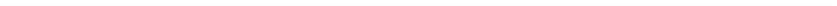




## **Group Discussion Guide**

### **Part 1**





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# Exodus

## Discussion Guide

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### Series Overview

Exodus is an epic summary of the epic of our lives. Israel's story in Exodus is a picture of our spiritual journey in our life with Christ.

### Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Exodus**.

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group.
- with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics.

# 1-Our Slavery (Exo 1-2)

## Icebreaker: Feel the Burn

Talk about experiences working your muscles so hard that they ached. When have you been able to build physical strength through this process?



## Discussion Questions: What Makes You Stronger

- Discuss what it might have been like to be in servitude to the Egyptians ([Exo 1:12-14](#)). How can suffering make you stronger spiritually ([Jas 1](#))?
- In what ways do all humans serve someone or something ([Rom 6:15-18](#))? Make a list of who or what some people serve.
- What can we learn about faith from Moses' parents ([Exo 2:2](#) and [Heb 11:23](#))? How does this challenge you as a physical or spiritual parent?
- A great Christian paradox is that God frees us from the slavery of sin to become slaves to Him. In what way is slavery to Christ true freedom ([Rom 6:17-23](#))?
- Often, when we suffer, we grow impatient. Even though we know God is in charge, we try to solve things under our own power. What was Moses' experience with impatience ([Exo 2:11-12](#), [Acts 7:22-25](#))? What is Paul's advice about depending on our flesh ([Rom 7:18](#))?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Civil Disobedience?

Why did the midwives disobey the government (**Exo 1:17**)?  
Under what circumstances should we disobey the government?

<i>Obey</i>	<i>Disobey</i>
<b>Romans 13:1-7</b>	<b>Acts 5:28-29</b>
Obey even if you don't like them, trust them, or agree with them. God has given them short-term authority.	Obey <b>until</b> they command you to disobey God's principles. Disobey them if you must do so to obey God.

### Application Exercise: Pray

Pray:

- Tell God what you love about Him.
- Ask Him to help you experience true freedom in Christ.
- Thank Him for being with you through the trials of life.

## 2-Our Savior (Exo 3-4)

### Icebreaker: Best Excuse

*The best excuse is to have none. -Ivan Panin*

Discuss your reaction to this quote.

### Discussion Questions: Self-doubt

- What was God's plan for delivering Israel from Egypt [[Exo 3:7-10](#)]? How does that plan resemble the way Jesus delivered us from the power of darkness [[Col 1:13](#)]?
- Consider the excuses Moses made for not wanting to take on the role of deliverer. How did God answer each excuse? How does God want you to handle your self-doubts?

<i>Excuse</i>	<i>God's Answer</i>
<a href="#">Exo 3:11</a> Question yourself	<a href="#">Exo 3:12</a>
<a href="#">Exo 3:13</a> Question your knowledge	<a href="#">Exo 3:14</a>
<a href="#">Exo 4:1</a> Question your influence	<a href="#">Exo 4:2-5</a>
<a href="#">Exo 4:10</a> Question your ability	<a href="#">Exo 4:11-12</a>

- What did Moses say that made God angry [[Exo 4:13-14](#)]? Why does God get angry when we say those types of things [[Luke 6:46](#)]?
- Consider how Moses softened God's message to Pharaoh.

<i>What God Told Moses to Say</i>	<i>What Moses Said</i>
<a href="#">Exo 4:22-23</a> , I will kill <b>your</b> first born.	<a href="#">Exo 5:3</a> , God will fall on <b>us</b> with the sword or illness.

What could tempt you to soften God's words? How is that a problem?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Moses Pictures Jesus

Here are some ways that Moses pictures Jesus. Feel free to add to the list.

	<i>Moses</i>	<i>Jesus</i>
Their parents protected them.	<a href="#">Exo 2:1-3</a>	<a href="#">Mat 2:13-15</a>
They were commoners who became princes.	<a href="#">Exo 2:6-10</a>	<a href="#">Luke 2:7-12</a>
They both took a gentile bride.	<a href="#">Exo 2:21-22</a>	<a href="#">Rom 11:25</a>
God sent them as deliverers.	<a href="#">Exo 3:7-10</a>	<a href="#">Rom 11:26-28</a>
People rejected them.	<a href="#">Acts 7:23-27</a>	<a href="#">Mat 27:22</a>
They have a victory song.	<a href="#">Exo 15:1-3</a>	<a href="#">Rev 15:2-4</a>

### Application: Am I Making Excuses?

How true are the following statements for you?

