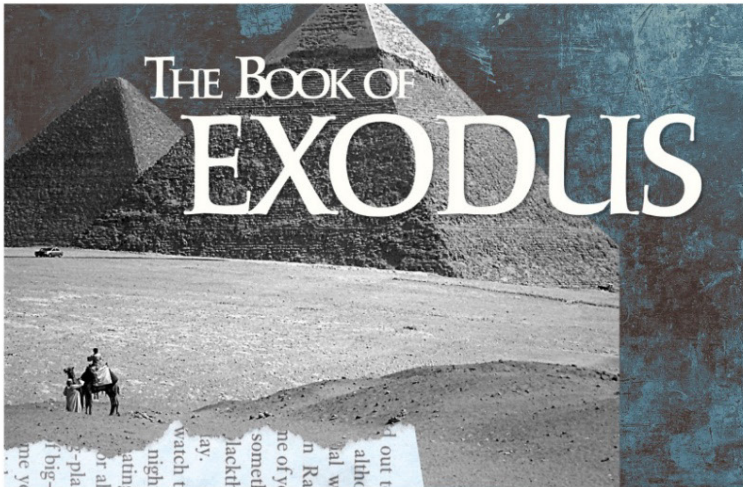


STUDY GUIDE



Huron River
Methodist Church

huronrivermethodist.org

EXODUS 1-12

STUDY GUIDE

Meeting the God Who Delivers Us

Exodus 6:2 God also said to Moses, “I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself fully known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. 5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

6 “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. 7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. 8 And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.’”

9 Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.

Introduction

Exodus is more than the story of Moses, Pharaoh, and the Israelites escaping Egypt—it is the story of God, who hears His people's cries, keeps His promises, confronts what enslaves us, and makes a way to freedom. Over these twelve weeks, we'll walk through the first twelve chapters of Exodus, one chapter at a

time, alongside our Sunday preaching series. Each week, we'll discover more about the character of the God who frees you and what His story means for the way we live, trust, worship, and follow Him today. As you read, don't simply ask, “*What happened?*” Ask, “What does this chapter show me about

God—and what might God want to change in me?” Let the journey begin!

The Key Human Figure – Moses

The Real Key Figure – Yahweh God Who Frees His People

Themes:

Yahweh God delivers Israel from slavery in Egypt

Freedom and Redemption

Law and Covenant

Key Ideas of Exodus as a Whole:

- The supremacy of Yahweh God over pagan deities
- The exodus as a redemptive event for ancient Israel
- The Mosaic Law as a religious and social charter for Israel
- The presence of God symbolized in the tabernacle

Author: Moses. Some scholars believe parts were dictated by scribes.

Primary Original Audience: The people of Israel

Dates: There are two theories: 1500s BC or 1300s BC, based on archaeology.

Place: Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula

Using this Study Guide: We will study 1 chapter per week broken into 3 lessons. These lessons lead up to the following Sunday’s sermon.

Consistent Question: What do I learn about God that helps me trust Him more today?

Instructions for Groups and for Personal Study

1. **Prepare** with *2 minutes of silence and stillness before God.*
2. **Opening Question** is for reflection or for a group icebreaker.

3. **Read the Passage** is the meat. Look for key words, patterns, and God-sightings.
4. **Reflect** are questions help to apply God's word to your understanding your life.
5. **Pray** is how you end. Some of the pray sections have prompts or longer prayers you can use if you desire.
6. **An option for personal study:** End with *2 minutes of silence and stillness before God.*

Interested in joining a group to do this? Contact Dusty via email: dusty@huronrivermethodistchurch.org or the church office at 734-426-8480.

WEEK 1 September 7 – 13, 2026

Exodus 1: When God's People are Oppressed

Theme: God's people multiply even when the world tries to diminish them.

Background:

- The Israelites has been in Egypt over 400 years.
- Joseph (Genesis 37-50) and then his family relocated in Egypt.
- They were favored because of Joseph, but Joseph has died.
- A new Pharaoh arises.
- He doesn't remember Joseph.
- His fear drives oppression.

DAY 1. God keeps His promise despite opposition. *But the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. — Exodus 1:7*

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening Question: How many times have you moved? In your most significant move, who moved with you? Whom did you leave behind? ¹

Read Exodus 1:1-7. How does this story pick up where Genesis left off? (See Genesis 45:8-11 or 46:8). Names matter in the Bible, and the names we read tell a surprising and dark story. God is calling us to make our own Exodus as we go through these weeks.

