

Out of Egypt

Session SIX

TEACHING NOTES

The 500-year-old Word of God (Genesis 15:13-16)

God's plan and His Word are accomplished in His time

God the faithful deliverer (Exodus 12:31-42)

Pharaoh relents because of God's mighty hand

God the good shepherd (Exodus 13:17-22)

He leads them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night

The Lord is a God who leads His people

KEY VERSE(S)

Exodus 12:31-19:2

KEY THEME(S)

God is the faithful deliverer
 God is the good shepherd
 God protects
 God provides

INTRODUCTION INNOCECE CONSCIENCE HUMAN GOVERNMENT PROMISE

NOTES**God the protector/ way maker (Exodus 14)**

God provides a way of escape where there is no way and destroys the enemy

God hardens Pharaoh's heart to gain glory over Pharaoh and so everyone knows that He is the Lord – He gets the glory (Exodus 14:4)

The song of Moses: The Lord is a man of war – El Shaddai (Exodus 15)

God the provider (Exodus 16-17)

God provides bread from heaven for 40 years – Jesus is the bread from heaven (John 6)

God provides water from the rock – Jesus gives living water (John 4)

God brings the Israelites to Sinai, the mountain of God (Exodus 19:1-2)

PERSONAL STUDY

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This is your personal study time, a time for you and God. Take this opportunity to intentionally seek God knowing that He is pursuing you right this very minute. God is the one who is going to draw you closer to Him. He desires a willing heart.

Session 1 (approximately 20 minutes)

Prepare your heart and mind

There may be many things or people pulling at your thoughts. Begin your time with God by asking the Holy Spirit to fill you with peace and the ability to focus on the present opportunity to draw closer to Him.

Read Exodus 12:31-42

Verse 36 says, “The Lord caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the Israelites...”

Prior to the Exodus, how did the Egyptians view the Israelites?

The Egyptians were losing all of their slave labor and had just been put through 10 of the worst plagues one could ever imagine. If you were in their shoes, would you have looked favorably on the Israelites? No, you wouldn't. Clearly this was an act of God.

In verses 40-42 we see that, “The people of Israel had lived in Egypt for 430 years. In fact, it was on the last day of the 430th year that all the Lord's forces left the land. On this night the Lord kept his promise to bring his people out of the land of Egypt...”

What's the longest you've ever waited on God? A couple days? Months? Maybe a year or two?

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The Israelites believed that God was their faithful deliverer, held on to the promises God had made to their ancestors, and waited on Him for 430 years.

God does things in His timing. Think back to a time when you struggled to wait on God for His timing. Why is it so hard for us to wait on God?

Read Exodus 13:17-22

Verse 17 says, “When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, “If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.”

If you were in their shoes and all you knew was that God was taking you the long way through the desert, what might have been your initial reaction?

God doesn't always give us the whole picture. We may know there is an easier or faster way, but that may not be what God has for us. We have to trust Him. He is good. And He takes care of us.

Was there a time in your past that God's leading didn't seem to make sense? Maybe you thought you had a better plan than Him. What was the outcome of that situation?

Through that situation what did you learn about God? What did you learn about yourself?

In verse 21-22 we see that, “The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night. And the Lord did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from its place in front of the people.”

Again, we see how God is the good shepherd. He took care of the Israelites while they were in Egypt, He was with them when He called them out, and now we see how He continues to guide them in a way only He could: a pillar of cloud and a pillar of smoke.

Just imagine for a minute what that must have been like. Could you have had any doubt that God was with you, guiding you? Without something like the smoke and fire, how willing do you think the Israelites would have been to follow Moses through the desert?

God knows what He’s doing. He knows what His people need. He is our good shepherd.

Application

Think back through your life to a time when God was your good shepherd – a time when He guided you just the way you needed Him. What did you learn about God through that situation? What did you learn about your relationship with Him?

Prayer time

Spend some time talking with God. Ask Him to help you grow in your belief that He is your faithful deliverer and good shepherd. Thank Him for His goodness and presence in your life. Spend some time just being quiet and listening to Him.

