chart from Day Five of the lesson as a visual aid.

Moses asked God a question in verse 11.

God didn't answer who Moses was, but said that He would be with him. God took the focus off Moses and put it back where it should be—on Himself. God is the one who would deliver. Moses was to be the instrument.

Give time for your group to discuss any personal application here.

What sign did God give to Moses?

After Moses had brought the people out of Egypt, he would return to Mt. Sinai and worship God. This will be important later in this study.

Moses questioned God, asking what he should say when he told the people God sent him and they asked what God's name is.

NOTE: Don't go into too much detail here. This will be studied more in Lesson 2.

What was God's answer to this?

I AM WHO I AM

The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

This is My name forever.

This is My memorial-name to all generations.

(ESV—I am to be remembered throughout all generations.)

What are verses 16-22 about?

God told Moses to gather the elders of Israel and tell them God had appeared to him. Tell them God was concerned about them and what was happening to them, and He would bring them out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of Canaan.

God told Moses that the elders would listen to him. Moses was then to go with the elders to Pharaoh and request a three days' journey into the wilderness to worship God.

God told Moses that Pharaoh would not permit them to go, except under compulsion. But He would stretch out His hand with miracles, and after that Pharaoh would let them go.

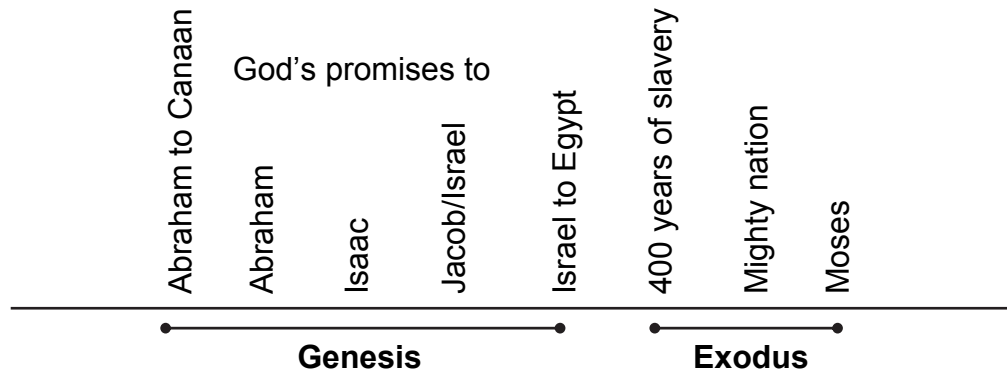
Moses had been made aware that the deliverance would not be immediate. Pharaoh would not permit them to go until God had struck Egypt with His miracles.

In verses 21-22, God said He would also grant the Hebrews favor, and they would plunder the Egyptians. Relate this to Genesis 15:14.

On the day God covenanted with Abraham, He said that He would judge the nation they served and bring them out with many possessions.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

Moses was to take the word of God to the sons of Israel who were in bondage in Egypt to let them know that God would deliver them. We too are to take the Word of God to those in bondage to sin to let them know that God has sent a Deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ.



EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 4–7:7
- God’s name—I AM

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking your group what they remember as the main events of Exodus 1–3. Direct them to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Exodus 1

Israel multiplied in Egypt / Egyptians feared Israel’s number / Israel was afflicted

Exodus 2

Moses was born, spared by God, went to Midian

Exodus 3

God appeared to Moses at Horeb, told him to deliver Israel from Egypt / I AM

THE LORD’S NAME

At this point you might ask about the questions Moses asked the Lord in Exodus 3:11 and 13.

Exodus 3:11 records Moses’ first question to God,
“Who am I . . . ?”

As discussed last week, God didn’t answer that question but just said that He would be with Moses.

The second question in verse 13 concerned God’s name.
God answered this question by saying, “I AM WHO I AM,” in verse 14.
He told Moses to say that “I AM has sent me to you.”

In Exodus 3:15-16 God says that He is the LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

You might note the main points about the Lord on a list as a visual aid for this discussion, but keep it short and simple.

Continue this discussion by asking your group what they learned from information and the cross-references in Day Five about this name of God—LORD.

God said that His name is ‘I AM.’

It’s His memorial name (ESV—to be remembered) to all generations of those in covenant with Him.

In Exodus 6:2 He says that His name LORD wasn’t known by Israel until then.

It’s associated with Him bringing Israel out of Egypt.

Isaiah 42:8

God says that He won’t give His glory to another. He is the only God.

John 1:1-2, 14

Jesus is the Word Who became flesh. He was in the beginning with God, and He is God Himself. This shows that although Jesus is God, He was also with God the Father in the beginning; they are two and one.

John 8:24, 58

Jesus said, “I am.” He is God!

He said that “before Abraham was born, I am.” Again He was saying that He is God.

John 10:30-33

Jesus clearly said that He and the Father are one. His audience at the time knew exactly what He meant because they were going to stone Him for what they considered blasphemy.

Hebrews 1:1-3, 8

God spoke in His Son; Jesus was the Word. God made the world through Jesus, His Son. Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory.

Compare this with Isaiah 42:8. Jesus is the exact representation of God’s nature. If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. God calls Jesus “O God.”

Give time for your group to discuss how God’s name and character relate to them.

EXODUS 4

What is this chapter about?

Tell your group to record the theme on their At a Glance charts if they’ve not done so already.

God’s signs to Moses / He sent Moses to Egypt

How does the flow of thought continue from chapter 3?

The conversation between God and Moses continued.

Ask your group to use the chart from Day Two as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Verses 1-9

What are these verses about?

Moses was concerned that the people wouldn't believe him.

God answered with a demonstration. He showed Moses three signs by which he was to convince the people of Israel that God had appeared to him.

- 1—the staff became a serpent
- 2—his hand became leprous and then was restored
- 3—Moses would pour water from the Nile on the ground, and it would become blood.

At that point, Moses was not near the Nile.

Verses 10-17

What are the main points of these verses?

Moses said that he had never been eloquent and was slow of speech and tongue.

Acts 7:22 says he was a man educated in all the learning / wisdom of the Egyptians and a man of power / mighty in words and deeds.

He wasn't eloquent, but what he said carried power in Egypt as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

God responded that He's the one who makes man's mouth.
He promised to be with Moses' mouth and teach him what to say.

Even though Moses was slow of speech, God was perfectly capable of using him to speak to Israel and Pharaoh.

Moses asked the Lord to send the message by someone else.

God's anger burned / kindled against him. But he told Moses that Aaron would be the speaker of what Moses told him to say.

He was to take the staff to perform the signs.

Verses 18-23

What happened next?

Moses left Midian with his wife and sons to return to Egypt.

God told Moses ahead of time that Pharaoh would not let His people go.
Moses was to tell Pharaoh that Israel was His firstborn son, and if he didn't let Israel go, He'd kill Pharaoh's firstborn son as a result.

Verses 24-26

What are these verses about?

God sought to put Moses to death, because he had not circumcised his son.

Why was this so important to God? Ask what your group learned from the cross-reference.

Genesis 17:9-14

Circumcision was the sign of the covenant God gave to Abraham.

In that covenant, He promised Abraham and his descendants / offspring to give them the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession. The covenant and the sign of the covenant were for all generations. Whoever was not circumcised had broken the covenant and was cut off from the people of God.

It was as if Moses didn't value the covenant because he had not circumcised his son.

God brought Israel out of Egypt because He remembered His covenant with them.

Verses 27-31

How does this chapter end? What are the main points?

God told Aaron to go meet Moses in the wilderness

They met at the mountain of God.

Moses told Aaron what God had said for them to do.

They gathered the elders of Israel as God had said in Exodus 3:16.

Aaron spoke to them, and Moses performed the signs.

They believed, as God had said in Exodus 3:18, and when they heard that God was concerned about them, they bowed low and worshiped God.

EXODUS 5

You might ask your group what they wrote on the At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

Moses went to Pharaoh, more labor for Israel

What happened when Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh?

They told Pharaoh what God had said.

Pharaoh answered that he didn't know God and would not obey Him.

This gives insight into the character of this Pharaoh, who was not the Pharaoh who had killed the baby boys or had tried to kill Moses.

Review what the text has said about this king of Egypt up to this point.

He is first mentioned in chapter 3.

In verse 19, he would not let Israel go, except under compulsion / compelled by God.

Verse 20 states that he would let them go after God's miracles / wonders.

In 4:21 it says that God would perform His wonders / miracles before Pharaoh.

God would harden Pharaoh's heart so that he would not let Israel go.

God would kill his firstborn son (4:23).

Continue to question your group about Pharaoh as they discuss chapter 5.

When Moses and Aaron told him the Lord, the God of Israel, said to let His people go, Pharaoh responded, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice . . . I do not know the Lord."

Verses 5-20 tell of Pharaoh giving the command for harder labor on Israel. He responded to Moses and Aaron's plea with harshness on their people. The Egyptians no longer provided the straw for the Hebrews to make bricks. This added to their burden.

Discuss verses 15-21.

The foremen of Israel cried out to Pharaoh about having to make bricks but not being given straw. Pharaoh told them they must still deliver their quota of bricks. As they left Pharaoh's presence, they met Moses and Aaron. They called for God to judge Moses and Aaron for the increased labor and hardship. They felt that Moses and Aaron were responsible because they had gone to Pharaoh.

What happened next?

Moses went to God.

Moses went to the right one, and he asked God, "Why?" Had he forgotten what God had told him in 3:19?

Ask your group members where they go when they are in a difficult situation.

EXODUS 6

What is this chapter about? Use the At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

Israel didn't listen to Moses; sons of Reuben, Simeon, Levi—Moses and Aaron

What was God's answer to Moses in Exodus 6:1?

“Now you shall see what I will do . . .”

God had put Moses and the people of Israel in a place where only He could provide the solution. They saw what He would do. God did the wonders and signs and miracles which demonstrated that He is Who He said He is to Moses, Israel, Egypt, and everyone who has ever read this account or heard of it.

What did God further tell Moses in verses 2-9?

God then told Moses, “I am the LORD,” and that He had not made Himself known by this name before this time. He had been called this name before, but had not made Himself known by it before as He had His name God Almighty.

God said that He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and that He had heard the groaning of the sons of Israel. Relate this to Genesis 15:13-16 where God told Abraham He would bring them out after they have been enslaved four hundred years.

His message for Moses to give to Israel was that He was going to bring them out of bondage / slavery, deliver them, and redeem them with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

They would know God as their deliverer from slavery. We can know Him as our deliverer from the bondage of sin.

They didn't listen because of their cruel bondage, which was worse since Moses had gone to Pharaoh. They had forgotten about believing the signs Moses had performed and how they had worshiped God (Exodus 4:29-31).

Give time for your group to discuss application.

What did God tell Moses to do in verses 10-11? How did Moses respond in verse 12?

God told Moses to tell Pharaoh to let Israel go.

Moses again brought up the fact that he was unskilled in speech. He used Israel's not listening as an excuse that Pharaoh would not listen.

Discuss why Moses and Aaron’s genealogy is in verses 14-27.

Ask your group to look at “Moses and Aaron’s Descendants / Offspring” which they completed.

Levi, one of the sons of Jacob, is the first generation shown on the chart. He and his sons went to Egypt with Jacob/Israel during the famine. His sons Gershon, Kohath, and Merari were the second generation shown. Kohath’s sons, one of whom was Amram, were the third generation. Aaron and Moses were in the fourth generation. Genesis 15:16 says that in the fourth generation, they would come out of the land of bondage.

Some names in Aaron’s line that will be important later in Exodus are his sons Nadab, Abihu, and Eleazar and Aaron’s grandson Phinehas.

What are verses 28-30 about?

The Lord spoke to Moses. And again he asked the Lord how Pharaoh would listen to him.