Reflect: What comes to your mind when you think of “generations” that have gone before you? How has God used them to shape you?

Pray: Lord, thank you for your presence from generation to generation...

DAY 2. Fear turns power into oppression — Exodus 1:8-

14. *“Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us.”* — Exodus 1:9

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening Question: When have you overreacted? Was any of it caused by an underlying fear?

Read Exodus 1:8-14. With the memory of Joseph’s greatness forgotten by Pharaoh, the once-favored place of God’s people slowly gives way to oppression. The devil hates life. The devil hates fruitfulness. And in the midst of God’s intended blessing

¹ This and several of the other “opening questions” were taken from the *Serendipity Bible for Groups*, 2nd ed. - NIV. Gary Christopherson & Mary H. Naegeli, Exodus margin question, *Serendipity Bible for Groups* 2nd ed. Editor: Dietrich R. Gruen. (Littleton: Zondervan, 1989).

from Genesis 1:28 (Be fruitful and multiply) along with God's promise to Abraham to become a nation set apart for God

(Genesis 15:13-14),

God's people become enslaved. Inspired by Scripture, the church teaches that we have 3 enemies: the flesh, the world and the devil. They are our enemies. It's completely normal for us to become distracted by the empty promises of the world for status and wealth; to become discouraged by the weakness of our flesh; and for us to fall into confusion by temptations from the enemy.

Reflect: Why is Pharaoh afraid? What does fear produce? How does oppression grow? What repeated words describe Israel?

Pray: Lord, replace my fear with trust...

DAY 3. Pharaoh's Attack: Faithfulness can resist evil — Exodus 1:15–22. *The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do.* — Exodus 1:17

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Where were you born? Who was there? Do you know anything about your birth?

Read Exodus 1:15-22. As you read this, consider how God extends His life to us in the midst of our burdens, but to accept it, we must face opposition from the enemy. The new Pharaoh takes life and death into his own hands.

Reflect: Why did the Hebrew midwives fear or respect God more than Pharaoh? How does God honor quiet courage? Where is God asking you to obey Him even if nobody notices? How does this show that evil doesn't get the last word?

Pray: God, help me trust You even when things have ended badly. Lord, be my Lord and my God during the times when I think it's over, or when I'm afraid whatever "it" is in my life appears it will never be over. Let me trust you Jesus, whether I see an immediate miracle or not.

Lesson arc: God's promise → Pharaoh's fear → courageous faithfulness.

Sunday Preview: For hundreds of years God appears silent. But silence is not absence. This Sunday we'll discover that God often begins writing a rescue story long before anyone realizes it. Come ready to ask: Where is God working even though I can't yet see Him?

WEEK 2 September 14 – 20, 2026

Exodus 2: God Prepares a Deliverer

Theme: God is at work long before we can see what He is doing.

DAY 1. Giving up to Receive: Moses is preserved — Exodus 2:1–10. *When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.* — Exodus 2:2

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Who were the key “Mom” figures in your growing up years? What did you most appreciate about them?

Read Exodus 2:1-10. God works in mysterious ways. He often brings about His greatest triumphs through moments of defeat or desperation. What happens to the Hebrew children here is echoed in the time when Jesus was born under King Herod the Great. (Read Matthew 2:13-18). Exodus is really about God’s providential care for His people. God does draw his people out of danger, even as Moses’ family surrenders their newborn son.

Reflect: What got me here – my parents’ faith, a Sunday school, a friend, my spouse? How has your background, opportunities, or faith experiences shaped you for God’s purposes? What keeps you afloat in your tough circumstances? (ingenuity, protective family members, hope for a better future, or maybe you’re struggling to keep your head above water right now?)

Pray.

DAY 2. Royalty Squandered: Moses tries to deliver God's people in his own strength — Exodus 2:11–22 *“Who made you ruler and judge over us?”* — Exodus 2:14

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Have you ever tried breaking up a fight among siblings or friends? Why? What happened? Did you get in trouble yourself?

Read Exodus 2:11-22. God forms us to be people He calls through gifts and experiences He gives us. Moses grows up a prince in the royal household, adopted by Pharaoh's daughter: educated in Egyptian ways. As he grows into manhood, God's plan could have been he attains a high position of influence. But instead, Moses kills a man in rage. He immediately tries to take God's justice into his own hands his own way, rather than work in God's way.