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NOTES**Session 2** (approximately 20 minutes)**Prepare your heart and mind**

Take a minute to praise God for who He is and what He has done for you. Ask Him to remove the distractions of life so you can focus on His Word and where He is leading you.

God the provider**Read Exodus 16:1-18**

The Israelites have been brought out of Egypt witnessing the plagues, the Passover and the parting of the Red Sea. They have been in the desert for 40 days. The food supplies they took from Egypt are either running extremely low or gone. They are hungry....really hungry. Very quickly, they begin to look back at their life in Egypt and to glamourize what they had. They suddenly forget that they were enslaved and treated terribly. All they can focus on are their empty bellies as they reminisce about the life they had in Egypt.

We now begin to see the first of many lessons God teaches them while in the desert. In verses 1-4, what is the first dependence on God?

What does their complaining expose about how they viewed God's provision?

List some of the ways God had already provided for the Israelites. In light of the ways God had provided, what causes them to doubt again God's ability to provide food?

It's easy to judge them for quickly forgetting God's past provisions, but where do you see this reality in your life?

How does God respond to their complaints? What does that tell you about His character?

Read Exodus 16:19-36

Describe the directions given for the manna and what would happen if they did not follow God’s instructions.

Why do you think God gave these conditions for the manna?
What was He looking for?

God is the great provider. He desires us to seek Him for our daily needs. We are not to hoard, but trust in His provision. As you think about your own “wilderness” experiences, how have you seen God be the great provider?

What are you trying to take control of instead of trusting God to be your provider?

Prayer time

Take a moment to reflect on today’s personal study and identify areas where God has pursued you, communicated to you and provided for you. Give God thanks.

In John 6:32 & 35 Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, Moses didn’t give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Jesus is the true spiritual bread that offers eternal life. Share with God what His provision of eternal life means to you.

Take a moment in silence to hear if God is speaking anything to you.

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PARENT GUIDE

For Elementary-Age

Many of us have the bad habit of being too self-reliant. We take the burden upon ourselves and attempt to carry the load on our own instead of leaning on God and His power.

We see a version of this in the Exodus story. The people of Israel are delivered from Egypt in an amazing way and embark on a journey into the wilderness. It's not too long before they start to complain about food, water and living conditions. They even begin to look back and think their life of slavery was a better option. God as our provider responds in spite of their lack of appreciation for what He has done for them.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I have heard the Israelites' complaints. Now tell them, 'In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have all the bread you want. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'" Exodus 16:11-12

Remember that God is greater than our circumstances. If we trust Him, He will provide us with what we need. This is a huge truth for children. It is tied to our faith and is something we should walk in everyday. Trusting that God will provide is best shown through modeling. We need to talk about this truth with our children and then put it into motion in our lives. Here are a few questions to generate conversation with your children regarding how God provides:

- What's the difference between the things we want and the things we need?
- What are some examples of the things that we need, not want, in our lives?
- Read together how God provided food for the Israelites found in Exodus 16.
- Take turns sharing how God has provided for you in your life.
- Do you think it is hard or easy to trust that God will provide for you? Why?
- Pray together.

For Teenagers

One of the characteristics God displays is that He has our best interests in mind - He is the good shepherd. In the Exodus story we see God taking Israel on an alternate route for their own good. Remember that God wants to spare us pain, guilt, and shame. He does not deal pain out, however he does both allow pain to happen and let us choose pain. Israel could have simply said, "Let's go the shorter route, because God doesn't know what He's talking about." This decision would have cost them dearly, and they would have missed what God had for them.

- Read Exodus 13:17-22. Ask the kids to read this part of Moses' story with you. Talk about a time when you let God lead you and how things turned out. Talk about a time in which you disobeyed God and things didn't go so well.
- Ask your teenager about a time when they obeyed God and when they didn't. (Note to Parents: Be careful not to bring up a time in which they disobeyed God, let them come to it on their own. Praise them when they did obey God, and sympathize with them when they didn't.)
- Talk about how some things that God commands us to do that don't make sense, like in this story.
- Always remember that God is the good shepherd and He wants what is best for us. His intent is not to kill our fun, but to care for and protect us.

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