When God asks me to do something:	not true ← → completely true
Rather than think about who I am, I trust that He will be with me ( <a href="#">Exo 3:11-12</a> ).	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Rather than worry about my lack of ability, I depend on Him to work through me ( <a href="#">Exo 4:10-12</a> ).	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

What changes will you ask God to help you make?

## 3-Our Slave Master (Exo 5-11)

### Icebreaker: I Was a Slave to...

At times, many of us have allowed something or someone to control our lives. Make a list of what or who has controlled your life. For example, "I was a slave to my anger."

### Discussion Questions: Who's in Control?

- Pharaoh refused to acknowledge God's existence ([Exo 5:1-2](#)). What interferes with people believing the gospel ([Mat 13:4](#), [2John 7](#))?
- Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart ([Exo 8:15](#), [Exo 8:32](#), [Exo 9:34](#))? How does this resemble Jesus hiding truth in parables ([Mat 13:10-17](#), [Rom 9:14-18](#))?
- What does God want ([2Pet 3:9](#))?
- Pharaoh negotiated to try to keep as much control as possible. What were his offers in the progression?

[Exo 8:25](#)

[Exo 8:28](#)

[Exo 10:7](#)

[Exo 10:24](#)

[Exo 12:31](#)

How does this progression resemble how we struggle to work our way out of the bondage of the world? In what ways did you experience increasing opposition before accepting Christ?

## Dig a Little Deeper: God Disarmed the Local “gods”

The plagues illustrate how God is more powerful than the Egyptian gods ([Exo 12:12](#)). Here’s one possible mapping, though there are many other Egyptian gods.

Blood in water	Hapi, god of the Nile
Frogs	Heket, goddess of fertility, water, renewal
Gnats from dust	Geb, god of the earth
Flies	Khepri, god of creation, rebirth
Pestilence	Hathor, goddess of love and protection
Boils	Isis, goddess of medicine and peace
Hail	Nut, goddess of the sky
Locusts	Seth, god of disorder and storms
Darkness	Ra, the Sun god
Death of firstborn	Pharaoh, ultimate power of Egypt

### Application Exercise: Out of Bondage

Think about things in your life that are controlling you. Seek His strength and protection to overcome those things. Express your confidence in Him by praying back Bible passages to Him.

For example, from [Psalm 5:11](#), you could pray:

*Lord, give me the strength to overcome those things that are trying to control me. Lord, I rejoice because I put my trust in You. Because You defend me, I shout for joy. I love Your name and am joyful in You.*

# 4-Our Sacrifice (Exo 12-13)

## Icebreaker: Sacrifices

Make two lists [1] those who have made sacrifices for you, [2] those for whom you have made sacrifices.

### Discussion Questions: Pictures of Christ

*You may replace these Discussion Questions with the "Christ, the Passover Lesson." [Application Exercise.]*

- Compare **Exodus 12:13** to **1Peter 1:18-19**. In what way does the blood on the doorposts picture Christ covering us by His blood?
- Discuss how leaven pictures:
  - ▶ Bad doctrine (**Mat 16:6, Mat 16:11-12, Luke 12:1**)
  - ▶ Sin (**1Cor 5:6-8**)
- The following table lists key elements in a Jewish Passover feast. How does each element picture Christ?

<i>Element</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Pictures Christ</i>
Wine [grape juice]	Joy of freedom	<b>Luke 22:20</b>
Unleavened bread, pierced and striped	Priests, Levites, Israelites	<b>Isa 53:5, Psa 22:16</b>
Roasted meat	Sacrificial lamb	<b>John 1:29, John 19:33</b>
Bitter herbs	Bitterness of slavery	<b>1Cor 7:21-23</b>
Sweet paste	Mortar for brick	<b>Heb 9:12, Eph 1:7</b>
Parsley sprigs to dip in salt water	Backbreaking work	<b>John 19:29</b>
Salt water	Bitter tears	<b>Rev 21:3-4</b>

## Dig a Little Deeper: Characteristics of the Passover Lamb

The Passover lamb in Exodus shares some characteristics with Christ, Our Passover Lamb.