EXODUS 7:1-7

Then what continues in chapter 7?

The Lord’s conversation with Moses

God told Moses that he would be as God to Pharaoh.

He was the one to communicate God’s will and words to Pharaoh through Aaron.

Again God stated that He would harden Pharaoh’s heart so that He might multiply His wonders in the land of Egypt. Then the Egyptians, not just Israel, would know that He is the Lord.

Moses and Aaron obeyed God. Moses was 80 years old, and Aaron was 83.

You might ask your group if they think that anyone gets too old to be useful to God?

Jesus said in John 8 that if one doesn’t believe that He is God, he’ll die in his sins. There might be someone in your group who does not yet believe.

Encourage them that as they continue in this study, they will learn more of who God is.

EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 7–10
- The first plagues/judgments on Egypt
- Pharaoh

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking your group what they remember as the main events of Exodus 1–6. Direct them to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Exodus 1

Israel multiplied in Egypt; Egyptians feared Israel's number; Israel was afflicted

Exodus 2

Moses was born, spared by God, went to Midian

Exodus 3

God appeared to Moses at Horeb, told him to deliver Israel from Egypt; I AM

Exodus 4

God sent Moses to Egypt

Exodus 5

Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh; more labor for Israel

Exodus 6

LORD's name revealed; Israel didn't listen to Moses; Moses and Aaron's genealogy

EXODUS 7

What is this chapter about?

God sent Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh.

He hardened Pharaoh's heart.

He turned the Nile River to blood.

At this point, you can ask about the events in this chapter paragraph by paragraph.

Verses 1-7

What happened in these verses?

God prepared Moses to go again before Pharaoh.
He told him that He would harden Pharaoh's heart so that He might multiply His signs and wonders in Egypt.

You might ask your group what they learned about Pharaoh before this point in Exodus.

Exodus 3:19-20

God said that Pharaoh would not let Israel go except under compulsion / unless compelled, after God's miracles in Egypt. He prepared Moses ahead of time telling him about Pharaoh.

Exodus 4:21

This is the first time that the Lord said He would harden Pharaoh's heart.

Exodus 5:2

Pharaoh said that he didn't know the Lord. He even asked who He was.
He said that he would not obey the Lord; he would not let the Lord's people Israel go.

How does Romans 9:13-18 relate to this?

There is no injustice with God. Pharaoh didn't know God and refused to obey Him.
He would be justly judged.

God chooses whom He has mercy and compassion on; Pharaoh was not one of them.
He hardens whom He desires; and Pharaoh was one of them.

God raised up Pharaoh to demonstrate His power so that His name would be proclaimed throughout the earth.

Now lead your discussion back to Exodus 7:1-7.

What else did God call the signs and wonders?

Great judgments—judgments on Egypt

The result in verse 5 is that the Egyptians would know that God is the Lord.
He promised again to bring His people Israel out of Egypt.

So Moses and Aaron did what the Lord said.
Aaron was 83, and Moses was 80.

Verses 8-13

What happened in these verses?

Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh and did as the Lord had commanded. Aaron threw down his staff, and it became a serpent. The magicians of Egypt did the same, but Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen. This was "as the Lord had said." The Lord had told Moses that this would happen. God keeps His word.

As your group discusses the plagues, direct them to the chart they completed for a visual aid. Ask about each one and give time for your group to discuss.

Plague #1—Nile River to blood, Exodus 7:14-25

By this Pharaoh was to know that God is the LORD.

Moses struck the water in the Nile with his staff as the Lord had commanded, and all the water that was in the Nile turned to blood. The fish died, and the Egyptians couldn't drink the water.

The magicians did the same.

Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he didn't listen, as the Lord had said.

Seven days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

EXODUS 8

Plague #2—frogs, Exodus 8:1-15

Pharaoh refused to let God's people go, so the Lord sent frogs over the whole territory. Aaron stretched out this hand over the water of Egypt, and frogs came up and covered the land. The magicians did the same.

Pharaoh asked Moses and Aaron to entreat / plead with the Lord that He remove the frogs the next day, saying that he would let the people go. They did and it happened the following day, so that Pharaoh would know that there is no one like the Lord God.

The Lord did according to the word of Moses, showing His grace. But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief / respite, he hardened his heart and did not listen, as the Lord had said.

Plague #3—gnats, Exodus 8:16-19

Pharaoh was not given a warning concerning this plague.

Aaron stretched out his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast.

The magicians could not duplicate this and said, “This is the finger of God.”

But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he didn’t listen, as the Lord had said.

Plague #4—swarms of insects / flies, Exodus 8:20-32

God told Moses to go before Pharaoh and ask him to let His people go. If he did not, God would send swarms of insects / flies on the Egyptians.

God set apart the land of Goshen where the sons of Israel lived, in order that Pharaoh would know that He, the LORD, was in the midst of the land. Then God did as He said He would.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, saying they should go sacrifice within the land, but Moses said it would be an abomination to the Egyptians. They must go three days into the wilderness as the Lord commanded. Pharaoh said they could go, but not very far, and asked that Moses make supplication for him. The Lord removed the swarms of insects / flies, but Pharaoh hardened his heart and did not let the people go.

EXODUS 9

Plague #5—pestilence / plague killed livestock, Exodus 9:1-7

Moses spoke to Pharaoh for God with another advanced warning of a plague, judgment. He refused to let the people go, so the Lord came with a very severe pestilence / plague on the livestock.

But again the Lord made a distinction between the livestock of Israel and of Egypt. Pharaoh found that none of Israel’s livestock had died, but his heart was hardened, and he didn’t let the people go.

Plague #6—boils, Exodus 9:8-12

Moses took soot from a kiln and stood before Pharaoh. He threw it toward the sky, and it became boils breaking out with sores on man and beast.

The magicians were unable to stand before Moses because of the boils.

The Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not listen, just as the Lord had spoken.

Plague #7—hail, Exodus 9:13-35

Moses was to go before Pharaoh early in the morning, telling him that God said to let His people go. This time God would send plagues on Pharaoh and his servants and his people, “so that you may know that there is no one / none like Me in all the earth.” He allowed him to remain, in order to show Pharaoh His power and proclaim His name through all the earth. This relates to Romans 9:13-18.

God would send a very heavy hail, such as had not been seen in Egypt. Man or beast found in the field would die. Some of Pharaoh’s servants feared the word of the Lord and made their servants and livestock flee into the houses. Some paid no regard to the word of the Lord. The Lord sent thunder, severe hail, and fire.

Only in the land of Goshen there was no hail.

Pharaoh said he had sinned, the Lord was the righteous one, and he and his people were wicked / wrong. He asked that Moses make supplication to / plead with the Lord, and he would let them go. Moses told him that as soon as Moses left the city, the thunder and hail would cease, so that “you may know that the earth is the LORD’s.” But Moses also said he knew Pharaoh and his servants did not yet fear the LORD God.

When Pharaoh saw that the rain, hail, and thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants, just as the Lord had spoken.

EXODUS 10

Plague #8—locusts, Exodus 10:1-20

The Lord told Moses to go to Pharaoh. The Lord had hardened Pharaoh’s heart and the hearts of his servants, so that Israel might tell how God made a mockery of / dealt harshly with the Egyptians and performed His signs and wonders. He wanted Israel to know that He is the Lord.

God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh, saying that Pharaoh had refused to humble himself before the Lord. If Pharaoh did not let His people go, then the Lord would bring locusts. Pharaoh’s servants encouraged him to let the people go because they realized that Egypt was destroyed / ruined.

Pharaoh said they could go serve the Lord and asked who would be going. Moses said they all must go, but Pharaoh said not the little ones. So the Lord directed an east wind to bring in locusts. They covered the surface of the whole land and ate every plant and fruit of the trees.

Pharaoh called for Aaron and Moses, saying he had sinned against God and them, and asked for forgiveness and for God to remove this death from him. God did so, but the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he didn’t let the sons of Israel go.

Plague #9—darkness, Exodus 10:21-29

Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh told Moses that they could go serve the Lord, except for the flocks and herds. Moses said they must have sacrifices and burnt offerings. The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.

Ask what your group learned from Deuteronomy 4:23-40.

In this passage, Moses spoke to Israel just before they went into the promised land.

In verse 23, He said to watch themselves, lest they forget the covenant that He made with them and make for themselves a graven / carved image, for the Lord their God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Verses 34-37 remind Israel that God brought them out of Egypt with signs and wonders. He took a nation out of another nation.

In verse 35, Moses told them God did this that they might know that the Lord is God; there is no other god besides Him. This was confirmed when He demonstrated His complete power over the gods of Egypt.

God wants us to know this, too—that the Lord He is God, and there is no other besides Him.

You might ask your group, “Do you know that God is the LORD. Is He your Lord?”

To end your discussion, you might ask what they learned about the Lord.

The Lord is a compassionate God.
He will not fail them.

You can ask how they have experienced God's compassion in their lives.

EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 11–13
- The last plague/judgment on Egypt
- Passover and firstborn

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking your group what they remember as the main events of Exodus 1–10. Direct them to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Exodus 1

Israel multiplied in Egypt; Egyptians feared Israel's number; Israel was afflicted

Exodus 2

Moses was born, spared by God, went to Midian

Exodus 3

God appeared to Moses at Horeb, told him to deliver Israel from Egypt / I AM

Exodus 4

God sent Moses back to Egypt

Exodus 5

Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh; more labor for Israel

Exodus 6

LORD's name revealed; Israel didn't listen to Moses; Moses and Aaron's genealogy

Exodus 7

God sent Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh; God hardened Pharaoh's heart
First plague, judgment: Nile River to blood

Exodus 8

Frogs, gnats, and swarms of insects / flies

Exodus 9

Livestock died, boils and hail

Exodus 10

Locusts and darkness

How does chapter 10 end?

Pharaoh threatened to kill Moses if he saw him again.
His heart was hard, and he refused to let Israel leave Egypt.

EXODUS 11

How does this chapter begin? What is the flow of thought?

Verses 1-3 might have been at a different time, inserted here as an interlude of thought.
Verses 4-8 appear to be the conclusion of the confrontation between Pharaoh and Moses from the end of chapter 10.

You can ask your group to look at their charts on Day One of the lesson as a visual aid to discuss this chapter.

What are verses 1-3 about?

The Lord told Moses He would bring one more plague on Pharaoh and Egypt. After that Pharaoh would drive them out of Egypt completely.

Moses was to tell the people of Israel to ask their Egyptian neighbors for articles of silver and gold. The Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians.

Moses was greatly esteemed in Egypt by Pharaoh's servants and the people of Egypt.

How does Exodus 11:2-3 relate to Exodus 3:21-22?

In Exodus 3, God told Moses that He would grant Israel favor from the Egyptians. Every woman would ask for articles of silver, gold, and clothing, and they would plunder the Egyptians.

Verses 4-8

What are these verses about?

Moses told Pharaoh what God was going to do before it happened.
He would go out into the midst of Egypt at midnight, and all the firstborn in Egypt would die, including Pharaoh's firstborn. Relate this to Exodus 4:22-23.

There would be a great cry in Egypt such as had never been or would be again.

However, not even a dog would bark / growl against Israel.
God wanted Pharaoh to understand His distinction between Egypt and Israel.

Moses also told Pharaoh that his servants would bow before Moses, telling him to go out with the people who followed him.

Verses 9-10

What do these verses summarize?

This seems to summarize all of Exodus 7–10—all of the signs, wonders, and judgments God did in Egypt.

EXODUS 12

Direct your group to the chart they completed on the feasts as a visual aid to discuss chapters 12 and 13.

How does this chapter begin?

The Lord began to tell Moses about the Passover. The month Israel left Egypt was the beginning of months for them. It would be the 1st month of the year.

