“God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.”

Exodus 2:24-25
MOSES
Cut it out
and take
your bath
Bible Study Approach

Preparation before the bible study meeting:
1. Pray for Spiritual insight. Pray God will give you understanding of his word and prepare you to be taught.
2. Read the main passage. (Try reading different translations – NIV, NESB, etc)
4. Prepare your answers and thoughts to the questions in the study guide, which you will go through in the meeting
5. During the meeting, you may not have time to go through ALL of the questions – your leader will select questions each week that will be most helpful for your group. So it is important you prepare all of the study yourself to get the most out of it.

Meditating on the passage – getting the most out of it:
1. Ask the questions: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW
2. What things are being emphasized?
3. What things are being repeated?
4. Are there things that are connected – within the passage or with other passages in the Bible?
5. Interpretation: What does it mean?
   a. Context – style (poetry, history, etc), culture, geography, etc
   b. Meaning – of important words and phrases
6. Think about applying each passage to your own life:
   a. Personal, Family, Church, Work, Social
7. Is there an example to follow? A sin to avoid? A promise to hold on to? A prayer to pray? Commands to obey? Verses to memorise? Doctrinal understanding that needs correcting? Challenges to face?
8. Finally, ask yourself – “Who can I share this with?”
An introductory note for the book of Exodus:

Exodus is not only the story of God rescuing the Israelites from the hand of the Egyptians. It is the story of God making a people for himself, a holy people, and using them to bring blessing to the world. The story climaxes with the arrival of Jesus, the true Passover lamb, who offers redemption to all who put their trust in God. Exodus is the framework with which to fully understand the plans and promises of God in Jesus.

Exodus can be considered in three main sections:

Exodus 1:1-18:27  DEPARTURE: Departure from Egypt and journey to Sinai
Exodus 19:1-24:18  LAW: Arrival at Sinai and the giving of the law
Exodus 25:1-40:38  TABERNACLE: Further instructions at Sinai and giving of the law

DEPARTURE:
Exodus is the continuation of the story of Genesis, of God’s plans begun through the Patriarchs. God brought them into Egypt through the events of Genesis, and God will bring them out.

God will do this because of his promises. Not because of anything the Israelites have done.

The Exodus is an act of “re-creation” (1:7). Pharaoh is the one who stands against this plan of God for his people to multiply.

LAW:
Ten Commandments: 20:3-17
Book of the covenant: 21:1-23:19

Given by God to his redeemed people, AFTER the act of redemption. Not as a condition of redemption! It shows then how, as God’s people, they are to be holy, and it reveals the true nature of God himself – who he is, and how holy he is. God’s nature is to be reflected in their own lives as a community. How they treat each other is a reflection of their love for God.

TABERNACLE:
The tabernacle is not just a building. It is a piece of heaven on earth. It is to be an earthly representation of a heavenly reality. The heavenly order and detail of the building
represents, again, a deeper appreciation of who God is and how holy he is. It is a “holy place” in the middle of a broken world. Even in the midst of this, with Israel rebelling in the incident of the golden calf (Exodus 32-34), God’s plans continue. Even the rebellion of his own people will not stop his plans for the redemption of this world.

The Sabbath rest is also key in all of this. God’s people are to have a holy place to worship God in the tabernacle, but they are also to have a holy time to worship him. In the Tabernacle, they enter God’s heavenly house. On the Sabbath, they enter God’s heavenly rest.

**EXODUS in the context of the whole Bible:***

**In the Old Testament**, the Exodus event is mentioned many times by the prophets, especially while God’s people are in captivity. For example, by Jeremiah, whilst the Israelites are captives in Babylon. (Jeremiah 21:5-7, 16:14-15)

**In the New Testament**, the work of the Exodus is fulfilled in the work of Jesus Christ. The book of Hebrews makes grand comparisons of Moses and Jesus. Jesus is the one who leads his people to eternal freedom, out of the slavery of sin and death. Through Jesus, Satan, rather than Pharaoh, has been defeated. And Jesus will lead them into the eternal promised land of heaven, rather than the temporary home of the Promised Land of Canaan. (e.g. Hebrews 3:1-4:11)

The Last Supper has strong links to the Passover meal of the Exodus, with Jesus as the sacrificial lamb who protect people from death. (e.g. Luke 22:7-23)

In Matthew 5, Jesus speaks of the law of Exodus, being fulfilled in Him. He completely reveals a full understanding of the laws God gave his people at Sinai.