Reflect: What would it take to arouse your sense of justice? Have you had to 'drop out' or needed to get away? How did this prepare you for your future? What does it say that God uses a murderer to further His plans? How might God use a personal flaw of yours for His greater glory?

Pray.

DAY 3. God remembers His covenant — Exodus 2:23–25

God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. — Exodus 2:24

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: When was the last time you cried out for help? Did help come? If so, how or who was it?

Read Exodus 2:23-25. We see two things here: the Israelites are suffering terribly, and the Lord is fully aware and about to act. Notice the verbs here: God heard... remembered... saw... and knew. How? By calling Moses to be Israelites' deliverer.

Reflect: Have you lately groaned in a way because of any form of enslavement you've found yourself in? Who's crying out do you feel the most compassion for? How does it make you feel to realize God is a God who sees and hears and remembers and claims His covenant commitment and caring to you? Read Matthew 11:28-31

Pray.

Lesson arc: *Preserved → misplaced passion → prepared by God.*

Where is God when nothing seems to be happening?

WEEK 3 September 21 – 27, 2026

Exodus 3: God Calls Moses

Overarching theme: God meets us in ordinary places and calls us into His extraordinary purposes.

DAY 1. God gets Moses' attention — Exodus 3:1–6

“Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.” — Exodus 3:2

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: On a Monday morning, what is “business-as-usual” for you? When you see something strange going on there, what do you do about it?

Read Exodus 3:1-6. If we are going to come to freedom, more than anything else, we must encounter God and come to Him. Apart from God, we are stuck in our lives as we've “created” them. Moses as a shepherd now sees something crazy: a bush burning but not consumed. Moses goes close and

God summons him at the same time. Moses, who is now close to 80 years old, has been through a lot, and finally God is ready to work in him.

Reflect: Recall an event in your life when you were “standing on holy ground”. What was sacred about that moment? How has that served to establish a right relationship between God and you? What would God have to do to get your attention and commitment to take on a new mission in your life?

Pray.

DAY 2. God reveals His heart for His people — Exodus 3:7–10 *“I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out...”* — Exodus 3:7

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: What have you seen that really, really bothers you lately?

Read Exodus 3:7-10. It seems the first step in coming to freedom is not addressing what’s wrong. It is knowing the One who can actually bring about our freedom! God introduces Himself to Moses saying “I have seen the affliction of my people... heard their cry... I know their sufferings... and I have come to deliver them.” And God is going to deliver them.

Reflect: How often do you treat God as abstract or detached from His creation? He transcends it, God is not “in” everything. (We see this in Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”) God transcends it, but

God is also immanent – far closer than we could imagine. What would it be like for you to live in the reality that God calls you by name? That God sees you individually? That God understands you and knows what’s in you?

Pray.

DAY 3. God promises His presence — Exodus 3:11–22

“I will be with you.” — Exodus 3:12

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: In taking on work, do you “bite off more than you can chew”? Do you “chomp at the bit?” Why?

Read Exodus 3:11-22. This is one of the most powerful, far-reaching and yet intimate moments in creation. Moses is intimidated, but God tells Moses His most intimate name: YHWH – Jehovah – “I AM WHO I AM.” (3:14). And still Moses doubts. Moses is to leave his anonymity in Midian and his simple, hidden life as a shepherd for an adventure filled with conflict.

Reflect: How is life with God potentially filled with conflict (inwardly and outwardly?) Moses confronts his “old self” in his old land of Egypt. Can you look at your past, accept it as it was, and learn to love who you are now in Christ? Can you now seek who you can still become? (Whether you are 20, 50, or 80?)

Pray.

Lesson arc: God sees → God hears → God sends.

WEEK 4 September 28 – Oct. 4, 2026

Exodus 4: Overcoming Doubts When We Don't Feel Ready

Theme: God doesn't call the capable; He calls people who will trust His presence.

DAY 1. Moses doubts — Exodus 4:1–9 “*What if they do not believe me or listen to me?*” — Exodus 4:1

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: As a kid, what chore did you hate? What’s the best excuse you’ve heard lately from a determined procrastinator?