What were God’s instructions in verses 3-11 concerning the Passover?

On the tenth of the month, they were to take a lamb for each household. If a household was too small, they were to take one with their nearest neighbor. It was to be an unblemished male a year old from the sheep or the goats.

On the fourteenth day of the month, they were to kill the lamb at twilight, then put some of the blood on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses. The flesh was to be eaten that same night, roasted with fire and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They were not to leave any of it until morning. Whatever was left until morning, they were to burn with fire.

They were to eat in haste with their loins girded / belt fastened, sandals on their feet, and staff in hand; it was the Lord’s Passover.

According to verses 12-13, why did God have them do these things?

The Lord was going to go through the land of Egypt on that night and strike down all the firstborn in Egypt, both man and beast. He would execute judgments against the gods of Egypt.

The blood would be a sign. When the Lord saw the blood, He would pass over them when He struck the land of Egypt.

That day would be a memorial. They were to celebrate it as a feast to the Lord, a permanent ordinance, throughout their generations.

Ask what your group learned about the Feast of Unleavened Bread from Exodus 12:15-20. What are the references to time?

They are to eat unleavened bread for seven days. Verse 18 says specifically that in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening until the twenty-first day of the month at evening, they are to eat unleavened bread. The Jewish day begins in the evening.

On the first day they were to remove leaven from the house.

A holy assembly was to take place on the 1st and 7th days. No work was to be done on those days except to prepare food and eat.

Anyone who ate anything leavened during the seven days would be cut off from Israel.

Why were they to observe the feast of unleavened bread?

“On this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt.” Although Israel was in Egypt at that point, God spoke of the event as though it had already happened. God is omniscient. He knows what will happen in the future. He is omnipotent, all-powerful. He will accomplish His plans.

This feast, like the Feast of Passover, was to be a permanent ordinance throughout their generations.

What instructions did Moses give the elders of Israel in verses 21-28, and why?

Take lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover lamb.
Dip hyssop in the blood and put it on the lintel and doorposts.
None should go outside the door until morning.

The Lord would pass through and smite the Egyptians. When He saw the blood, He would pass over the door.

How does 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 relate to this?

Christ our Passover (ESV adds “lamb”) has been sacrificed.

The blood of the Passover lamb that protected Israel from death is a picture of Christ our Passover lamb whose blood saves us from death.

Passover is a sacrifice to the Lord who passed over their houses and spared them when He smote the Egyptians.

According to verses 27-28, how did Israel respond?

The people bowed, worshiped, and did as the Lord commanded.

Their actions indicated that they believed in the power of the Lord and that He would do as He said.

Verses 29-36

What happened in these verses?

At midnight the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt. Relate this to Exodus 4:22-23 and 11:4, 5, and 10.

There was no home where there was not someone dead.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron at night, telling them to go and worship. He told them to take their flocks and herds and to bless him also. The Egyptians also urged them to leave in haste, afraid they would all be dead.

Israel took their dough before it was leavened and their kneading bowls. They also took articles of silver, gold, and clothing for which they had asked from the Egyptians according to Moses' word. Relate this to Exodus 3:21-22.

Verses 37-39

At this point you might use the map in the Appendix as a visual aid.

Where did Israel go?

From Rameses to Succoth

How many people of Israel were there when they left Egypt?

About 600,000 men plus children (ESV—besides women and children)
Compare this with Exodus 1:5. God multiplied His people as He promised.

Who traveled with Israel? Ask what your group learned from Numbers 11 about these people.

A mixed multitude went with them, along with flocks and herds.

Numbers 11:4

They're called "rabble" who had greedy desires.

Verses 40-42

What do you learn about the times mentioned in these verses?

Israel lived in Egypt 430 years, to the day.
God multiplied them greatly in that time.

That very night was to be observed throughout all Israel’s generations, beginning when they got to their promised land.

Verses 43-51

What are these verses about?

This gives more detail about Passover.

No foreigner, sojourner, or hired servant was to eat of it. Slaves or strangers could only eat if they were first circumcised, which applied to the native also.

What was Israel’s response to the Lord?

They did just as the Lord had commanded.

EXODUS 13

What is this chapter about?

Sanctify / consecrate the firstborn
God led His people from Succoth to Etham

Verses 3-10

What do these verses teach about the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

Remember that Israel came out of Egypt, slavery
God brought them out by His powerful / strong hand
Nothing leavened should be eaten

The name of the first month is given in verse 4—Abib
Unleavened bread eaten for 7 days, 7th day a feast to the Lord

They were to tell their sons that it was because of what the Lord had done. It was to be like a sign on their hands and as a reminder / memorial on their foreheads that the Lord’s law would be in their mouths. Then it is repeated that the Lord brought them out of Egypt with a powerful / strong hand.

NOTE: “Abib” is the Canaanite name for the first month. “Nisan” is its Babylonian name, which is still used today. For more information on the Jewish year, a chart entitled “The Jewish Calendar” can be found in the New Inductive Study Bible with Leviticus 23.

Verses 11-16

Ask your group what they learned about the firstborn from these verses and the cross-references in the lesson.

When Israel entered their land, they were to devote / set apart to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb.

Verses 13-15 indicate that the animals were sacrificed to God.

The unclean animals were redeemed—a clean animal was substituted as a sacrifice. The donkey was an unclean animal and had to be redeemed (purchased) with a clean animal like a lamb. If there was no animal to sacrifice in its place, then its neck was broken.

The firstborn of people were redeemed, and a clean animal sacrificed in their place.

This was a reminder that the Lord killed the firstborn of all Egypt, but spared Israel's firstborn.

Exodus 34:18-20 also says to redeem the firstborn male of every womb.

Numbers 3:11-13

God took the Levites from Israel instead of every firstborn. The Levites are from the tribe of Levi.

Numbers 3:40-41 and 8:14-19

Israel was to number every firstborn male from a month old and upward, and make a list of their names. Then they were to take the Levites for the Lord, instead of all the firstborn, and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstborn of Israel's cattle. The Lord took the Levites for Himself instead of the firstborn of all Israel.

The Levites were given to Aaron and his sons, the priests, to serve them in the tabernacle.

Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 1:6 and Revelation 1:5

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. He is the firstborn from the dead.

Most of the time firstborn denotes preeminence, rather than chronology.

Hebrews 12:23

This passage seems to refer to the church or assembly as those who belong to Christ being the firstborn.

Lead your discussion back to Exodus 13:17-22.

What are these verses about? Use the map again while discussing this.

God didn't lead them by way of the land of the Philistines so that they wouldn't change their minds when they saw war. He led them around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea.

Moses took the bones of Joseph with them. He would be buried in the land of promise.

They set out from Succoth and camped in Etham.

The Lord led them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

To end your discussion, you might ask your group what they have learned about God so far in this study—what they have learned about His promises, etc.

EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 14–16

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking your group where Israel was in Exodus 1–12. Direct them to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid. This is the first main segment in Exodus.

Exodus 1–12

Israel multiplied in Egypt, and then God led them out at Passover.

Chapters 7–12 are about the judgments or plagues on Egypt.

Israel went from Rameses to Succoth.

You can direct your group to look at their maps for this review and the rest of the discussion.

What happened in Exodus 13?

God said to redeem the firstborn of Israel.

He led Israel from Succoth to Etham.

God led the people by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea, lest they change their minds and return to Egypt when they saw war. They set out from Succoth and camped on the edge of the wilderness in Etham.

Israel was not ready to go straight into the land God had promised them.

NOTE: Be sure your group understands that no one knows for sure the exact site of some of these locations. Sometimes more than one possibility is shown.

EXODUS 14

What is this chapter about?

Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry land.

The Egyptians followed and were drowned.

The Lord saved Israel that day.

Tell your group to use their storyboard pictures as visual aids for this discussion.

What did the Lord tell Moses in verses 1-4?

He told him where Israel was to camp.
Then He told him what Pharaoh would do—chase after Israel.
Again the Lord told Moses what would happen before it did.

Verses 5-9

What are these verses about?

Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward Israel.
Over 600,000 people who worked without pay had just left the Egyptian work force.

Relate this to verse 4. God had said that He would harden Pharaoh's heart.

Pharaoh took his people, 600 chariots, and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers and chased after Israel and overtook them beside Pi-hahiroth.

Verses 10-14

What happened in these verses?

Israel became frightened and cried out to the Lord. They complained that it would have been better to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.

Moses told them
Don't fear.
Stand by / firm and see the salvation of the Lord.
The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.

Moses put the focus back on the Lord, rather than the circumstances.
God alone is adequate to deliver.

NOTE: The context of the chapter shows that the salvation referred to in verse 13 is salvation from the hand of Pharaoh and the Egyptians, not salvation from sin.

Ask your group where they put their focus in difficult situations.

You might also ask your group if they have seen any progress in Moses' faith since God first called him. Believers also are to be growing in faith, learning to trust God in all things.

Verses 15-18

What did the Lord tell Moses?

Tell Israel to go forward.
Lift up your staff over the sea and divide it.

Israel would go through the sea on dry land.

Three times so far in this chapter it's repeated that the Lord hardened Pharaoh's and the Egyptians' hearts so that they do what He wanted them to do. The result was that they know that He is the Lord—not their being saved, but judged by God.

Verses 19-20

How did the Lord protect Israel?

The angel of God and the pillar of cloud moved and stood behind Israel, between Egypt's camp and Israel's camp, and the cloud gave light at night.

One camp did not come near the other all night.

Verses 21-25

What happened next?

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind so that the waters divided.

Israel went through on dry land, and the Egyptians pursued them into the sea.

At the morning watch, the Lord brought the Egyptian army into confusion, caused the chariot wheels to swerve, and made them drive with difficulty.

The Egyptian army realized that the Lord was fighting for Israel.
Relate this to verse 14.

Verses 26-29

What did Moses do next?

He stretched out his hand so that the waters came back over the sea.
The Lord overthrew Pharaoh's entire army in the sea; not one of them remained.
God's deliverance from the Egyptians was complete.

Verses 30-31

How does this chapter conclude?

The Lord saved Israel, and Israel saw the great power of the Lord, feared Him, and believed in Him and His servant Moses.

Give time for your group to discuss any personal application from this chapter.

EXODUS 15

What is this chapter about?

Moses and Israel sang a song to the Lord. Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, and the other women went out with timbrels and dancing.

Ask your group if there have been times when they have seen what God has done—have seen His power—and they just can't help but praise Him. Praise and worship of God are a part of the believer's life.

Verses 1-18

Let them share some of the things they saw about God in the song in these verses. It is not necessary that they mention everything in the song. Ask them if they remember a time when God delivered them in some way, perhaps by leading them through a difficult circumstance.

Who are verses 14-18 about?

The people, other nations, heard and trembled.

Philistia

Edom

Edom descended from Esau and is southern Jordan.

Moab

descendants of Lot and his youngest daughter. Moab was just north of Edom.

All the inhabitants of Canaan melted away. Terror and dread fell on them.

Israel is the people He purchased.

Verses 17-18 are prophetic.

God will bring Israel to the mountain of His inheritance, the place He made for His dwelling / abode—His sanctuary.

He will reign forever.

Not only did Egypt see that He is the Lord, but others heard of what God did for His people Israel. Ask your group if others have seen and heard of what God has done in their lives. Ask how it is an encouragement to them to see and hear what God has done in the lives of others.

Verses 19-21

Who was Miriam according to verse 20, and what did she do?

Aaron's and Moses' sister, a prophetess

She led the women with timbrels and dancing before the Lord.

He is highly exalted.

Verses 22-27

Where did Israel go, and what were their circumstances?

They went three days in the wilderness and found no water.
Then they came to Marah, but couldn't drink the bitter waters there.

How did they respond?

The people grumbled at Moses the second time after leaving Egypt.