And Jesus also becomes the new Tabernacle – the place of God’s dwelling in earth with his people. (John 2:19-21) Revelation (21:22) completes this picture of Jesus’ return and complete fulfilment as God’s temple and Lamb. Until his return, here on earth, God’s Spirit is with us. And we are his temple on earth (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19).
Study One – Moses

Sermon passages: Exodus 1:15-22; Exodus 2:1-10

Introduction

Staring to read Exodus is a bit like walking in half way through a movie. Certain things have already happened that we need to be aware of in order to make full sense of what’s going on. In particular we need to be aware of some promises that God has made to a man named Abram.

Opener:
Before you begin, read and discuss Genesis 12:1-3.

1. What do these verses in Genesis tell us about God and his people?

Read Exodus 1:1-22.

2. How does this opening relate to God’s promises to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3?

3. In what other ways does the writer show us he is continuing the story of Genesis?
Refer Gen 46:26-27, Genesis 15:12-16

4. How and why does the king of Egypt oppress the Israelites?

5. In what ways do we fear men?
Read Exodus 2:1-10

6. What stories does the Bible give us of the birth of a child? What happens to the child? What are our expectations for this baby in Exodus 2?

Read Exodus 2:11-25

7. How should we view Moses in the light of these verses?


9. Thinking about these opening chapters of Exodus, how do you see the story unfolding?

10. “Moses is like Jesus.” Discuss!

Pray:
That as we look at God's people in the Old Testament and their endurance in opposition, it would encourage us to persevere.
Introduction:

The book of Exodus is a wonderful story, recording the miraculous work of God on behalf of his people; rescuing them from slavery, keeping His promises to the patriarchs of Israel. But the only reason we KNOW that this is what is going on in these events is because God speaks. And that’s the amazing truth contained in these chapters; that God speaks personally to Moses, revealing himself and his purposes. And through Moses, God speaks personally to others, including us!

Opener:
“I like to think of God as the big cosmic force which works the universe.”
Is this an adequate description of God?

Read Exodus 3:1-4:17

1. How does God introduce himself to Moses and what reaction does this produce in Moses? (Exodus 3:5-6)

2. What does God say he has done and will do? (Exodus 3:7-10)

3. Thinking about Moses response to God:
   a. What objections does Moses give?

   b. How does the Lord respond to each one?
c. What is the significance of the Lord’s response?

d. What can we learn for ourselves today from this?

4. Do you ever feel like Moses? How do the responses God gives help us in that situation?

5. In Exodus 3-4 Moses is to be God’s “mouthpiece”. Hebrews 3 says that Christ is more impressive than Moses. In what ways is Christ a better spokesman for God than Moses?

6. We learn many things about God in these verses. Pick one characteristic about God that stands out to you from these verses.
   a. In what ways do you see this characteristic revealed in Jesus?

   b. How should this characteristic shape the way we live?

   c. How should this characteristic shape the way we view and behave towards ourselves, each other, the people we work with, our friends and family?

**Pray**

Thank God that he is a personal God who is concerned about our lives. There may even be some specific life struggles that you like to share and talk to God about.
Study Three – Moses and Pharaoh part 2

Sermon passages: Exodus 7:1-13; Exodus 8:16-19

Introduction:

After meeting God, Moses returns to Egypt. He has been told that he is God’s chosen messenger to Pharaoh, and God has made some clear promises about the future of his people Israel. So we may be expecting a quick and dramatic end to Pharaoh’s slave-driving hold over Israel. But Moses quickly finds the wind knocked out of his sails as he experiences the resistance of Pharaoh and an increase in Israel’s suffering. What are we to make of this? Has God met his match? Did he “over-promise” to the point that he was unable to deliver? Who is master in Egypt, really?

Opener:

“The God of the Old Testament seems so different to the God of the New Testament. He always seems to be angry with people and punishing them.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Read Exodus 7:8-8:19

1. What miracles does God perform in order to try and force Pharaoh to free the Israelites?

2. Describe Pharaoh’s response to Moses and to God.

3. What does the competition between Moses and the magicians show us about God?

In sections, taking turns, read through Exodus 8:20-11:10, noting the following (read questions 4-7 first)
4. What pattern(s) can you see in the way the plagues are recorded?