Read Exodus 4:1-9. Moses launches into his questions. Are they doubts or fears? He asks “Who are You?” and “Who am I?” God gives him three signs: his staff, his hand, and Nile water to blood.

Reflect: What do you look for from God to “confirm your call?” What is one thing “What’s that in your hand” (4:2) that – if you’re honest – probably belongs in God’s hand?

Pray.

DAY 2. Moses makes excuses — Exodus 4:10–17 *“Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”* — Exodus 4:13

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Share or recall a funny story about you being tongue-tied.

Read Exodus 4:10-17. Moses’ excuses and fears seem to keep coming. (Can you blame him?) His doubts turn inward now Moses is trembling at the thought of giving speeches or having to be persuasive or commanding with his words. God replies with anger when Moses says “Send somebody else.” But in the same breath, the Lord provides his brother Aaron.

Reflect: When have you said to God: “Send somebody else, Lord?” What will you do this week to ensure God’s future plans for you are not frustrated?

Pray.

DAY 3. Moses Returns to Egypt and God provides what Moses needs — Exodus 4:18–31 *“Then Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say.”* — Exodus 4:28

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: What do you like best about going home? What's an unfinished task you started when you were young that you never completed?

Read Exodus 4:18-31. Moses returns and has several encounters: with his family, with circumcision as identity and faith in God, and meeting his brother Aaron.

Reflect: Where are your spiritual roots? What would it take to set you free and return there? What promises of God keep you going “on the way” of God’s best for you?

Pray.

Lesson arc: What if they don't believe me? → I'm not capable → God provides. This is God calling people – including us today – beyond fear and inadequacy.

WEEK 5 October 5 – 11, 2026

Exodus 5: When Obedience Makes Things Worse

Theme: Following God doesn't always make life immediately better.

DAY 1. Moses obeys — Exodus 5:1–5 “*This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go...’*” — Exodus 5:1

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: What frustrating experience gets you every time? How did you respond the last time it happened?

Read Exodus 5:1-5. Moses and Aaron are obedient to God, but Pharaoh doesn't listen and only thinks about the work he wants done.

Reflect: What are you willing to do for God even if you feel thwarted or frustrated? What do you still do for God when people don't listen to you?

Pray.

DAY 2. Pharaoh makes things worse — Exodus 5:6–19

“Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies.” — Exodus 5:9

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Do you prefer physical or non-physical jobs? Why?

Read Exodus 5:6-19. The road to freedom is not smooth. Pharaoh responds to Moses with more work for God's people, and God's people resent Moses also for the harder labor.

Reflect: What setbacks have come when you begin to obey God? God desired His people to worship Him in freedom instead of working for God in slavery. Have you met with resistance when you've gotten serious about following God? What temptations from within or from others have you faced?

Pray.

DAY 3. Moses questions God — Exodus 5:20–23 “*Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me?*” — Exodus 5:22

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Have you ever failed at something so badly that you froze? How did you get out of that?

Read Exodus 5:20-23. Everyone is mad at Moses! (and Aaron). The Israelite foremen and Pharaoh himself. Moses returns to God in frustration.

Reflect: When was the last time you doubted your purpose in life or God’s call on your life? How did you talk to God about it?

Pray.

Lesson arc: Obedience → opposition → confusion.

WEEK 6 October 12 – 18, 2026

Exodus 6: God Remembers His Promise

Overarching theme: *When we cannot see God's faithfulness, God has not forgotten His promise.*

DAY 1. God promises deliverance — Exodus 6:1–8 “*I AM the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.*” — Exodus 6:6

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: What's your typical respond to someone's cynicism? What shakes your trust in God most?

Read Exodus 6:1-8. God reminds Moses that He is God of his Fathers and has heard the cry of His people. God reminds Moses that God entrusted him with his most intimate name: I AM WHO I AM. God patiently rehearses again with Moses what he is to do.

Reflect: We can't expect those people or things or ideas who hold us in bondage (our flesh, the world, the devil) to let up on us with one request. Our attempts at freedom will have consequences and resistance from without and within. How will we respond to the struggles we face on our own spiritual journey with Christ? Can we return to the Lord for strength?

Pray.

DAY 2. Israel cannot hear the promise — Exodus 6:9 *They did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.* — Exodus 6:9

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Who in your life do you have the hardest time listening to?

Read Exodus 6:9. Moses goes back to the people, but they don't listen.