Moses cried out to the Lord.
The Lord showed him a tree / log, and he threw it into the waters, and they became sweet.

God tested them there.
He showed and told them that He is their healer.
His requirement for them was to heed what He said.

Then they came to Elim where there were 12 springs of water and 70 date palms.
They camped there beside the waters.

How did Israel's response contrast with Moses' response?

Israel grumbled.
Moses went to the Lord for help.

How does Philippians 2:14-16 relate to this? Give time for your group to discuss application.

Paul wrote to believers and said to do all things without grumbling or disputing / questioning.

This is to prove ourselves to be God's children.
This sets believers apart as lights to the world.

Israel had just celebrated the victory of God over the Egyptians. They had called Him their strength, their salvation, a warrior, majestic in power, and had spoken of His lovingkindness toward them.

Then, when tested, they grumbled.

EXODUS 16

How does this chapter begin?

Israel went from Elim to the wilderness of Sin.

It was the 15th day of the 2nd month after their departure from Egypt.

What happened in this chapter?

Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron, saying they would rather have died at the hand of the Lord in Egypt where they had food.

Relate this to 15:22-26 when they grumbled at the bitter waters of Marah.

Again, they did not trust the Lord to be their provider.

Since the Lord is in control over circumstances, their grumbling was against Him.

Verses 4-12

What are these verses about?

The Lord told Moses He would rain bread from heaven for them.

The people were to go out and gather a day's portion every day, so that God could test them as to whether or not they would walk in His instruction / law. On the sixth day they were to gather twice as much.

Then Moses and Aaron told them that they'd know God is the Lord in the evening when He gave them meat to eat. Then in the morning, they'd see His glory when He gave them bread from heaven.

Moses told Israel that they grumbled against God Himself, not Moses and Aaron.

As Aaron spoke, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses saying that they would eat meat at twilight and be filled with bread in the morning; and they would know that He is the Lord their God.

You might ask your group if they have seen God provide—even when they grumble.

At this point, ask what they learned from the cross-references about manna.

Deuteronomy 8:3—The Lord fed Israel with manna to make them understand that man doesn't live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

Joshua 5:12—The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land.

Matthew 4:4—When being tempted by the devil, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3.

John 6:30-35, 47-58

The manna was a picture of Jesus, the true bread out of heaven. The Father gave Him, and whoever comes to Him will not hunger.

Jesus is the bread of life. The fathers ate manna in the wilderness and died. Jesus is the bread out of heaven. Whoever eats of Him will live forever. The bread Jesus gave for the life of the world was His flesh.

John 6 tells how someone can live forever. Ask your group if they have eternal life. Have they eaten of Jesus, the bread of life?

Lead your discussion back to Exodus 16:13-36.

At evening, quail covered the camp. In the morning, there was a fine, flake-like thing on the ground—their bread for the day, and they named it manna, meaning, “What is it?”

They were to gather enough for one day and leave none of it until morning. Some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul / stank.

On the sixth day they were to gather twice as much, because the seventh day was the sabbath, holy to the Lord. They were to rest.

Some went out on the seventh day to gather but found no manna. The Lord asked, “How long do / will you refuse to keep My commandments and instructions / my laws?”

The Lord commanded that an omerful of the manna be kept throughout their generations, so that they could see the bread He fed them with in the wilderness. Aaron was to put it in a jar and place it before the Lord.

Israel ate the manna forty years, until they came to the border of Canaan.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they’re learning about the Lord and His provision for His people.

EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 17–18

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking your group where Israel was in Exodus 1–12. Direct them to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid. This is the first main segment in Exodus.

Exodus 1–12

Israel multiplied in Egypt, and then God led them out at Passover.

Chapters 7–12 are about the judgments or plagues on Egypt.

The Lord led Israel from Rameses to Succoth.

You can direct your group to look at their maps for this review and the rest of the discussion.

In this next segment, what happened to Israel?

Exodus 13–16

He told them to sanctify the firstborn among them.

When Egyptians followed them, He drowned them in the sea.

Israel crossed on dry land.

They praised the Lord for their deliverance, then grumbled when He tested them.

In these chapters, Israel journeyed from Succoth to the wilderness of Sin.

EXODUS 17

What is this chapter about?

God brought water from a rock; Joshua, Israel defeated Amalek

Verses 1-7

How does the chapter begin?

Israel journeyed / moved by stages from the wilderness of Sin and camped at Rephidim.

They were following the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.

There was no water to drink at Rephidim.

Again, they quarreled with Moses which he said was testing the Lord.

You might ask your group why Israel should not have grumbled about the water.

God had led them into a similar circumstance at Marah, and had provided for them sweet water instead of bitter.

In the wilderness of Sin they had no food, but God provided manna and quail. They should have been asking the Lord for water, knowing He was their provider.

Ask your group if they go to the Lord when they have a need. Have they experienced the provision of God in their own lives? Do they ever forget what He has done for them?

Where had the Lord tested Israel previously in Exodus?

At Marah and in the wilderness of Sin, the Lord tested the people to see whether or not they would walk in His instruction.

At Rephidim Israel tested, or tried, the Lord. Verse 7 says they tested the Lord, questioning, “Is the Lord among us, or not?”

How did Israel respond to Moses?

They grumbled against Moses, again asking why he had brought them up from Egypt to kill them. They demanded Moses give them water, rather than looking to God to provide.

What was Moses’ response? What was his pattern of response when he was faced with the peoples’ grumbling over their circumstances?

Moses cried out to the Lord and asked what he should do to the people. He knew that the Lord was the one he should go to when he faced a difficult situation.

Exodus 5:15–6:9

Moses went to the Lord when Pharaoh put more work on Israel, and they blamed Moses for it. God revealed His name “LORD” to Moses then. He told Moses what He was going to do regarding Israel and Pharaoh.

Exodus 14:10-21

When Israel became frightened at the Red Sea saying they’d rather have been in Egypt than die in the wilderness, Moses put the focus on the Lord as he told the people not to fear but to stand and see the salvation of the Lord. Then he followed God’s instructions.

Exodus 15:22-26

When the people grumbled because they could not drink the bitter waters of Marah, Moses cried out to the Lord and followed the Lord’s instructions.

Exodus 16:2-9

When the people grumbled because they were hungry, Moses listened to the Lord and gave the people the Lord’s instructions.

Each time Moses went to the Lord and was obedient to what He commanded. As their leader, he went to God asking what to do concerning the people.

According to Exodus 17:5-6, how did the Lord provide for their needs?

Moses was to strike the rock at Horeb and water would come out for the people to drink. Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about the rock.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

They were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.

John 7:37-39

Jesus called the thirsty to come and drink. His Spirit is rivers of living water.

Numbers 20:1-13

When Israel was in the wilderness of Zin, they again contended with Moses because there was no water. The Lord told Moses to take the rod and speak to the rock. Instead Moses struck the rock twice with his rod. Because of that, Moses was not the one who led Israel into the promised land. At that incident he did not treat the Lord as holy in the peoples' sight.

Lead your discussion back to Exodus 17:7.

What did Moses name the place?

Moses named the place Massah, testing¹ and Meribah, strife or contention.²

Give your group time to discuss personal application.

Verses 8-16

What are these verses about?

Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim.

Moses told Joshua to choose men to fight Amalek.

Moses stationed himself / stood on the top of the hill with the staff of God in his hand. When he held his hand up, Israel prevailed. When he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed.

Moses sat on a stone, and Aaron and Hur supported his hands until the sun set.

Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people.

¹Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003, c2002). H4532.

²R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999, c1980). 845.

Once again, in this passage, Moses' staff was mentioned. Ask your group what they learned about how the staff was used.

Moses and Aaron used the staff to perform the Lord's signs and wonders in Egypt.

God made it clear that the staff was merely an instrument, as were Moses and Aaron. The power to do the signs and wonders came from Him.

What were the Lord's instructions to Moses after the battle?

The Lord told Moses to write it in a book and recite to Joshua that He would utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.

Ask your group what they learned in Deuteronomy 25:17-19 that gives further insight.

Deuteronomy says that Amalek attacked stragglers at the rear of Israel when they were faint and weary, and he did not fear God.

What did Moses do?

Moses built an altar, and named it The LORD is My Banner.
He said that the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation.

Ask your group if they know the Lord as their Banner—the one they should look to who can lead them through the battles of life and will fight for them.

EXODUS 18

What is this chapter about?

Jethro and Moses; judges were selected to help Moses

Verses 1-12

What happened in these verses?

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law had heard of all that God had done for Moses and Israel.

NOTE: Jethro was a Midianite. Midian was a son of Abraham and Keturah, his second wife (Genesis 25:1-2).

Show on the map the relationship of Mount Horeb or Sinai, and Midian to Rephidim. You might ask your group where Moses was when God first spoke to him at the burning bush.

When God first spoke to Moses, he was at Mount Horeb (Mount Sinai) watching his father-in-law's flocks.

In Exodus 18 he was in that same area. It is logical that Jethro would have gone to meet Moses there because it was close enough to his home for his flocks to be taken.

What does this text say about Moses' family?

Moses had sent his wife Zipporah and their two sons to Jethro.

Moses had named his sons Gershom, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land," and Eliezer, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh."

After hearing about what God had done, Jethro came with Moses' wife and sons to the wilderness where Moses was camped at the mount of God.

Moses told his father-in-law all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had befallen Israel on the journey, and how the Lord had delivered them. Jethro had heard about what God had done, but he was getting a first-hand account from Moses.

How did Jethro respond?

He rejoiced over all the goodness which the Lord had done to Israel in delivering them.

He blessed the Lord who had delivered them.

He said that he now knew that the Lord is greater than all the gods.

He worshiped the Lord and made an offering.

Ask your group if they have shared with someone what God has done in their lives. It might cause someone to rejoice over the goodness of the Lord and to worship Him.

Verses 13-27

What are the main points of these verses?

Moses sat from morning until evening judging the people.

When they had a dispute, he told them the statutes and laws of the Lord for that situation.

Moses' father-in-law told him he could not continue to do this alone and counseled him to teach the statutes and laws to the people.

He should also select able men to place over others as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and tens.

These men should fear God and be men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain.

They would judge the people and only major disputes / great matters would be brought to Moses.

Moses listened to his father-in-law.

Give your group time to discuss application to end this discussion.

EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 19–20
- The Ten Commandments

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking your group about the main segments in Exodus 1–18. Direct them to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Exodus 1–12

Israel multiplied in Egypt, and then God led them out at Passover.

Chapters 7–12 are about the judgments or plagues on Egypt.

The Lord led Israel from Rameses to Succoth.

You can direct your group to look at their maps for this review and the rest of the discussion.

In this next segment, what happened to Israel?

Exodus 13–18

When Egypt followed Israel, God drowned them in the Red Sea.

Israel crossed on dry land.

They praised the Lord for their deliverance, then grumbled when He tested them.

God provided water from a rock, manna from heaven and quail for Israel.

They defeated Amalek when attacked.

Jethro gave Moses good advice about judges for the people.

In these chapters, Israel journeyed from Succoth to Mount Sinai.

EXODUS 19

Verses 1-2

How does this chapter begin?

It was the 3rd month after Israel came out of Egypt, and the Lord led them to camp in front of Mount Sinai.

Exodus 17:6 speaks of them being at Horeb, which is the same place as Mount Sinai.

Verses 3-6

What are these verses about?

The Lord told Moses to remind Israel that they saw what He did to the Egyptians and how He bore them on eagles' wings and brought them to Himself. This was a reminder that He was their deliverer.

God then presented conditions for them to be the holy nation which He desired.

If they obeyed His voice and kept His covenant, they would be His own possession, to Him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

In these verses it also says that all the earth is His.

