



EXODUS

Study Guide
Week 2

Exodus

Week 2: Day 1

Read: Exodus 1-2

God's timing and provision are certain and perfect. He always has the right man in the right place at the right time. In this story, the man happens to be Moses...

In the closing chapters of Genesis, we see God's chosen people being brought down to Egypt under the protection of Joseph in order to save them from famine. And there they lived for years, enjoying the fruits of the fertile land of Goshen where they had settled. But soon there arose a Pharaoh who forgot all about Joseph and how he had helped rule Egypt. This new Pharaoh felt threatened by the Israelites because they had become extremely numerous. In order to ease his fear, this man determined to oppress the Israelites through hard labor and even by forcing them to kill their babies.

It is in this context that Moses enters the world. He was born a slave, but because of God's providence, he was raised a prince in Pharaoh's household. He grows into a man, but as we see in the story, he never loses touch with the people he was born to. When Moses saw some Israelite slaves being mistreated by an Egyptian, he killed the Egyptian and buried his body in the sand. He soon discovered that his bloody deed was known to some, so he fled to Midian to escape Pharaoh's wrath.

Forty years passed while Moses lived a new life as a shepherd in the land of Midian. He had started his own family and tended his father-in-law's sheep, leading them around the desert in search of food and water; caring for them as if they were his own. And it is at this time – when Moses is 80 – that God calls Moses from the burning bush. Moses *will* lead his people out of bondage. This time it won't be by Moses' strength. But by the strength of the living God!

How about you?

If you're anything like me, you probably can remember a time when you tried to accomplish something in your own strength and in your own timing. Sometimes we "*succeed*" in these efforts. But usually, our success pales in comparison to what God has for us!

Exodus

Week 2: Day 2

Read: **Exodus 3**

Exodus 3:7-9 (ESV), “*Then the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.*”

In this chapter we find that God has seen the oppression of His people by the Egyptians. He has also heard their cry, and He knows their sorrows. We see that all this moved Him to action. **Verse 8** says, “*...and I have come down to deliver them...*”, So here we find that God, “*came down*” to rescue His people from the oppression they were under, from being slaves to the Egyptians and in bondage, helpless to rescue themselves. He came down to bring them up out of that land to somewhere far better. I can imagine the Hebrew people feeling very alone as they were under intense oppression day in and day out. I can imagine a sense of helplessness, knowing that if they try and fight back, they'll only make their situation worse. I can even imagine a feeling of hopelessness, feeling as if this is how they will live and die, that there is no escape or hope of rescue. Or maybe they thought to themselves nobody even cares; nobody cares about the life of a slave.

In our sin we are these slaves. This is our plight. But God sees. He hears. And He knows. And He has come down to rescue us. He came in the person of Jesus and died to liberate us and lead us to the Promised Land. When we were helpless, He came. When we were hopeless, He came. Jesus is still in the liberating business. Anyone who calls on His name in faith will be set free. Charles Wesley put it beautifully: “*Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night. My eyes defused a quickening ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light. My chains fell off, my heart was freed. I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*” We must remember that when we find ourselves feeling helpless and alone, hopeless as if nobody cares... Jesus cares. In Him we find a

relationship, and it's in Him that we have hope. And just like the Hebrews witnessed long ago, we serve a God who sees us, who hears us, and who knows us intimately. And most importantly, we serve a God who deeply loves us to the point of sending His own son to die on a cross in our place. Just as the Hebrews were set free from slavery to the Egyptians, if we've put our faith and trust in our Savior Jesus Christ, we have been set free from the bondage of sin! Praise God!

Questions for reflection:

1. What areas in your life do you feel enslaved or trapped? Why?
2. What would it look like, for you, to be set free in those areas?

Exodus

Week 2: Day 3

Read: **Exodus 3-4**

“But-Be-Gone!”

“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.’” Exodus 3:11-12 (ESV)

Picture this - Insomnia has struck...remote control in your hand...clicking through the channels...when you hit - infomercial row! It's the Abdominizer - just 10 minutes a day and I lost 200 pounds...click...introducing the Ab-rocker...click...Ab-roller...click...Torso-tiger...click...Torso-track...click...Body by Jake....click...BowFlex...click...P90X...click...

Then there's a new voice; *“Have your love handles been fruitful and multiplying? Have you convinced yourself that because good things happened in the Bible linked to the number 40 that eating 40 chocolate covered doughnuts must be the right thing to do? When you look into a mirror are you confronted with the truth that your discipleship has gotten a bit flabby?”*

“Well, your prayers have been answered because now there's “But-Be-Gone!” This revolutionary new product will give you results the very first day! You'll crave Bible study instead of doughnuts and you'll make Samson look like a weakling! How much does this miracle product cost? Nothing – it's FREE! Bought and paid for, so take a leap of faith and call now - our operator is standing by!” CLICK...

Depending on the translation of **Exodus** chapters **3** and **4** you choose to read there are anywhere from 1 to 5 “**But's**” that Moses offers God in response to His call. Take a couple of minutes right now and read through chapters **3** and **4** in your Bible and circle all of Moses’ “**but's**” – the first one comes in **verse 11**...

But Moses said to God, but suppose, but what if, but...one reason after another as to why he couldn't possibly do what God was calling him to do. And, honestly, Moses’ “**But's**” are altogether reasonable, the kind

anyone would make who understands the fullness of what he's being called to do. And yet Moses' list of excuses, driven by his sense of inadequacy, are not met with God assuring him that he is adequate, but with the response that God will be present, God will be with him, God will provide him the resources he needs to fulfill his calling.