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>In Exodus</i>	<i>In Christ</i>
Substitute	For first born, <b>Exo 12:13</b>	For us, <b>1Cor 5:7</b>
Sinless	Without blemish, <b>Exo 12:5</b>	Entirely righteous, <b>Rom 3:23-25</b>
Slain	Had to kill it, <b>Exo 12:6</b>	Died for us, <b>1John 3:16</b>
Sprinkled	Blood on doorposts, <b>Exo 12:7</b>	Must allow His blood to cover us, <b>Eph 1:7</b>
Sufficient	Those under the blood were safe, <b>Exo 12:13</b>	Our salvation depends on His blood, <b>Eph 2:8-9</b>

### Application Exercise: Christ, the Passover Lesson

In your group or with your family, teach the “Christ, the Passover Lesson.” Note: The lesson requires materials and preparation.

Download the Christ, the Passover Lesson.

<http://visitgracechurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/group-lesson-Christ-passover.pdf>

## 5-Our Salvation (Exo 14)

### Icebreaker: Choice Between Two Things

Make a list of expressions that say you must make a choice between two things. For example, "It's all or nothing."

### Discussion Questions: A Third Option

- Discuss times when you have felt caught between facing Pharaoh's army or drowning in the Red Sea ([Exo 14:9-12](#)). Neither choice is good. Psychologists call this "The Sucker's Choice." We panic and don't look for a **third option**.
- Rather than face Pharaoh's army or drown in the Red Sea, what did Moses tell the people to do ([Exo 14:13-14](#))? How did their reaction show their faith?
- What was the sucker's choice the three Hebrew teenagers faced in [Daniel 3:14-15](#)? Rather than make a sucker's choice, what was the **third option** that they found ([Dan 3:16-18](#))?
- Share stories of facing a sucker's choice when God gave you a third option.
- In what way is accepting God's third option like having Him place Himself between you and Pharaoh ([Exo 14:19-20](#))?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Hip Pocket Third Options

When facing a sucker's choice, keep the following in your hip pocket as possible third options.

Be still and turn to God.	<b>Psa 46:10</b>
Listen to the other person.	<b>Ecc 3:7</b>
Pray for God's love to motivate you.	<b>1John 3:16</b>
Work with the person to attack the problem instead of one another.	<b>Rom 14:3</b>
Offer possible solutions rather than criticism.	<b>Pro 15:23</b>
Speak the truth in love.	<b>Eph 4:15</b>
Ask God to show you what would best glorify Him.	<b>1Cor 10:31</b>

### Application Exercise: Practicing Third Options

For the next week:

- Each time you have two options, look for a third option.
- When you see someone torn between two options, offer a third option.

# 6-Our Song (Exo 15)

## Icebreaker: Your Praise Will Ever Be On My Lips

Sing a song of praise to God. Pick one of your favorites or try this version of “Ever Be.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZDyMJhd4Bo>

## Discussion Questions: The Believer’s Songs

- Consider the song of Moses ([Exo 15:1-19](#)). Compare it to your view of God at the time you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior.
  - ▶ Who was Christ to you?
  - ▶ What did you know He had done?
  - ▶ How had He changed your heart?
  - ▶ What promises had you claimed?
  
- At the end of Moses’ life, He sang a second song ([Deu 31:30-32:43](#)). At the end of your life, what message would you like to convey to those around you?
  - ▶ How would you like them to view God ([Deu 32:4](#))?
  - ▶ What warnings would you give them ([Deu 32:18-20](#))?
  - ▶ What final thought would you share ([Deu 32:43](#))?
  
- Moses has a third song in heaven ([Rev 15:2-4](#)).
  - ▶ Who sings the song of Moses in heaven?
  - ▶ What other song do they sing?
  - ▶ For what reasons do you worship the LORD?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Singing to God

Reflect on these verses about singing to God.

Sing for joy in the LORD.	<a href="#">Psa 33:1-3</a> , <a href="#">Psa 95:1</a>
Sing to the LORD. Bless His name.	<a href="#">Psa 96:1-2</a> , <a href="#">Psa 9:2</a>
Sing praises and thanks to the LORD.	<a href="#">Eph 5:19-20</a> , <a href="#">Col 3:16</a>

### Application Exercise: I Will Sing to God

Sing to God each day for a week. For a challenge, find songs related to one or more of the verses in the “Singing to God” table.

Here are a couple of possibilities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huupSaAtvPk>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm\\_EOD-hlCU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm_EOD-hlCU)



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