Give time for your group to discuss how, in Exodus 1–18, the Lord demonstrated that the earth is His. Also ask them how that fact relates to them.

Verses 7-9

What are these verses about?

The people said they would do all the Lord commanded.

The Lord Himself was to come in a thick cloud so that the people could hear when He spoke.

Verses 10-15

Then what happened?

Moses was going back and forth between the Lord and the people of Israel.

The Lord was going to come down and speak to the people; therefore, they needed to be consecrated and ready to meet Him on the third day. They were even to abstain from sexual intimacy as an act of purifying or consecrating themselves.

Moses set bounds for the people so they would not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it. The penalty would be death.

Verses 16-25

What happened in these verses?

Israel was ready to meet God.

There was thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud on the mountain, and a very loud trumpet sounded, so that the people trembled.

Moses brought them to meet God at the foot of the mountain.

The Lord came down on Mount Sinai in fire, there was smoke like a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.

Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. Then God called Moses to the top of the mountain, and he went up.

Discuss what warning is repeated in verses 21 and 24.

The people were not to break through to look at the Lord.

The people of Israel were not to approach God.

Give time for your group to discuss any application from this chapter.

EXODUS 20

What is this chapter about?

The Ten Commandments

Both Exodus 34:28 and Deuteronomy 4:13 state the name of these commandments.

Verses 1-2

What did the Lord first speak to His people?

He reminded them that He was the one who brought them out of Egypt, out of slavery.

Verses 3-17

What are the Ten Commandments? Discuss cross-references also.

You can list each as your group discusses them.

1. You shall have no other gods before Me, verse 3

Israel had just come out of a nation which had numerous gods that they worshiped. You might also discuss how this applies to different current societies.

The Lord had demonstrated Who He is and what He is capable of when He brought them out of Egypt. Why would they worship someone or something else?

Isaiah 42:8

God will not give His glory to another, nor His praise to graven / carved images.

John 1:1-2, 14

Jesus is God. When He became flesh, man saw God's glory in Him. The Lord Jesus Christ received the glory from the Father. He is to be worshiped as God.

2. You shall not make for yourself an idol / a carved image or likeness. You shall not worship / bow down or serve them, verses 4-6.

Israel only saw fire and smoke when God spoke from the mountain.

Deuteronomy 4:15-18 says that they didn't see any form.

The Lord God is a jealous God. This is the first place He says that He is jealous. He demands devotion exclusively. Exodus 34 says His name is Jealous.

The Lord visits iniquity on even the 4th generation of those who hate Him.

Deuteronomy 24:16 says clearly that each will pay for his own sins.

Exodus and Numbers both teach that the guilty will not go unpunished for his own sins.

This visiting of iniquity on generations is more like the results of a father's sins on his children. Family sins are passed down to generations. Those who hate God pass that on to their children. But if someone loves God, then that's what is passed on to generations.

He shows lovingkindness / steadfast love to thousands, to those who love and obey Him.

This scope is greater than a few generations. The pattern of a father does not have to continue in his children. Salvation breaks the sin patterns of families.

Discuss the father's responsibility from Deuteronomy 6:4-12.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Teach constantly; be diligent to teach His words to your sons—when you sit, when you walk, when you lie down, when you rise up. Bind them on your hand and forehead. Watch yourself, lest you forget the Lord.

Give time for your group to discuss any application of the first two commandments.

Colossians 3:1-6

Greed amounts to idolatry and, along with other sins brings God's wrath on people.

3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, verse 7

God's name encompasses who He is.

Exodus 3:13-15

God said, "I AM WHO I AM."

Exodus 6:2-8

He said He is the LORD, Jehovah. Israel experienced Him as Jehovah, their Deliverer.

So, what does it mean to take the LORD's name in vain?

It means to misuse it, treating His name, and therefore, His character, power, authority, and teaching, as empty and worthless. This could be done by using His name as profanity. It could be using it as part of meaningless repetition in "prayer."

Some take His name in vain when they honor Him with their lips, but their hearts and lives do not bear witness to what they say.

Deuteronomy 28:58-59

Obedience is honoring His name.

4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy, verses 8-11

The seventh day of the week is the Lord's sabbath, and He commanded Israel not to do any work on that day. The Lord made the heavens and the earth in six days, then rested on the seventh. He blessed the sabbath and made it holy.

The Lord made this seventh day, Saturday not Sunday, a holy day set apart from the other six days of the week. This was because of what He did on the seventh day of creation.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

The sabbath should also cause Israel to remember that they were slaves in Egypt, and the Lord brought them out by a mighty hand.

5. Honor your father and your mother, verse 12

There is a promise connected to this command.

Long life or long life for Israel in the land of promise

Exodus 21:15, 17

In the next chapter in Exodus God said that anyone who strikes or curses his father or mother will be put to death.

Deuteronomy 27:16

Cursed is anyone who dishonors his father or mother.

Ezekiel 22:6-15

As a result of treating their parents lightly, Israel was scattered among the nations, dispersed through the lands / countries, rather than their days being prolonged in the land.

Matthew 15:3-9

Jesus quoted this commandment to those who broke it. They were hypocrites whose lips honored the Lord, but whose hearts were far from Him.

Ephesians 6:1-3

The commandment is restated for the church.

Ephesians 3:14-15

This says that all families derive their names from God the Father.
Honoring parents is honoring Him.

How can the first four commandments be categorized?

These are toward God.

What are the last six about?

These are toward man.

6. You shall not murder, verse 13

“Murder” means “To kill a human being, murder, slay, commit manslaughter; to destroy, crush.”¹

Genesis 1:26-27

Man was created in God’s image. Murdering someone made in God’s image is a terrible sin.

Genesis 9:5-6

God says that whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed.

7. You shall not commit adultery, verse 14

Adultery is “sexual intercourse with the wife or betrothed of another man.”²

Genesis 20:1-9

God kept Abimelech from sinning against Him when he took Abraham’s wife Sarah.

Genesis 39:1, 6-9

Potiphar’s wife asked Joseph to lie with her, and he described adultery as a great evil and a sin against God.

Adultery or fornication was dealt with in one of two ways for Israel.

If the people were unmarried, then they married, Exodus 22:16-17.

If they were adulterous, then they were stoned to death, Deuteronomy 22:22-30.

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), H7523, p. 2367.

² R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999, c1980). 542, citing L. Koehler and W. Baumgartner, *Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros*, 2nd ed., Eng.-Ger., 1958.

Discuss what your group thinks about that.

8. You shall not steal, verse 15

Don't take for self what belongs to another. Relate this to what greed amounts to, Colossians 3:5.

9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor, verse 16

Don't lie about another person.

10. You shall not covet, verse 17

To covet is "to desire, take pleasure in."³
This is wanting something that belongs to another.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

We brought nothing into the world, so we can't take anything out of it.

We are to be content with food and covering.

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

The love of money is a root of evil.

You might ask your group if they are content with what they have.

Verses 18-26

What happened after God spoke?

They trembled and were afraid they would die if God spoke to them again.

Moses told them God had come in order to test them, and in order that the fear of Him might remain with them, so that they might not sin.

The Lord reiterated that they were to have no other gods besides Him. They were not to make for themselves gods of silver or gold, which they had acquired from the Egyptians.

He had taken Israel out of a pagan, idolatrous nation, and was bringing them into a land that had the same. They needed to be careful to be holy, set apart from the nations.

Deuteronomy 7:1-6

When the Lord brings Israel to the land, they're to utterly destroy the nations there.

They're not to intermarry or give their daughters and sons to marry them. The nations will turn their sons from following the Lord to serve other gods. Israel should tear down the altars of those people, smash their pillars.

³Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). H2530.

Deuteronomy 4–6

Moses again gave the commandments when the Lord was about to take them into their land. He reminded them of hearing the Lord's voice speak. They were to teach these words to their children when they lived in their own land.

Discuss the altar and specifics about it. Why no cut stones?

This would profane it.

Ask your group what they learned about God from these chapters. Let them share how it relates to their lives on a day-to-day basis.

To end this discussion ask what they learned from the cross-references about believers and how they are to relate to the Law.

Matthew 5:17-20

Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it.

Whoever annuls one of the commandments shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever keeps them shall be called great.

Romans 8:3-4

Jesus condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in those who walk according to the Spirit. This shows how righteousness can surpass that of the scribes and the Pharisees.

1 John 3:4-10

Practicing sin is practicing lawlessness, and the one who does this is of the devil. The one who practices righteousness is righteous. No one who is born of God practices sin.

Romans 13:8-10

Love is the fulfillment of the law.

Loving another prevents a person from murdering, stealing, coveting, lying about that one, etc. Loving God prevents idolatry.

So the believer has a righteous lifestyle, fulfilling the Law by walking in the Spirit.

EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 21–24
- Ordinances / rules
- Covenant

REVIEW

As you begin, you might briefly review the main segments of Exodus 1–20. Use the At a Glance chart as a visual aid to do this.

Exodus 1–12

Israel multiplied in Egypt, and then God led them out at Passover.

Chapters 7–12 are about the judgments or plagues on Egypt.

Exodus 13–18

God led Israel from Egypt to Mount Sinai

Exodus 19–20

At Mount Sinai God spoke the Ten Commandments to the people.

You can ask what Exodus 21–23 are about.

These chapters are about the ordinances / rules the Lord gave to Moses for Israel.
This is another segment in Exodus.

How do these chapters relate to the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20?

The ordinances / rules of Exodus 21–23 expand on the Ten Commandments.

NOTE: You might discuss Exodus 21–23 by categories of ordinances / rules instead of going into too much detail on each of them separately.

EXODUS 21

Verses 1-11

What are these verses about?

Hebrew slaves

When a Hebrew slave was bought, he was to serve six years, but on the seventh he would go out a free man, just as they were to rest on the seventh day after six days of working.

If a slave loved his master, he could serve him permanently.

NOTE: There is not enough information in these verses for a complete discussion on slavery. This only says how Israel was to deal with the slaves in their possession.

Daughters who were sold as slaves by their fathers were not set free as were male slaves in the 7th year. It appears from the text that these women were taken as wives by the one who bought them. Therefore, they were treated with fairness, but not set free automatically.

Verses 12-27

What is this section about?

One person striking another

What are some of the situations?

Verse 12 is about a man striking another so that he died.
Relate this to the meaning of “murder” from Lesson 7.

Exodus 20:13, the sixth commandment, says, “You shall not murder.”
The penalty was death—a life for a life.

Verses 12-17 mention several sins for which the penalty is death.

murder, striking a parent, kidnapping, cursing a parent

Verses 18-27 are situations where there is bodily injury and no death penalty.

injury as a result of quarrel, striking a slave, striking a woman with child,
permanent injury of a slave

Verses 28-36

What are these situations about? Discuss the justice of the penalties.

Goring by an ox
Animal falling into an open pit
One ox hurting another so that it dies

Let your group discuss briefly how these ordinances / rules could help nations if they were implemented into societies. What might happen to crime rates?

EXODUS 22

Verses 1-13

What are these ordinances / rules about?

Stealing

Relate this to Exodus 20:15, “You shall not steal.”

Restitution is to be made for what’s stolen or damaged.

Verses 14-15

What else required restitution?

Property damage of something borrowed

You can give time here to discuss application.

People are to take responsibility for their actions. God says to make restitution.

Verses 16-31

What are these verses about?

Sexual sins

A sorceress

Sacrificing to another god

Wronging a stranger / sojourner

Afflicting / mistreating widows and orphans

Interest on lending, a cloak as a pledge

Cursing God or rulers

Delaying of offerings, giving to God what belongs to Him

Eating torn flesh

EXODUS 23

Verses 1-9

What are these ordinances / rules?

Laws of justice

False report, malicious witness, perverting justice, partiality, bribes

Verses 10-19

What are these verses about?