5. What does God say about the purpose of the plagues?
(see 7:5; 7:17; 8:10; 8:22; 9:14-16; 9:29; 10:1-2; 11:7)

6. When and how are the Israelites distinguished from the Egyptians?


8. Reflecting on these chapters, finish this sentence: “My God is...”

Pray

Pray for a heart that is not hard, a heart which is humble and obedient before God.
Introduction:

As the contest of Exodus unfolds, who will have his way in Egypt? Pharaoh, the king, or the Lord God, King of Heaven and Earth? Certainly God has performed some awesome works to show his power, but the people of Israel still remain captive. Yet, God is sovereign. God knew in advance that it would come down to this tenth plague (see Ex 3:19-20 & Ex 4:21-23). But whereas last week we focussed on God’s judgment of Pharaoh and Egypt for Pharaoh’s stubborn refusal to obey God, this week we will focus on what it means for the people of Israel. This tenth plague is God’s great act for their salvation. God not only provides the plague to force Pharaoh to let them go; God also mercifully provides for the people a means of salvation so that they will not be harmed in this night of judgment. To know God properly is to know that he provides salvation for his people, and that salvation is worth remembering!

Opener:

Think of an important event in your life. What was it? What made it important?

Read Exodus 12:1-51

1. What effect will this final plague have on
   a) Pharaoh

   b) Israel

2. Consider how the Israelites are to eat the Passover.
   a. Verse 5: Why?

   b. Verse 7: Why?

   c. Verses11: Why?
3. What is the significance of the blood?

4. How does this align with what God said would happen in Genesis 15:13-14?

5. How does the Passover point us to Jesus? Compare the following verses/passages:
   a. Mark 14:12, 22-25 (When Jesus makes the Passover about himself)
   b. 1 Corinthians 5:7
   c. 1 Peter 1:18-19

Read Exodus 13:1-16

7. Why do the Israelites need to ‘commemorate this day’?

8. Why do the firstborn belong to the Lord? (Refer also Ex 4:22)

Pray
Give thanks that, through Jesus’ death as our Passover lamb, we have been set free from sin and death and have been made rich with spiritual blessings.
Study Five – Exodus

Sermon passages: Exodus 12:40-51; Exodus 15:1-21

Introduction:
Sometimes, when life is going well, it’s easy to believe that God knows what He’s doing & that He is in control. But when forces that are hostile to your faith seem to have the upper hand or when your physical circumstances change and your well being is threatened, does it challenge your faith in God’s power? That was certainly the experience of the people of Israel, as we see in this chapter. Despite the great salvation God had achieved through the Passover, as the people fled Egypt their very existence was threatened; it seemed to them that God’s plan may actually be thwarted by Pharaoh. Who will have the last word in this great struggle for power?

Opener:
How do you see God’s presence in your life? How does that affect your life?

Read Exodus 12:40-51
1. Why do you think it was important for foreigners to become Jews in order to share in the celebration of the Exodus?

Read Exodus 13:17-14:31
2. How does God show his presence with his people? Why?!?!

3. What is the response of the Israelites when Pharaoh and his army approach?
4. How does Moses encourage them?

5. How does God gain glory for himself through Pharaoh and all his army?

**Read Exodus 15:1-21**

6. How do the Israelites respond when they see what God has done? How do you respond?

7. How does the song of Moses and the Israelites help us to understand our Lord and his relationship with his people?

8. What difference does it make for us being this side of the cross? How do we understand God’s relationship with his people, us?

**Pray**

Consider the praise that God is due. The honour he deserves for all he has done in your life and the lives of those around you. Give praise to God.
Introduction
God has performed such amazing feats to rescue his people. In chapter 15 the people have been celebrating their great salvation. But how quickly we forget the great things God has done. Within days and weeks of this miraculous event we find the people questioning and challenging whether or not God intended good for them and whether they would have been better off without his saving action. There are important lessons for the people still to learn and, once again, through these events, the people are going to come to know God more!”

Opener:
“Of all the things in life, contentment is the most elusive.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement. Why?

1. Summarise the story so far.

Read Exodus 16:1-17:7
For questions 2,3 and 4, you may find the table on the next page helpful...