Reflect: Who have you given up on when it comes to sharing Christ? How much of this is giving up on yourself?

Pray.

DAY 3. God remains faithful — Exodus 6:10–30 “*I AM the LORD.*” — Exodus 6:29

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Who in your family tree has been a model for you? How are you like or unlike that person?

Read Exodus 6:10-30. This is the family record of Moses and Aaron, followed by Moses hearing from God to go back to Pharaoh. God reminds Moses (again) “I am the Lord”

Reflect: In what confrontation in your life (toward your own sin, your own “pharaohs” in your life do you need to remind yourself that God is the Lord over all?

Pray.

Lesson arc: *God promises → people can't hear → God remains God.*

The repetition of “I AM Who I AM (the LORD)” is actually the theological heartbeat of the chapter—and our lives.

WEEK 7 October 19 – 25, 2026

Exodus 7: God Confronts the False Gods

Theme: God's power is greater than every power that opposes Him.

DAY 1. Moses speaks for God — Exodus 7:1–7 “*You are to say everything I command you...*” — Exodus 7:2

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: What friend could help you be more diplomatic? With whom do you need good PR?

Read Exodus 7:1-7. God rehearses His instructions for Moses and Aaron, now called his prophet. God warns Pharaoh of the coming judgment.

Reflect: When has God asked you to do something beyond your natural abilities? Why were you chosen when an “Aaron” could more easily have done your job?

Pray.

DAY 2. God demonstrates His power — Exodus 7:8–13
But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. — Exodus 7:12

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Have you ever heard or received exacting and specific orders or invitations from God? What did you do with them?

Read Exodus 7:8-13. Aaron's staff becomes a snake, Pharaoh's magicians do the same, but Aaron's swallows their staves. And Pharaoh's heart becomes hard.

Reflect: When you face confrontation for the sake of God, how big a factor is your obedience to God? We are introduced here to the hardness of heart of Pharaoh. On a scale of 1-10 (like rocks), how hard is your heart tendency? (1-pumice, 10-diamond)?

Pray.

DAY 3. Battle of the Plagues Begins. Pharaoh hardens his heart — Exodus 7:14–25 *But Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them.* — Exodus 7:13

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Have you ever injured yourself running into a brick wall (or a rock?) What's the story?

Read Exodus 7:14-25. The Creator of the universe summons forces of nature to storm against the hard heart of Pharaoh. And thus the 10 plagues begin. After 400 years (longer than

our 250 in our own country), God's people have been under the influence of Egyptian culture, even while being set apart. This is a mentality as much as anything. Does Pharaoh's hardened heart mean he is unfree?, and thus unable to repent or believe and let God's people go? No. Pharaoh is free to make a choice for God or against Him. The first plague hits, and the water of the Nile is turned to blood.

The 10 plagues are not random acts of violence. They are a methodical assault by the one true God of Israel on the most influential gods of Egypt.

Reflect: God's people weren't just in need of physical deliverance; they also needed spiritual deliverance from the demons deemed as gods by the Egyptians. The physical bondage represented the spiritual bondage from which they suffered. Can you yet name the "Pharaoh's in your life" that God wants you freed from?

Pray.

Lesson arc: God speaks → God demonstrates → Pharaoh resists. Do we resist also?

WEEK 8 October 26 – Nov. 1, 2026

Exodus 8: The God Who Is With His People

Theme: God makes a distinction between His people and the world around them.

A List of the 10 Plagues and Opposing Egyptian Gods

1. **Water Turned to Blood Opposed Gods:** Hapi (god of the Nile), Osiris (whose bloodstream was thought to be the Nile), and Khnum (guardian of the river).

2. **Frogs Opposed God:** Heqet (the frog-headed goddess of birth, fertility, and renewal).
3. **Lice / Gnats Opposed God:** Geb (the earth god, connected to the dust and soil of the land).
4. **Flies Opposed God:** Khepri (the scarab beetle god of creation) or Shu (god of the atmosphere/air).
5. **Livestock Pestilence Opposed Gods:** Hathor (the cow goddess of love and fertility) and Apis (the sacred bull god).
6. **Boils Opposed Gods:** Sekhmet (goddess of healing and epidemics), Isis (goddess of healing), and Sunu (pestilence god).
7. **Hail and Fire Opposed Gods:** Nut (sky goddess), Set (god of storms and the desert), and Osiris (god of crops).
8. **Locusts Opposed Gods:** Osiris and Bastet (protector of crops and harvests).
9. **Darkness Opposed Gods:** Ra (the dominant sun god) and Horus (a sky/sun god).
10. **Death of the Firstborn Opposed Entities:** Pharaoh (viewed as a living deity/son of Ra), Isis (protector of children), and Min (god of reproduction).