Religious ordinances / rules:

Sabbath for the land and the people, other gods, feasts to be celebrated, sacrifices, first fruits, boiling a kid

Verses 14-17 say that three times a year Israel was to celebrate a feast to the Lord.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is connected with Passover in the first month.
The Feast of Harvest or Weeks (Pentecost) was to be in the third month.
The Feast of the Ingathering or Tabernacles (Booths) was in the seventh month.

Verses 20-33

What was the Lord's provision and Israel's responsibility?

God was going to send an angel to guard them and bring them to the place He had prepared. They were to obey His voice and not be rebellious.

What are the conditions and promises?

If they obeyed, God would be an enemy to their enemies. His angel would go before them and bring them into the land, and God would completely destroy the people of the land.

They were not to worship the gods of the land, but overthrow them and serve the Lord.

God would bless their bread and water and remove sickness from their midst. He would drive out the people of the land, not in a single year, but little by little, until they became fruitful and took possession of the land. God told where He would fix their boundaries.

They were to make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land or their gods.
Israel was not to let the inhabitants of the land of Canaan live with them in the land.
Israel might be snared into worship of their gods.

When would many of the ordinances become applicable for Israel? When would they have vineyards and grain and sow their fields?

When Israel entered the land God had promised them.

EXODUS 24

What is this chapter about?

This is about the covenant between the Lord and Israel.

The people agreed to obey what the Lord said in Exodus 20–23.

Verses 1-2

How does this chapter begin?

God invited Moses, Aaron and his sons, and 70 elders to come up to Him.

Moses was the only one who was to come near to the Lord, but the others were to worship at a distance (ESV—from afar).

Verses 3-8

What happened in these verses?

Moses recounted to the people camped at the bottom of the mountain the words of the Lord and the ordinances / rules (Exodus 20–23). They said they would do all that the Lord had spoken.

Moses wrote all of the Lord’s words, called “the book of the covenant” in verse 7.

Early in the morning he built an altar at the foot of mountain.
It had 12 pillars for the 12 tribes of Israel.

He sent young men to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings.

Moses put half of the blood from the sacrifices in basins, and sprinkled the other half on the altar.

He then read the book of the covenant, the Lord’s words that he had written, so that the people heard it.

They said that they would do and obey all that the Lord had spoken.

Moses then sprinkled the blood of the covenant on the people.

The Lord made a covenant with the sons of Israel.

“Made,” *karath*, means “to cut.”¹

“Covenant,” *beriyth*, means “alliance; pledge.”²

Relate this to Hebrews 9:18-20.

This was the old covenant, the law, the first covenant.

The Lord God told Israel through Moses what was expected of them if He was to be their God. Moses read all of the Law for them to hear, and they agreed to do it.

¹James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). H3772.

²James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996). H1285.

He sprinkled the book of the Law, the book of the covenant, which he had written at the command of the Lord, and he sprinkled the people with the blood of the sacrifices.

The blood of the covenant was on them and on the Law. A covenant had been made. Israel agreed to obey the commands of the Lord.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Moses was a prophet who spoke all that God commanded.

He said that God would raise up a prophet like him from Israel.

That Prophet was the Lord Jesus Christ Who made the New Covenant.

Hebrews 3:1-6

Jesus and Moses were compared.

Both were faithful to God Who appointed them.

Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later. Christ was faithful as a Son over His house.

One house, Israel . . . old covenant

Christ's house, the church . . . new covenant

Lead your discussion back to Exodus 24.

Verses 9-11

What is this about?

Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up and saw God. They ate and drank.

When a covenant was made, it was common to partake of a covenant meal. Ask your group what they learned about the covenant meals mentioned in the cross-references.

Genesis 26:26-31

Abimelech and Isaac made a covenant not to do one another harm. They had a feast and ate and drank; then exchanged oaths in the morning.

Genesis 31:43-54

Laban and Jacob made a covenant. They set up a heap and a pillar as a witness. Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and then called his kinsmen to a meal.

Matthew 26:26-29

At the Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus broke bread, saying that it was His body which they were to eat. He gave them a cup telling them to drink from it because it was His blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. Jesus' blood is the blood of the New Covenant.

Give time to discuss personal application.

Then lead the discussion back to the text of Exodus 24.

Verses 12-18

What happened in these verses?

The Lord told Moses to come up to Him on the mountain.

He would give Moses the stone tablets He had written with the law and commandment.

Evidently the Lord wrote the commandments, and Moses had written the ordinances / rules, the book of the law or covenant before going up on the mountain.

Moses took Joshua and went up to the mountain
The elders were to wait for them to return.
Aaron and Hur were put in charge to deal with legal matters.

The glory of the Lord rested on Mt. Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days.

On the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from the midst of the cloud.
The glory of the Lord appeared to Israel like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

Moses entered the cloud and was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

To end this discussion, you might ask your group to review what Israel had seen God do since Egypt.

These people of Israel witnessed the glory of the Lord in a way that had their full attention, their reverence and fear. It was an awesome experience.

As a result, they agreed to a covenant of obedience to His laws.

They had been rescued by Him only a short while before from slavery in Egypt.

They had seen Him drown the Egyptian army when they came after them.

God is an awesome Lord Who can and will do anything to bring about His will; He has given commands for His people to obey.

Discuss with your group what they have learned about Him during this Exodus study, what they have learned about how He dealt with Israel, how He deals with New Covenant believers, etc.

19 To Sinai

20 Ten Commandments

21–23 Ordinances

24 God made covenant with Israel

Moses recounted Lord's words

All Lord says we'll do

Moses wrote words

Blood on altar, book, people

All Lord says we'll do

Moses, Aaron and sons, 70 elders went up, saw God

Moses with Joshua up to mountain

Moses entered cloud—40 days and nights

EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 9

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 25–31
- The tabernacle and the priests

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking your group about the main segments in Exodus 1–31. Direct them to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Exodus 1–12

Israel multiplied in Egypt, and then God led them out at Passover.

Chapters 7–12 are about the judgments or plagues on Egypt.

Exodus 13–18

God led Israel from Egypt to Mount Sinai.

Exodus 19–31

These are the events at Mount Sinai.

God spoke the Ten Commandments to the people in chapter 20.

He gave His ordinances / rules to Moses, chapters 21–23.

Exodus 24 is the covenant.

Where was Moses and for how long at the end of Exodus 24?

The Lord had called him up to Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights.

So this is when and where Exodus 25 took place.

EXODUS 25

Ask your group what they wrote on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

Probably something like:

Ark, mercy seat, table, and lampstand

Verses 1-9

What are these verses about? Use the chart on Days One and Two as a visual aid.

God told Moses to raise a contribution for Him from Israel, from every man whose heart moved him.

This was to be a voluntary contribution taken from the wealth of Egypt.
Compare this with Exodus 3:21-22; 12:35-36.

Before leaving Egypt the women of Israel asked their Egyptian neighbors for silver, gold, and clothing. The Lord had given them favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so they gave them their requests.

It would be used for the construction of the tabernacle or sanctuary, where God would dwell among His people.

Tabernacle comes from the word meaning “to dwell.”
It’s a place where God dwells.
Sanctuary is a place set apart, holy.

This was to be a moveable tent which would travel with Israel in the wilderness until God brought them to the land He had promised them.

The contribution was to be made up of gold, silver, and bronze. Materials of blue, purple, and scarlet, as well as fine linen and goat hair would be taken. Skins of rams and porpoise, acacia wood, oil, and spices would be used for the tabernacle and worship. Onyx and setting stones for the breastpiece and the ephod were also to be contributed.

God told Israel when they were still in Egypt to ask the Egyptians for these things, and then He asked for His people to give them for the construction of His tabernacle where He would dwell with them.

At this point, you might give your group time to discuss any application.

How does Hebrews 7:22–8:5 relate to this?

God also told Moses the exact details of what and how to build for His dwelling.
He gave a pattern for the tabernacle / tent and its furniture.
It was to serve as a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.
The Lord pitched the true tabernacle in heaven. This one would be pitched by man.

Lead your discussion back to Exodus 25. Tell your group to look at their diagrams in the lesson as visual aids.

Verses 10-22

What are these verses about? Discuss the cross-references at relevant points.

The Ark and The Mercy Seat

The ark was to be made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold. One cubit was approximately 18 inches, so the ark was to be a little over 2 feet high and wide, and 45 inches long.

They were to also construct a mercy seat with two gold cherubim placed on top of the ark. God said that this was where He would meet with Moses and where He would speak all that He would give in commandments for Israel.

Hebrews 9:4 and Exodus 25:16 tell what was to be in the ark.

The testimony God gave to Moses or the tables of the covenant

Aaron's rod that budded (Hebrews)

A golden jar of manna (Hebrews)

Hebrews 9:7 says that only the priest went into Holy of Holies, where the ark and the mercy seat were, once a year with blood to offer for his sins and the sins of the people.

This ark would be transported by carrying it with the poles, as would most of the other pieces of furniture in the tabernacle.

The ark would contain the commandments of God, what He required of His people, what they had agreed to do, what they had covenanted with Him.

The mercy seat was to cover the commandments.

God has a standard of righteousness for His people, but He is also merciful.

Verses 23-30

What was the next article to be made for the tabernacle?

The Table of Showbread / Bread of the Presence

The Lord told Moses to make a table of acacia wood and overlay it with gold. This came to be called the table of showbread. It was to be positioned before the Lord.

Exodus 25:30 mentions the bread of the "Presence," or literally, "Face."¹ This again speaks of God's presence in His tabernacle, His sanctuary.

John 6:51

Jesus said that He is the living bread that came down out of heaven, the bread that was given for the life of the world. Men need bread to live.

Ask your group if they have eaten the bread of life.

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Ex 25:30) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

Verses 31-40

What article is next?

The Lampstand

It was to have 7 branches which would burn and give light in the tabernacle.
It was to be made of pure gold according to the pattern shown Moses on the mountain.

This was to be in the tabernacle outside of the Holy of Holies (ESV—Most Holy Place) in the holy place with the bread and altar of incense.

Jesus said that He is the light of the world, John 1:9; 8:12, and Revelation 4:5 mentions the seven Spirits or the seven-fold Spirit of God as being lamps before the throne of God in heaven.

Light is also necessary for life and to see the way of life.

There will be no need for sun or moon in the New Jerusalem. The glory of God has illumined the city and its lamp is the Lamb, Revelation 21:22-23.

EXODUS 26

What are verses 1-30 about?

The curtains and boards and bars for hanging them
This was for the tent / the tabernacle.

Refer your group to the drawing of the tabernacle as a visual aid for this.

What is described in verses 31-37?

The Veil

It was to be between the two rooms or holy places of the sanctuary. The veil would separate God's presence at the ark from the outer holy place with the lampstand, bread, and altar of incense.

The veil would separate man from the holy God.

Hebrews 10:19-20

Jesus' flesh was the reality of the veil, torn for us to enter into God's presence by His blood.

Matthew 27:51

The veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died.

John 14:6

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.

EXODUS 27

What is described in this chapter?

The Bronze Altar, verses 1-8

It was to be for the offerings and sacrifices before the Lord. It would be in the outer court before entering the holy place.

This was a large altar about four and a half feet high, about seven and a half feet wide and long, with a grate on the top.

Hebrews 10:10-12 says that the priests stand daily offering sacrifices which can never take away sin.

Jesus sanctified us by offering Himself once for all.

Verses 9-19 describe the court of the tabernacle.

Verses 20-21 tell about the oil light continually burning.

EXODUS 28

What is this chapter about?

The priests' holy garments

Who were the priests? What were the priests' garments to be?

Use the diagrams in the lesson as visual aids for this part of your discussion.

God chose Aaron and his sons as His priests. They were to serve in the tabernacle, ministering to God. They were to be holy, set apart for this service by their garments and their consecration.

