

Small Group Guide – Week 5

GOD WHO HEARS

The Church at Brook Hills

February 1-7, 2010

Exodus 1-4

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Sometimes circumstances seem to be leading one way, but then God intervenes and everything changes. Ask learners to describe such a time in their lives and then how God acted in it.

Explain that this week we are reading the story of how God acted in a mighty, new way among His people and everything changed.

Option 2

Ask learners to describe a time in their lives when they thought God was "silent" or had forgotten them. How did it feel? What happened to break the silence? How do they view that time of waiting now? What was God up to?

Explain that this week we are reading the story of God's call to Moses and how God was beginning to fulfill His promises made long before to Abraham.

Review the Passage . . .

God is always at work and is always in control.

- **Sometimes God seems silent. He is not defined by our schedule.**
- **But God is always working out His story of redemption in the world.**
- **God's people can be confident that He remains active on their behalf for their good and for the sake of His own glory.**

Discussion

- Read Exodus 1. (Leaders may need to give a very brief description of the events of Exodus chapters 1-15 if their group is not familiar with the story.)
- Reread 1:1-7, 12, 20. How is God's promise to Abraham being fulfilled?
- Read Exodus 12:40. 430 years is a long time for us. But God was building a nation the entire time. God's plans were on schedule. Read Genesis 15:13-14.
- How do fulfilled promises and prophecies glorify God and His Word?

Application . . .

- How can God’s trustworthiness give us hope in the midst of difficult circumstances?
- How can God’s faithfulness inspire our patience and trust?
- How can this story teach us to pray in the midst of suffering?
- How can these Scriptures encourage us as we pray, give, and go for the lost of Birmingham and the world, even those who seem unreachable? (i.e., they’ve been followers of another religion for so many years; they’ve personally rejected God for so long, etc.). See Revelation 7:9-10.

God can use radical obedience to create radical change.

- **The midwives and Moses’ mother took big risks. God blessed it.**
- **God uses behind-the-scenes people to accomplish His purposes.**
- **God orchestrated everything according to His will.**

Discussion

- Read Exodus 2:1-10. Review 1:15-22.
- Why did the midwives risk disobeying the king? (1:17)
- Why do you think Moses’ mother decided to hide Moses?
- Describe all the factors that had to come together for baby Moses to be protected and ultimately saved?
- Who is in control here, God or the pharaoh?
- What role did God use Moses’ mother to play in the deliverance of Israel?

Application . . .

- What is the root of radical obedience?
- What are the results of radical obedience in this passage of Scripture and beyond?
- Did God bless this type of obedience? Will God bless radical obedience today? Can this obedience take many forms, “big” or “small”? Does radical obedience always have a happy ending (from an earthly perspective)? Why or why not?
- How can radical obedience create radical change in the world? What kind of radical change do you/does God want to see in the world? What kind of radical obedience will it take?
- How can this Scripture encourage those who work behind-the-scenes?
- How can God’s sovereignty give confidence to our lives?
- What are some ways God has protected you?

God hears the cries of His people.

- **God always hears our prayers.**
- **He sees our suffering and cares for us.**
- **God sent a deliverer for Israel. God sent His Son to deliver us.**

Discussion

- Enlist several learners to read Exodus 2:11 through Exodus 4 (end).
- Review 2:23-25. Did God hear the people when they cried out earlier (assuming they did)? Why or why not? Why did God not act earlier?
- Does God care about our sufferings?
- Review Exodus 3:7-9. Was God unaware of their sufferings earlier? Did prayer tell God something He didn't know? Who is ultimately the Deliverer of Israel? (verse 8) How does this passage reinforce Job's statements in Job 19:25-27?
- Who is our Deliverer? What has He delivered us from? How is Moses a foreshadowing of Christ?

Application . . .

- Why should we keep on praying in the midst of suffering?
- How can God's intimate knowledge of our problems and His care for us give us comfort?
- What has Jesus delivered you from? What is He delivering you from today?
- Give thanks to God for delivering you.

God is faithful.

- **God does not give up on His plans.**
- **God does not give up on His people. (See also 2 Timothy 2:13)**
- **God is merciful to us. Our response is worship and obedience.**

Discussion

- More than 400 years passed. But God did not forget His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. How does God introduce Himself to Moses? (3:6)
- How does the name "I AM" give us insight into God's view of time? Insight into his greatness?
- Did God give up on Moses after he killed an Egyptian? Did God give up on Moses when he was tending sheep in the wilderness? Did God give up on Moses when he made excuses? Why not? What does this tell us about God?
- What is the proper response to God's Deliverer? (Read 4:31)

Application . . .

- Do you believe God has plans for you, to use you? Why or why not? What do you think are some of those plans? What are some of the plans God has revealed in His Word?
- Does God give up on His people when they fail, when they sin? Is God patient with us? What are the results of our disobedience? What are the results of our obedience?
- How does God's faithfulness convict us? How does it encourage us after we sin?

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- God mercifully sent His Son to redeem us. What is our response to be?
- Spend some time praising God for His mercies.