DAY 1. Plagues as God confronts Pharaoh — Exodus 8:1–15 “*Let my people go, so that they may worship me.*” — Exodus 8:1

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: If you were turned into a frog, who would you want to kiss you? Why that person?

Read Exodus 8:1-15. A wild next step for Moses and Aaron, leading to Pharaoh asking them to “Pray to the Lord...” (v.8). He also promises he will let the Israelites go to offer sacrifices to the Lord. The whole country reeked from the frogs.

Reflect: When have you taken answered prayer for granted? How does God get your attention? Have you ever felt conned by an unbeliever? How do you respond?

Pray.

DAY 2. Two more Plagues and God protects His people — Exodus 8:16–24 *“But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live.”* — Exodus 8:22

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: How do you feel about bugs?

Read Exodus 8:16-24. Two more plagues comes: gnats and flies. Notice especially that God begins doing things the magicians can’t do. They recognize (v.19) and tell Pharaoh “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart is still hard.

Reflect: Where might you need to “admit your defeat” like these magicians before God? What might God do if you owned your defeat?

Pray.

DAY 3. Pharaoh's temporary repentance isn't surrender
— **Exodus 8:25–32** *“I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the wilderness.”* — Exodus 8:28

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Where would you go to feel closer to God?

Read Exodus 8:25-32. Pharaoh seems to admit defeat to Moses and Aaron, but tells them not to “go” but rather to do it in Egypt. Moses prays and the flies also go away.

Reflect: In what areas of your life are you most stubborn? Where are you most stubborn when it comes to God?

Pray.

Lesson arc: God demands freedom → God protects His people → Pharaoh tries to negotiate. How often do we bargain with God? What could you offer to God in response to Him helping you with this?

WEEK 9 November 2 – 8, 2026

Exodus 9: Who Is Really in Control?

Overarching theme: God's sovereignty confronts our illusion of control.

DAY 1. Livestock plague, while God protects Israel — **Exodus 9:1–7** *“The LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt.”* — Exodus 9:4

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: How do you like for people to get your attention? Whose attention would you like to have?

Read Exodus 9:1-7. Egypt must learn its place before the Maker and Lord of the universe, to whom all creatures and peoples belong. The plague on the livestock again highlights that God makes a distinction between His treatment of the Israelites and the Egyptians.

Reflect: How do you think God has protected you as you look back through your life, or in your life today?

Pray.

DAY 2. Boils and Hail, and Pharaoh's heart remains hard
— **Exodus 9:8–17** *“But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power...”* — Exodus 9:16

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: What is your experience with soot? What’s the most severe weather experience you’ve lived through?

Read Exodus 9:8-17. These plagues are wreaking havoc on rebellious Pharaoh and great suffering upon his people. The death of the livestock, boils, and hail are destroying the land, and boils are even affecting Pharaoh’s magicians. His disobedience intimately affects those he leads. His sin is manifesting in the pain of those who follow him.

Reflect: This is not the first time we see the image of dust in the Bible. It was out of dust that humanity was fashioned on the 6th day of creation. Reflect on your roots and your nature as made of dust in the image of God. What a miracle!

Pray.

DAY 3. God calls Pharaoh to respond — Exodus 9:18–35
“This time I have sinned. The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong.” — Exodus 9:27

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Do you tend to think of nature as beautiful parks and trails or devastating forces? Why?

Read Exodus 9:18-35. In v.27-28 it appears Pharaoh is giving up, even admitting his sin. Moses prays and the storms stop. Pharaoh’s heart is hardened again.

Reflect: What Pharaoh lacks, and what we must cultivate in our souls and hearts, is fear of the Lord. This is not psychological nervousness before a false image of God—but rather the beginning of wisdom, a humble wonder and awe before His holy presence. This holy fear is like this: We realize we are so dependent upon God (like a helpless baby toward his or her parents), that we “fear” for our well-being and the well-being of others who are seeking to live apart from God. Like Pharaoh, do you forget long-term goals, purposes and solutions when things get better? Do you treat God like an instrument to be used for your personal advantage or the advancement of your opinion? If so, why?