Exodus 28:2 says their holy garments were for glory and for beauty.

Ephod

Aaron was to bear the names of the sons of Israel on his two shoulders for a memorial. These names were to be on the two onyx stones that clasped the ephod at the shoulders. Six names of Israel were on each of the stone clasps. The ephod was to be like an apron worn over the robe, and the breastpiece fastened to it.

Breastpiece

This breastpiece was for judgment. It would have 12 stones on it, one for each of the sons of Israel. Verses 29-30 state that Aaron would be wearing the names over his heart when he entered the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually. The Urim and the Thummin were in the pouch or breastpiece for the judgment. This would be used when God spoke concerning certain tribes of Israel.

Robe

This robe was to be of blue and have pomegranates and bells on the bottom. Its tinkling would be heard when the priest entered and left the holy place so that Aaron would not die.

Turban

There was a plate of gold engraved with “Holy to the LORD” on it which was fastened to the turban. Aaron was to have it on his forehead to take away iniquity (ESV—bear guilt) so the people and their gifts were acceptable to the Lord.

Tunics / Coats, Caps, Sashes, Linen Breeches / Undergarments

These were made for Aaron’s sons, for glory and beauty, and to cover their naked flesh.

Aaron and his sons were to wear these garments when they entered the tent of meeting or approached the altar, so that they did not incur / bear guilt and die.

EXODUS 29

What is this chapter about?

The priests’ consecration

Verses 1-9

What are these verses about?

The Lord explained to Moses how to consecrate the priests to minister to Him.

Offerings

Wash the priests

Put the garments on Aaron

Pour anointing oil on his head to anoint him

“Anoint” means to rub with oil or paint, anoint a shield or human body with oil or paint a house, etc. By implication it came to mean consecrate.²

²Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), H4886, p. 2335.

Ordain Aaron's sons

“Ordain” comes from two words meaning “to be full, to fill”³ and “hand,”⁴ and thus means, “to fill their hand.”⁵ Perhaps the filling for direction, means, or purpose. At this point, ask what your group learned from the cross-references on priests and anointing.

Exodus 19:6

Israel was to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation of God.

1 Peter 2:2-5, 9

Believers are living stones being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood. Verse 9 says we are a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

Revelation 1:6 and 5:10

Believers are a kingdom and priests to God.

1 John 2:18-21, 27

Believers have the anointing of the Holy Spirit who abides in us and teaches us.

Give a brief time to discuss application here.

Ask your group about the ordination procedure. If you are running short of time, then don't spend too much time on details.

They were to lay their hands on the head of a bull at the doorway of (ESV does not say “doorway,” only “before”) the tent of meeting— identification with the bull. Then Moses would slaughter the bull, putting some of the blood on the horns of the altar and pouring blood at the base of the altar. The bull was a sin offering. Then a ram would be offered as a burnt offering and its blood sprinkled around on the altar.

A second ram, a ram of ordination would then be offered. Some of the blood of the ram would be put on the lobe of Aaron's right ear and his sons' right ears, the thumbs of their right hands, and the big toes of their right feet. The rest would be sprinkled on the altar.

Then some blood from the altar and some anointing oil would be sprinkled on them and their garments.

The ears might signify what they hear, the hands what they do, and the feet where they walk. All of our lives are to be consecrated to Him, not to the world in which we live.

³Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). H4390.

⁴Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). H3027.

⁵*New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Ex 28:41) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

The fat, kidneys, right thigh, two bread cakes, and one wafer would be waved as a wave offering. The breast of Aaron's ram would be waved, then given to Moses.

The breast and thigh of the heave offering which were waved would be for Aaron and his sons as their portion forever.

NOTE: A wave offering was waved from side to side. A heave offering was lifted up.

Seven days of consecration were to be for Aaron, the altar, and his sons; atonement would be made for them. Aaron and his sons would eat the flesh of the ram of ordination and the bread for ordination. If any remained until morning, they were to burn it with fire as was to be done with any remains of the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:10).

What does the end of the chapter say about God and His relationship to Israel?

Verse 43 speaks of the place where God would meet with them. It would be consecrated by His glory. This was for Israel to know that He is the LORD their God Who brought them out of the land of Egypt that He might dwell among them. He only dwells in holiness.

Give time to discuss application.

His Holy Spirit dwells within believers now because of the atonement made by Christ. We have the anointing of His Spirit, to minister and worship before Him continually. The Holy One abides in us and teaches us all things. We offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. How awesome is this picture, that men and women once sinful can now worship a holy God.

EXODUS 30

What is the first thing described in this chapter?

The Altar of Incense

The golden altar of incense would be in front of the veil between the Holy of Holies / Most Holy Place and the holy place. On this altar the priest would burn incense before the Lord perpetually.

No strange / unauthorized incense, offerings, or drink offerings were to be put on this altar.

Verses 11-16

What are these verses about?

They're about a census and the contribution.

The contribution was for atonement and given for the service of the tent of meeting.

How does this contrast this with Exodus 25:1-9?

The contribution in chapter 25 was voluntary, “from every man whose heart moves him,” for items to be used for constructing the sanctuary.

The census was a mandatory contribution and all were required to give a set amount.

Verses 17-21

What is described here?

The Laver / Basin of Bronze

This was to be where the priests would wash their hands and feet before approaching the altar to minister. If they did not, then they would die. This was to be positioned between the tent of meeting and the altar.

Verses 22-33

What are these verses about?

A holy anointing oil

Holy anointing oil was to be made, a perfume mixture, to anoint the tent of meeting and the furniture and to consecrate them. Aaron and his sons were also to be consecrated as priests to God with this oil. No other oil was to be made like this, and none of this oil was to be put on a layman or the one who did would be cut off from his people—holy oil to be used to worship a holy God.

Verses 34-38

How does this chapter end? What else was to be made?

Incense

a perfume, salted, pure, and holy

No incense was to be made of the same proportions for personal use.

One who did would be cut off from his people.

EXODUS 31

What is this chapter about?

Craftsmen and the sabbath

Verses 1-11

Who did God tell Moses that He had called and how had He equipped them?

God had called Bezalel and filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and all kinds of craftsmanship in order to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver, and bronze and in stone cutting and wood carving.

He had also appointed Oholiab and put skill in the hearts of all who were skillful. These would make all that God had commanded Moses.

Verses 12-17

Ask what your group learned about the Sabbath from these verses and cross-references.

The sabbath is the 7th day of the week, Saturday. Israel was to keep it holy, separate, for a sign between God and them. Whoever profaned it was to be killed. This day was a day of rest for Israel and to be kept throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant that they might know that He is the LORD who sanctified them.

The one who profaned the sabbath, did any work on the sabbath day, would be put to death. He would be cut off from among his people.

Verse 17 says that the Lord made heaven and earth in six days, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor.

The sabbath is for the nation of Israel. The church is told not to let one judge another in respect to a sabbath. Some regard it as a special day, and some regard it just like the other six days of the week. Jesus said that man was not made for the sabbath, but the sabbath for man, and that He is Lord of the sabbath.

Caution your group about teachings regarding the sabbath. One can become bound in legalism on this point. Or one can be too hard on those who choose to keep the sabbath, too.

The sabbath was a sign of the Lord sanctifying Israel. Sanctify means to set apart.

There was a future meaning to the sabbath as Hebrews 3 and 4 teach. In salvation, believers cease from their own labors and enter into His rest to do the good works which He prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

NOTE: There will probably not be enough time for you to go into a discussion of the millennial rest during Jesus' earthly reign in the future. This is studied in courses on Revelation and Hebrews.

Verse 18

What did God do when He had finished speaking with Moses?

He gave Moses the two tablets of testimony on stone written by the finger of God.

Remind your group that Moses was on the mountain for 40 days and nights. This will prepare them for the next lesson.

EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 10

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 32–33

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking your group about the main segments in Exodus 1–31. Direct them to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Exodus 1–12

Israel multiplied in Egypt, and then God led them out at Passover.

Chapters 7–12 are about the judgments or plagues on Egypt.

Exodus 13–18

God led Israel from Egypt to Mount Sinai.

Exodus 19–31

These are the events at Mount Sinai.

God spoke the Ten Commandments to the people in chapter 20.

He gave His ordinances / rules to Moses, chapters 21–23.

Exodus 24 is the covenant.

God gave Moses the pattern for the tabernacle and its furnishings in 25–31.

EXODUS 32

To begin discussing this chapter you can ask what your group put on their At a Glance charts as the theme for this chapter.

Gold calf, Levites for God, 3,000 of Israel killed

Verses 1-6

You can direct your group to the charts in the lesson on Day Two.

What are the first six verses about?

This chapter begins with Moses' delay to come down from Mt. Sinai. He had been there 40 days and nights.

The people asked Aaron, Moses' brother who had seen God's workings firsthand, to make a god / gods to go before them.

Verse 2 doesn't give an indication of hesitancy on Aaron's part, although there could have been some. He just told them to bring to him their gold, the gold designed by God to be for their contribution for His sanctuary.

Aaron used a graving tool to fashion a calf from the gold.

Then the people said that this was their god / gods who brought them up from Egypt.

Next Aaron built an altar and proclaimed a feast for the next day.

At this point you might ask what God had spoken to the people only about 40 days before this.

He clearly said that they were to make no idols, graven / carved images.
They had agreed to that, even covenanted with Him about it.

What happened on the next day?

The people rose early and made offerings.
They sat to eat and drink, then rose up to play.

Verses 7-14

What is the change in verse 7?

God was speaking to Moses on the top of Mt. Sinai.

God told Moses what was happening with the people:
they had corrupted themselves
they had quickly turned aside from God's commands
they had participated in unholy worship of an idol

He said that they were obstinate, or stiff-necked. They had grumbled before, when God had tested them about the water and food in Exodus 15 and 16. They had tested the Lord and quarreled with Moses in Exodus 17 again about the water.

God's statement in Exodus 19:5-6 was for them to obey His voice and keep His commands so they would be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Then, here they were only 40 days later worshipping an idol.

Verse 10, God's anger against the people was so great that He wanted to destroy them. But Moses entreated / implored the Lord based on what the Egyptians would say about it.

Moses was concerned with how God would appear to the nations around.
In verse 13 he reminded God of His covenant. God would not break it.

You might ask your group how they approach God with their entreaties.

Relate these verses to Psalm 106 and Romans 1.

Psalm 106:19-23

Moses stood in the breach for them when they forgot God.

It says in this psalm that in making and worshiping the calf they exchanged their glory, the glory of God's presence with them for the image of an ox that eats grass.

Romans 1:21-25

They didn't honor God as who He is.

They became fools.

They exchanged the glory of God for an image of an animal.

They exchanged the truth of / about God, His clearly stated truth, for a lie.

They worshiped the creature rather than the Creator.

Give time for any application discussion.

Then lead the discussion back to Exodus 32.

Verses 15-20

What are these verses about?

Moses went down to the people, taking the tablets with him.

Joshua had been part of the way up the mountain waiting for him all the 40 days. He thought he heard the sound of war, evidently because of the loudness. But Moses identified it as singing.

When Moses saw the calf and the dancing, the idol worship, his anger burned and he shattered the tablets at the foot of the mountain, the same place where they had entered into covenant with God saying they would obey Him.

He burned the calf, ground it to powder, and scattered it over the water, making them drink it.

Verses 21-24

What happened next?

Moses confronted Aaron about his part in the idolatry.

He brought great sin on the people.

Aaron reminded Moses of the fact that the people were prone to evil. But he admitted that he asked for the gold, threw it into the fire and the calf was the result.

Verses 25-29

Who did Moses deal with next? What did he do?