I guess I'm wondering if there is a "*But...*" that is hindering your walk with Christ? Is there a "*But...*" that is keeping you from experiencing the totality of what God has planned for you? I guess I'm suggesting that we learn from Moses, that maybe we'd all be better off if we "*banned the buts*" if we purchased our own, "**But-Be-Gone**" when it comes to choices that need to be made in our lives as disciples.

The trouble is the "*But's*" come so easily, don't they? I know I should be in worship every weekend, **BUT...** those weekend snowboarding lessons are really a great deal, or I've had a really hard week, and I need the weekend to recuperate. I really want to get connected to a home group, **BUT...** it's such a rush after work and the kids are so busy. I'd really like to serve with our youth ministry, **BUT...** there are lots of others who could probably do a better job than I can. I know I've been called to give a regular percentage of my income to the work of the Lord, **BUT...** I am afraid there won't be enough at the end of the month. I think it would be exciting to serve, and I have the time to do it now that I'm retired, **BUT...** I've done it before, and I'll leave it to the younger generation. In one way or another – to one degree or another – the "*Buts*" creep into our lives and before we know it our discipleship has gotten a little bit flabby.

Think about:

1. Are there some "*Buts*" that have snuck into your walk with God? Talk about it with someone who is close to you, who knows you well.
2. How does the assurance that God is with you impact your response to Him?

Exodus

Week 2: Day 4

Read: Exodus 3-4

“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.’” Exodus 3:11-12 (ESV)

Yesterday you had the opportunity to reflect on the “**But’s**” of Moses – to reflect on your own “**But’s**” – your own list of excuses as to why you are not more fully responding to God’s call and commission in your life. Don’t you find it “*coincidental*” that we’re being invited to interact with the book of **Exodus** as we enter a New Year? The kind of honest reflection that took place yesterday naturally gives way to a sense of what comes next... so now what?

This story might give us some ideas. At a seminar on time management the presenter pulled out a wide mouth gallon-sized jar and dumped a pile of fist-sized rocks on the table next to the jar. After filling the jar with the fist-sized rocks he asked the group, “*Is the jar full?*” The group replied in unison, “*YES!*” The presenter nodded, paused then pulled out a bucket filled with pea gravel. He poured the pea gravel into the jar and jiggled the jar until the gravel filled the spaces between the big rocks and the jar was full. Again, he asked, “*Is this jar full?*” This time the group was more hesitant saying, “*Probably not.*” “*Good.*” came the reply of the presenter as he pulled out a bucket of sand. He poured the sand into the jar – jiggling the jar moving the sand down in between the cracks left between the big rocks and the pea gravel until the jar was full. Again, he asked them, “*Is the jar full?*” “*NO!*” they all shouted in unison. As the presenter pulled out a pitcher of water the group began to laugh. Pouring the water into the jar it bubbled its way down to the bottom filling in all the remaining spaces in the jar until it was filled to the top.

Setting down the pitcher of water – the presenter asked, “*What is the point of this illustration?*” One member of the group blurted out, “*The point is obvious – you can always fit more stuff into your schedule if you really work at it!*” “*That’s not the point.*” the presenter said calmly. “*The*

point is this; if you don't put the big rocks in first – you can't get them in at all!"

It may be a bit of a stretch, but I think it's safe to say that Moses was forgetting to put the big rocks in first. He was quick to grab the smaller ones, his fears, his worries, his inadequacies, his long list of "*But's*" – all the while forgetting the big rocks; "*I will help you speak, I will teach you what to say, I will give you signs and I will be with you,*" - the biggest rock of them all. You know, I forget that one too, sometimes. Sometimes I forget to put the big rocks in first.

I'm wondering what 2025 would look like if we committed to putting the big rocks in first each day, week, and month of this new year. How would our lives be different if we began each and every day with a commitment to; "*...love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength*" and to "*...love our neighbors as ourselves.*" I wonder how our lives would be different if we replaced our excuses with the big rock of God's promises, if we replaced our worries and fears with the big rock of faith, if we put our hope and trust in the Lord in the jar first.

Think about:

1. Thank God for His presence and provision in your life – remember His promises to help you, to teach you, to be with you always!
2. What are your "*big rocks*" – those things that, in 2025, you are committed to putting in first?

Exodus

Week 2: Day 5

Read Exodus 5-6:12

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh to ask him to let the Israelites go, so they could hold a festival in the desert to honor and worship God. This request backfired and Pharaoh responded harshly and accused the nation of Israel of being lazy. He then demanded the Israelites to make the same number of bricks with fewer resources. Moses' own leaders were angry and let him know that his leadership had made them "*a stench to the Pharaoh.*"

Exodus 6:6-8 (ESV): "*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. 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. 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.'*"

"I am the LORD": God goes to the furthest distance possible to confirm this covenant with the children of Israel. In seven separate "**I will**" promises, God says, "**I'm going to do it. You can count on me.**"

These same "**I'm going to do it. You can count on me**" promises are for us today:

- **I will bring you out.**
- **I will free you from being slaves.**
- **I will redeem you.**
- **I will take you as My people.**
- **I will be your God.**
- **I will bring you into the land I swore.**
- **I will give it to you as a possession.**

My heart aches as I read this next verse. I am like the Israelites so often. Are you? God had just delivered these life-giving promises that He would keep, and the Israelites didn't listen through their pain.

Exodus 6:9 (ESV): "*Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.*"

They let their current struggles and discouragements in life dictate their willingness to listen to God's promises.

For us, God wants to be more to us than a distant God Almighty, He wants us to also to know Him as a personal, promise-making, and promise-keeping God, whom we can trust in everything.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. Please take a moment and “set aside” yourself and read God’s 7 promises (*many times*)... then listen.
2. What is your promise-making and promise-keeping God saying to you?
3. Take a moment and praise God for these 7 promises.

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