Pray.

Lesson arc: God distinguishes → God demonstrates → Pharaoh confesses but doesn't surrender. This distinction between admitting God is right and actually surrendering to God is a very strong idea we need to wrestle with.

WEEK 10 November 9 – 15, 2026

Exodus 10: What Are You Willing to Let Go?

Theme: God's deliverance requires us to stop negotiating with Him.

DAY 1. God wants His story remembered — Exodus 10:1–2 *So that you may tell your children and grandchildren...* — Exodus 10:2

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: What's a funny and personal story of God you have?

Read Exodus 10:1-2. The plagues entail a process of learning—who the Lord is and who we are in relation to Him. We can be slow to learn this! Instead, God calls for generations to teach those who follow that God is real and deals with people and gives us signs of His sovereignty and goodness, that we may know “I AM the Lord.”

Reflect: How and to whom does God want me to share His greatness? How will I do it?

Pray.

DAY 2. Pharaoh keeps negotiating — Exodus 10:3–20

“Who exactly are going with you?” — Exodus 10:8

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: As a kid, were you a good negotiator with your folks? Or your friends? What’s one story?

Read Exodus 10:3-20. We get insight into Pharaoh in this chapter. He is getting sick of Moses, Aaron, and God. He is getting sick of plagues. He considers their ask: That they may go and worship the Lord their God. But then gets to negotiating (Who will go?) And he drives them out again, leading the plague of locusts.

Reflect: “The same sun that softens the wax hardens the clay.” How does that apply to Pharaoh’s heart? How does that apply to your own?

Pray.

DAY 3. Darkness covers Egypt, but God's people have light — Exodus 10:21–29 *Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.* — Exodus 10:23

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: What road signs do you ignore? As a child, darkness was: fearful? Fascinating? Frustrating?

Read Exodus 10:21–29. Darkness overwhelms Egypt. Pharaoh summons Moses and says “Go.” But again bargains. Moses sticks up for what he wants. (which is what God wants).

Reflect: Darkness is the most fitting expression of sin, which turns us away from God’s holiness and light. The Lord blots out the sun – confronting Amon-re, who was one of the most powerful gods of Egypt (akin to Zeus). And the Lord placed a division between the people of Israel and Egypt. How can we shed God’s light and love and life that others would see the image of God and the need for salvation He offers?

Pray.

Lesson arc: Remember → release → light. This is a terrific discipleship question here: What part of your life are you still negotiating with God about?

WEEK 11 November 16 – 22, 2026

Exodus 11: The Final Warning

Theme: God's judgment is real, but His deliverance is certain.

DAY 1. God announces the final plague — Exodus 11:1–3

“About midnight I will go throughout Egypt.” — Exodus 11:4

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: If you had to leave your house fast, what would you grab? What’s “silver and gold” to you there?

Read Exodus 11:1-3. Moses tells the people to be ready.

Reflect: Freedom comes at a price. God is bringing a great reconciliation – not just freeing His people from sin but restoring their right relationship with Him. How do you feel when someone rejects your warning?

Pray.

DAY 2. God distinguishes His people — Exodus 11:4–7 *But among the Israelites not even a dog will bark...* — Exodus 11:7

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: When was the last time you heard someone wail? Or wailing in a crowd?

Read Exodus 11:4-7. Moses gives this final warning. This is a matter of life and death, as is all sin.

Reflect: When was the last time your stomach churned because of the life and death nature of sin? Did you respond and change, or did it pass?

Pray.

DAY 3. Pharaoh still refuses to listen — Exodus 11:8–10

“Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt.” — Exodus 11:9

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Who is the most stubborn person in your immediate family?

Read Exodus 11:8-10. Again, Pharaoh’s officials are seeing what Pharaoh cannot see. But then Moses and God’s people will leave. It seems like God has given ample warning before His final act of judgment, life and death.

Reflect: Like Pharaoh, what are you willing to hold on to, even if it means “taking it to your grave,” rather than giving even that thing-sin-attitude you’re holding onto for “dear life” (or death) to God? Confess it to God and to one other person (or your group). Pray for one another to not pick it up again, or not cling to it again.

Pray.