The people were out of control (ESV—broken loose). A derision among their enemies—they brought shame on themselves in view of their enemies.

Moses stood in the gate of the camp and called for those who were for the Lord to come to him. The Levites gathered and he told them to kill with their swords those who were their brothers, friends, and neighbors.

Three thousand men fell that day because of the golden calf incident. God takes sin very seriously.

But the Levites received a blessing that day.

Verses 30-35

How does this chapter end?

The next day Moses went back up the mountain to see if he could make atonement for their sin before God.

Moses asked God's forgiveness for the sin of the people to the point where he was willing to offer his own salvation for them.

God's answer was that whoever sinned would be blotted out of His book; in the day God punishes / visits, He'll punish them (ESV—visit their sin on them).

Ask your group what they learned about this book.

People can be blotted out of the book.
Those who sin against God will be erased or blotted out of this book.

Psalm 69:22-28

David spoke of his adversaries, those who are evil and do iniquity.
This is the book of life.
The righteous are recorded in this book.

Philippians 4:3

Believers' names, fellow-workers, are in the book of life.

Revelation 3:5

Overcomers' names, believers, are not erased from the book of life.
Their names are confessed by the Son before the Father and His angels.

Revelation 20:11-15

At the great white throne judgment of the dead, unbelievers, books of their deeds will be used to judge them. The book of life will also be opened then.

Anyone's name not written in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire, the second death.

Conclusions:

Everyone who is born, who is given physical life, is written in the book of life.

The names of the unbelievers, the dead, are erased from this book of life.

At the end, only the names of the righteous are in the book of life—eternal life.

Back to Exodus 32, what did the Lord tell Moses to do?

He was to lead the people where He told him.

Moses was reassured that the Lord's angel would go before him.

This statement in verse 34 is continued in chapter 33.

EXODUS 33

What is this chapter about? Ask your group what they wrote on the At a Glance chart.

God's presence: His people and Moses

Verses 1-3

What did the Lord tell Moses?

He was to leave that place and lead them to the land of promise.

God said that He'd send an angel before to drive out the inhabitants, but that He would not go in the midst of the people. They were too obstinate / stiff-necked—He'd destroy / consume them if He was in their midst.

Verses 4-6

What was the result of God's statement?

The people went into mourning and stripped themselves of all their ornaments.

Verses 7-11

What is this interlude about?

This tells how the Lord spoke to Moses face to face in the tent outside the camp.

Whenever the cloud descended on the tent, then He spoke to Moses there.

Verse 11 tells the relationship between the Lord and Moses.

You might give time for personal application discussion. Ask your group how important it is to them to hear the Lord speak. How important is time listening to His Word?

Verses 12-15

What did Moses want from the Lord and why?
Use the chart on Day Five of the lesson as a visual aid here.

Moses told God that if His presence did not go with them to please not lead them up from that place.

Moses was concerned about who God would send with him, verse 12.

Moses' request in verse 13 was that he know God's ways so that he might know God.

Shouldn't that be the heart's desire of all believers?

He also prayed for the nation of Israel, that God consider them, too.

He desired that God Himself be the one going with him and the people.

God's presence would distinguish Israel from all the other people who were on the face of the earth.

Ask your group how this relates to believers.

This is still the distinguishing Presence among believers. Believers should be different from all other people because of God's Presence within, as the temple of His Holy Spirit.

Moses' request in verse 18 was for God to show him His glory.

God answered that He would:

make all of His goodness pass before him
proclaim His Name before him
be gracious to him
show compassion / mercy on whom He would show compassion / mercy

No man can see God's face and live.

This did not take place until Exodus 34 when God's glory passed by Moses while God covered him with His hand. Moses saw God's back, but not His face.

NOTE: Just tell your group that they'll study this in the next lesson.

Shouldn't a believer's desire be to see God's glory by knowing Him from knowing His ways?

Moses sought God above all else.

Moses found favor with God because he was obedient to Him, His commands.

His name was written in God's book of life, never to be erased.

To end this discussion, give time for your group to talk about personal application.

EXODUS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 11

Lesson emphasis:

- Exodus 34–40
- Erecting the tabernacle

REVIEW

You might have your group look at their At A Glance charts as you briefly review Exodus by segments.

Exodus 1–12, Israel in Egypt
Israel multiplied
Egyptians enslaved Israel for 400 years
Moses
Plagues
Passover

Exodus 13–18, God used Moses to lead Israel from Egypt to Mount Sinai
Israel murmured and complained
God provided water, manna, quail, and guidance

Exodus 19–40, Israel was camped at Mount Sinai

The three main events of Exodus are:
the deliverance from bondage in Egypt
the giving of the Law (the Old Covenant)
and the construction of the tabernacle

EXODUS 34

What is this chapter about?

God compassionate / merciful and jealous, the feasts, Moses on mountain 40 days

As a visual aid for this discussion, you might make a list about God's character.

Verses 1-17

What are these verses about?

The Lord told Moses to make two more stone tablets and come back up on the mountain the next morning. God would write on the tablets.

Moses did so, and the Lord descended in the cloud. He passed by in front of Moses as He had said He would. Relate this to Exodus 33:18-23 where Moses requested to see Him.

He said of His own character, that He is:

Compassionate / merciful, gracious

Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness / steadfast love and truth /
faithfulness

He forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin.

He will not leave the guilty unpunished (ESV—clear the guilty).

Relate Exodus 34:6-7 to 20:5-6.

Moses bowed in worship and asked God to pardon the iniquity of the people and to go with them in their midst. He echoed God's words in Exodus 33:3, 5.

He asked God to make them His own possession.

Relate this to Exodus 19:5. God said that if they obeyed Him, they would be His possession.

God was going to make a covenant. He would perform miracles never performed and all among them would see His working.

God commanded that they make no covenant with the people of the land. He said that He would clear out the people, and Israel was to have no participation with them.

They were to tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, cut down their Asherim and make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land. The Lord restated that they were not to worship any other god, make no molten / cast metal gods, and make no covenant with the inhabitants lest it become a snare to them and cause their children to play the harlot (ESV—whore) with other gods.

This was after Exodus 32, the gold calf worship.

Discuss what your group learned about the name of the Lord in verse 14.

The Lord's name is Jealous; the Hebrew word comes from a verb meaning "to be jealous or zealous."¹ In Exodus 20:5, God said He is a jealous God.

He is the one who called Israel from among the nations to be His own.

Deuteronomy and Joshua say God is a jealous God.

In Deuteronomy 32, it says Israel made God jealous with their idols.

Ezekiel says God will be jealous for His holy name.

¹ Warren Baker, Eugene Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003). p. 1000, H7067.

Verses 18-26

What are these verses about?

Direct your group to the Feasts chart at the end of this lesson for a visual aid.

The Lord commanded again that Israel was to keep the feasts three times a year.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, a part of the Feast of Passover, was to be observed, remembering when they came out of Egypt. At this time, the firstborn would be redeemed.

NOTE: Exodus 34:18 says to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the month of Abib. The feast chart in the lesson lists the month as Nisan. This is the Babylonian name for the month which is still used today. Abib is the Canaanite name, which was used prior to the Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. For more information on the Jewish year, a chart entitled “The Jewish Calendar” can be found in the New Inductive Study Bible with Leviticus 23.

The Feast of Weeks, Feast of Harvest, or Pentecost (23:16), was also to be observed when they entered their land. It celebrates the first fruits of the wheat harvest.

The third appointed time was the Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles (23:16).

If and when the men appeared these three times before the Lord, no one (other nations) would covet their land.

NOTE: Don't spend too much time on the feasts. There is much study on the Feasts of Israel in the Precept courses on Leviticus and John, Part 1. Encourage your group to continue their study of the Law with the Leviticus Precept course next.

Verses 27-35

What are these verses about?

Moses wrote these words of the covenant and stayed another forty days and nights on Mount Sinai.

When he came down his face shone because of being with the Lord and hearing His words.

At first this caused the people to fear, but Moses called them to him. He later put a veil over his face until he went in to speak with God again.

Relate this to 2 Corinthians 3:7-18.

This passage speaks of Moses' shining face and the veil as showing that the old covenant of the Law was passing away and the new covenant was going to have even more glory. Salvation is the new covenant, which Jesus made with His own blood as the sacrifice. His people have His presence, the Holy Spirit, dwelling within them and guiding them to keep His Word.

Moses' face shone because he had been in the Lord's presence. That caused the people to fear (reverence) Him.

To end the discussion of this chapter you can ask about any application.

EXODUS 35

What are the main points of this chapter?

Moses told God's commands to the people about the contribution and the work

Verses 1-3

What was the first thing the Lord commanded the people to do?

He reminded them to keep the Sabbath holy, no work.

Verses 4-29

What was the command from the Lord?

This is about taking the contribution for the Lord's tabernacle.
Everyone whose heart stirred him brought contribution for the work.
There was so much being brought that they had to stop taking it, Exodus 36.

Verses 30-35

Who is named in these verses and why?

God had filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and all craftsmanship. Both he and Oholiab were filled with skill to perform every work.

EXODUS 36

How does this chapter continue from Exodus 35?

Everyone whose heart stirred him worked on the construction of the tabernacle.

The people brought so much that they had to be stopped from bringing any more. Their hearts moved them to give to the Lord willingly.

There were 10 curtains which enclosed the tabernacle. Curtains were also made for a tent over the tabernacle. The tent of meeting and the tabernacle referred to the enclosed part of the construction, what was covered with the tent, the holy place and the Holy of Holies / Most Holy Place. Skins were over the tent for a protection from the elements.

Verses 20-34 detail the boards and bars of the tabernacle.
Verses 35-38 tell about making the veil between the holy place and the Holy of Holies / Most Holy Place and the doorway of the tent which was the entrance to the covered area.

You might use the diagrams from the lesson as visual aids for this part of your discussion.

Exodus 37–39

Because there is so much to discuss in this lesson, you might ask your group what the main point is of these chapters. You discussed most of these details with Exodus 25–28.

Exodus 37, the Ark and mercy seat, table of showbread / bread of the Presence, lampstand and altar of incense

Exodus 38, the bronze altar and laver / bronze basin, the court and its gate

Exodus 39, the priests' garments

EXODUS 40

How does this chapter begin? What is the time reference?

Moses told the people to set up the tabernacle on the first day of the first month.

Verse 17 also states this and adds that it was the second year.

This was the beginning of the second year; they left Egypt one year before.

Exodus 12:1-2 spoke of the beginning of months. It was the first month of the first year.

On the tenth day they were to take a lamb for Passover.

In Exodus 19:1 it was the third month after Israel had gone out of Egypt.

Verses 3-16

What are these verses about?

The furniture was to be placed, then the tabernacle and all in it were to be anointed and consecrated, including Aaron and his sons, so all would be holy. God would dwell here. Aaron and his sons would be priests in the tabernacle.

Verses 17-21

What did Moses and Aaron and his sons do when they entered the tent of meeting and when they approached the altar? Also discuss the cross-references about washing.

The Lord told Moses that Aaron and his sons should wash their hands and feet from the laver when they entered the tent of meeting or when they approached the altar, so that they would not die (Exodus 30:19-21).

Psalm 24:1-6

The one with clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood nor sworn deceitfully, is the one who may stand in the Lord's holy place.

Psalm 18:20-24

David said that the Lord had recompensed him according to the cleanness of his hands.

John 13:5-10

Jesus told Peter that he who has bathed, initial cleansing at salvation, needs only to wash his feet, daily cleansing by confession of sin and the washing of the water of the Word, but is completely clean.

Verses 34-38

What happened?

The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the place.
The cloud and the pillar of fire led Israel in the wilderness.

To end this discussion, you can ask your group what they learned from this study of Exodus. Ask how God used this study to change their lives. What have they learned about who their God is and about worshiping Him?