2. What complaints do the people bring against Moses and / or the Lord?

3. In what ways does God provide for his people in these verses?

4. How does God respond to their complaints?
5. What do we learn about God and the way he wants his people to relate to him?

6. “Moses points us to Jesus.” Discuss.

7. Do you believe God provides for you today? If so, in what ways?

8. How do you respond to God in the way he provides for you

Pray
Give thanks for God’s loving patience with his children.
Study Seven – 10 commandments part 1

Sermon passages: Exodus 20:1-17; Exodus 20:18-26

Introduction
Finally, God has led his people to the mountain as he promised. It is here that they receive the 10 commandments, plus a whole lot of other laws. Yet, these laws were not a test. God did not say “I’ll only help you if you follow these laws”. God has already promised to save them as his people. Israel already belong to God. So what is the purpose of these laws? Are they just a good way to live, or is there more to them?

Opener:
In what ways can we be too casual in the way we treat God and his laws? What is the danger of this?

Read the whole chapters of Exodus 19 and 20

1. On what basis does God give Israel commands to obey?

2. Why should Israel obey God? Why should we?

3. Why were the people of Israel afraid?
Read Hebrews 10:19-22.

4. Regarding the fear of the Israelites, what has changed for us now living this side of the cross of Jesus?

5. What is the significance of the fact that God gave his people the law AFTER he delivered them / saved them / redeemed them from Egypt?

6. In the 10 commandments, what things are said about how Israel are to treat God and what things are said about how Israel are to treat each other?

Select and read a small passage from Exodus 20:22-23:19

7. Why does God give his people all these extra laws?

Pray
Ask for the obedience and endurance to live a life worthy of the salvation that you have received in Christ.
Study Eight – 10 commandments part 2

Sermon passages: Exodus 24:3-18; Exodus 26:30-34

Introduction:
God is very specific in the way the Israelites are to live, because they are to be different to every other nation. They are to stand out as people belonging to God. But this is not what makes them God’s people. They are already his because of the covenant he made with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) This covenant comes from God, and is guaranteed by God. Even though the Israelites are unfaithful again and again, God is always faithful to his word. And finally, the covenant, the tabernacle and even the Passover Lamb, will be fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

This study will bring us to look at more of the book of Hebrews.

Opener:
What is the difference between an old model and a new model of, for example, a car, a microwave, a washing machine, a computer, etc…?

Read Exodus 23:20-24:18
1. How will God bring his people into the Promised Land?

2. Imagine being one of the Israelites watching the mountain. How would you feel? How should we feel about this now? (refer Hebrews 12:18-29)

3. Read Hebrews 8:6-12. How do we understand how God wants us to live and the covenant he has made with us today through Jesus?
4. The blood of the covenant...
   a. What is the blood of the covenant? (Exodus 24:8)

   b. Compare this with Matt 26:28

5. Take some extra time to compare this also to Hebrews 9:11-28 especially verses 15 and 28)

6. Why does God give the Israelites such detail for the tabernacle?

7. Discuss the use of the word “tabernacle” in Read Hebrews 9:11-15.

Pray:
Thank God that he is faithful to His word, and that he has fulfilled everything he promised through Jesus Christ. Thanks God for the way he personally looks after you in your life.
Study Nine – Rebellion

Sermon passages: Exodus 32:1-16; Exodus 32:17-35

Introduction:

Just when you think everything is going well, along comes a golden calf! Despite all God has done for them, the Israelites have yet again sinned against him and rejected him as God. These chapters remind us of the frailty of our human nature, the brokenness we live with, and the help we need to keep trusting in God. We are easily distracted by the gods of this world. But praise God – He is faithful even when we are not.

Opener:

If someone asked you what the book of Exodus was about, what would you say?

Read Exodus 32:1-35

1. Why does Aaron make the Golden Calf?

2. What is the response of the people to the Golden Calf? Have they rejected God?

3. In what ways are we like the Israelites in this incident?
4. What is God’s response to the golden calf incident?

5. How will God keep his word to Moses and his promises to Abraham?

6. What arguments does Moses use to plead with God for the people?

7. What similarities and differences are there between Moses and Jesus as they intercede for God’s people?

8. What are the consequences of Israel’s sin?


**Pray:**
That we would continue to trust God, even when we feel like he is absent. Take some time to share the things you find it hard to trust God with sometimes.
## Sermon Series Outline

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**Recommended text resource:**