Lesson arc: Warning → distinction → refusal. This chapter is really the runway into Passover and the climax of the first 12 chapters.

WEEK 12 November 23 – 29, 2026

Exodus 12: The Blood, the Lamb, and Freedom

Overarching theme: God delivers His people through the blood of the lamb.

DAY 1. Prepare the lamb — Exodus 12:1–13 *“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.”* — Exodus 12:13

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Where do you fall in birth order in your family? What great expectations or privileges fell on you, based on your position?

Read Exodus 12:1-13. Freedom comes with a price. (See Hebrews 9:22). God is bringing about a great work of reconciliation and deliverance, not simply freeing the Israelites from sin but restoring their right relationship with Him. Just before the Lord is to exact His final judgment on the gods (and culture) of Egypt with the death of the firstborn son, we read about the institution of feast of Unleavened Bread and Passover.

God begins by reorienting time for the Israelites. The annual feasts call the people to the wonders of God and invite them (and us) to organize our way of life as a people. We are also called to pass it on to others.

Note how this Passover is a prefigurement of Jesus Christ, who fulfills and transforms them. The Last Supper, the final meal that Jesus shared with His disciples before His passion and death takes the form of a new Passover. Christ is the high

priest who offers the sacrifice. He is also the perfect, unblemished lamb who is offered on the cross.

This Passover was a matter of life, death, and communion for the Israelites. Note that it was their faith in taking great care of the lamb, the blood on their doorposts, and these signs of their faith in the God of Israel's power to save them, which protected them from the destroying hand of the angel of death. If there was unwillingness or partaking in some unworthy way, there were consequences—because it was their faith in God's grace that saved them.

Reflect: What does this Passover event tell us about the power of God? The power of sin over our lives? What influence was the Passover intended to have on the Pharaoh? On the Egyptians? On the Hebrews? On future Israelites?

Pray.

DAY 2. Remember the deliverance — Exodus 12:14–28

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD.” — Exodus 12:14

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: Are you a details “do it right” person? Do you like celebrations? Remembrances? Ritual?

Read Exodus 12:14-28. God spells this out, and then invites His people to “tell your children “It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes” (12:27).

Reflect: What do I need to tell of the rescue story of God in my own life?

Pray.

DAY 3. Go free — Exodus 12:29–51 *The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth... On that very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.*
Exodus 12:37 and 12:51

2 minutes of silence and stillness before God

Opening/Icebreaker Question: What is your favorite fast food?

Read Exodus 12:29-51. The consequence of sin is death, as we see going back to the Garden of Eden. Here the final plague is delivered and the first-born son of Egypt is taken. A great cry is heard throughout the land.

Admitting the defeat of his gods, Pharaoh hits rock bottom, no longer able to resist God and putting his nation at Israel's disposal. After 400 years of slavery, the Egyptians beg them to leave. The Israelites ask for silver and gold and fine clothing as they go. The Egyptians will give up anything for them to leave and for their suffering to end.

There is a tension in readiness, waiting and action in the Passover which is instructive. Time for the Passover meal, not enough time for the bread to leaven in the morning, and for the Israelites to watch and wait through the night.

Reflect: This dynamic of waiting for God to lead while we do our part is amazing. God involves us in His work – making decisions, acting in humble confidence to follow what God is asking of us, and being ready to step out in faith. In what area of your life do you find God’s invitation to freedom so compelling that you simply must “go with God?”

Pray.

Lesson arc: The blood → the remembrance → the freedom. This is our extraordinary bridge into Advent and Christmas:

- Exodus 12: A lamb dies so God's people can go free.
- Jesus, “the Lamb of God” comes so God's people can truly go free.

Closing Reflection

As you finish this first section of Exodus, you’ve walked through God’s invitation to His Presence, His creation of an identity for you and me as the people of God, and for His deliverance. We see God’s ruling over nature, over cultures and their gods, and over life and death. We find that ultimately in Christ – our identity, our victory, our salvation and hope. As we move into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, Exodus reminds of us our own stories of salvation and waiting, suffering and release.

Take time to reflect:

- How has this journey shaped your understanding of God’s character?

- Where have you seen Jesus more clearly as the fulfillment of God's promise and your deliverance from sin and death?
- How will this promise of God's seeing, sending, and leading strengthen your faith in Christ and renew your hope in Him today?
