



Exodus and Deuteronomy

Exodus

Big Idea:

The creation of the nation of Israel.

GROUP DISCUSSION

The book of Genesis ends with the people of God (the sons of Israel) surviving a famine in Egypt thanks to one of Israel's sons Joseph's relationships to the Pharaoh. Almost 400 years later the opening of the book includes this in Exodus 1:8 "Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt." This is where the story takes a turn, and we see the Pharaoh treating the people of Israel very badly.

Discuss

Share a time that due to your circumstances you felt isolated from either other people or from God.

GROUP READING

- Read [Exodus 3](#). Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?

- What does this reveal about who we are?
- What does it reveal about God?
- Notice how many times God says "I have, or I am", what observations do you have about that?

Throughout the rest of the book of Exodus Moses goes back and forth between God and the people. The story of the Exodus is the key identity story for God forming the nation of Israel. God performs many mighty miracles and delivers the nation out of slavery and gives them an identity as his own people.

God opens his law for his people with this as His first commandment. Exodus 20:2-3 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

Notice that God reminds His people of who he is and their relationship before he asks me what to do.

Discuss

Why do you think that of all the things God could have told his people to do he started with this one?

Much of the book of Exodus are the instructions creating and maintaining the Tabernacle which gave the Israelites a way to approach God and see his presence among the congregation. John 1:14 says "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling **[tabernacled]** among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Do you see other ways that Jesus could be alluded to as the temple or tabernacle?

Deuteronomy

Big Idea:

Deuteronomy is basically a do-over. Israel had failed to enter the promised land and now the precipice of entry, Moses urges them to be faithful to God's covenant and promises.

GROUP DISCUSSION

There is a very important passage for ancient Jews found in Deuteronomy 6 verse 4 and 5. Devout Jews would say this verse several times a day as a helpful reminder of their love for and need of God. The first word of this verse "Hear" or give attention to is the word Shema in Hebrew which became the shorthand name of this prayer.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

The Bible Project authors share that Shema has a much deeper meaning that you may get at first glance. For instance, the word listen should be translated hear and respond which is a call to obedience. Love is not simply an emotion as we may think of it. Love is an emotion and decision to act, both our mind and hearts. They are encouraged to have singular devotion to their God.

Discuss

Why do you think this specific verse became something ancient Jews would repeat several times a day? What does this verse reveal?

How does worshiping or turning our attention and affection toward things that are not God degrade us as humans?

Look up the following passages and have them read in succession in your group.

1. Exodus 34:6-7
2. Deuteronomy 18:15-18

3. Deuteronomy 32:46-47

Discuss

What stands out from these passages?

Do you struggle with the idea that God is full of mercy but must deal with the evil if he claims to be good?

These passages point out that God is faithful, holy, a God who blesses and a God who warns against turning away. What does this teach us about His character?

Individual Action

Based on what God is teaching in what we read today, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable. Share it with the group.

As a Group

- Share your "I Will" statements with each other.
- Remember God does not give up on His covenants.

Pray together as a group

On your own for next week

Consider how Jesus is a better Moses.

Attribute	Exodus	N.T.
Escaped infanticide in Egypt	1:23	Matt 2:13-16
Shepherd	3:1	John 10:11-16
Deliverer	3:8	Acts 13:39
Noted for Humility	3:11	Matt 11:28-30
Miracle Worker	4:4-9	John 5:19-20
Jesus is the Passover Moses started	12:25-27	Luke 22:14-20
Mana	16:15	John 6:32-33
Rock	17:6	1 Cor 10:4
People wanted to stone them	17:4	John 10:31
Gave the Law on a Mountain	19:3	Matt 5:1
Shrouded in a cloud	19:9	Mark 9:7
Moses gave law, Jesus fulfills	20:1-17	Matt 5:17
Sanctified people by blood	24:8	Heb 13:12
Moses built a Tabernacle, Jesus is a Temple	26-27	John 2:19
Intercedes for Israel in prayer	32:11-14	Heb 7:25

Spoke to God face to face	33:11	John 1:18, 14:11
Fasted 40 days	34:28	Matt 4:1-2
Shining with Gods glory	34:29	Matt 17:1-12
Moses lifted up a serpent to heal	Num 21:9	John 3:14-15