

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# BIBLE FOR ALL

## (BFA)

### SMALL GROUPS

### BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL

#### Introduction

This series of studies on the book of Exodus focuses on the theme of **Knowing God**. God makes Himself known through the redemption of His chosen people Israel. This purpose of this study is to align ourselves to the vision of disciple-making in the five-year vision for ORPC. This series of studies will last till the end of June covering the first twenty chapters on the Book of Exodus.

#### Studies

- 07 Apr 2019 **Exodus 6** The Covenant God
- 14 Apr 2019 **Exodus 7:1-13** God Speaks Through Moses And Aaron
- 21 Apr 2019 Easter Sunday
- 28 Apr 2019 **Exodus 7:14-24** God Speaks Through The Plagues

## April Overview

In this month's studies, we will cover Exodus 6 and 7. After the disheartening setback of Exodus 5 where Moses' attempt to get Pharaoh to release the people of Israel backfired, chapter 6 begins with God's reminder to Moses concerning who He is. Moses is to take heart because God is doing a new work among His people. This work will be done through Moses and Aaron whom God gave a formal introduction to via their genealogy. They are to confront the stubbornness of Pharaoh in chapter 7. The introduction of the first of the ten plagues will prepare the ground for the subsequent plagues, especially for the Passover and the judgment of Egypt's firstborn in the final plague. The purpose of these plagues is declared in these chapters, to make God's name known in ways He has never been known before, by bringing His people out from Egypt into the Promised Land. To the end, God's Name will be magnified such that Pharaoh will know the Lord, Israel will know the Lord, and Egypt will also know the Lord. The salvation of God's people will be accomplished through His judgment on His enemies leading to the glorification of His Name.

Through these studies, we will be reminded of how God can transform unworthy sinners like us into His servants to accomplish His cosmic saving purpose. We will be shown the patience and grace of God even towards His enemies while warned of the hardening and blinding effects of sin. We will be directed to the Cross of Christ, the ultimate demonstration of God's grace and saving power towards us who believe. May these studies, therefore, lead us into a deeper encounter with the God of the Covenant, to set us free from the sins that so easily entangle us so that we can truly worship Him.

**07 Apr 2019**

**Exodus 6**

**The Covenant God**

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### **CONTEXT**

The covenant that God made with Abraham (Genesis 15:18–21) was renewed with his son Isaac (Genesis 26:3), and then with Isaac's son, Jacob (Genesis 28:13–15). Jacob and his sons went to live in Egypt and their descendants became slaves there, as God had told Abraham (Genesis 15:13). Jacob's three oldest sons, Reuben, Simeon and Levi, were described as wicked and each inherited a curse (Genesis 49:3-7). Nevertheless, Joseph, said to all his brothers on his deathbed, "God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" (Genesis 50:24). God called Moses to declare that God would fulfil His promises prophesied by Joseph (Exodus 3:16-17). When Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go and made their lives much harder, Moses complained that God had not kept His promise to deliver them.

### **OBSERVATION**

1. What did God tell Moses about what would take place, why it would take place and when? (v1)
  
2. How many times does the phrase "I am the Lord" appear from v2 to v8? What has God already revealed about Himself as LORD to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (vv. 2-5)?
  
3. God revealed Himself to Moses in a way He has never done before (v. 3) through the seven-fold promises in vv. 6-8. List these promises in three groups according to the verses they appear in.
  
4. What does this text tell you about the physical, mental and spiritual condition of God's people? (vv. 9, 12)
  
5. The family record (vv.14-25) is sandwiched between Moses' exclamation of his own uncleanness to represent God (vv.12, 30). Whose line is being highlighted in the family record as an answer to Moses sense of inadequacy?

### **MEANING**

6. Why do you think God responded to Moses by recalling His covenant and restating His promises?

7. Why do you think the phrase “I am the Lord” appeared repeatedly in God’s response to Moses and the Israelites? Who does God want Israel to know Him as (vv. 6-8)? What does God’s desire for His people?
  
8. Did God choose Moses because of his abilities and credentials? What enabled Moses to do what God called him to do in the face of opposition from Pharaoh and his own people?
  
9. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? Why do you think the Holy Spirit gives us this text?

## **APPLICATION**

10. When are the times when God’s promises and the good news become hard to believe? How should knowing that He is the Lord who is faithful change the way you think, speak, act or pray this week?
  
11. How does this passage help you to see that your salvation is totally the work of God?
  
12. When you are called to serve the Lord, what may be more important than the considerations of your strengths and weaknesses and your popularity and credentials?
  
13. What truths revealed in this text seem especially significant to you? How would you respond? How can the group pray for you in responding to what God is saying through the text?

## **Memory Verse** – Numbers 23:19

*God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfil?*

14 Apr 2019

Exodus 7:1-13

## God Speaks Through Moses And Aaron

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### CONTEXT

In this chapter, we see God resolving Moses' complaints and resistance to His calling (6:30) once and for all through His continual revelation and provisions, and begin to advance His purposes to redeem Israel through the obedience of Moses and Aaron. On the contrary, Pharaoh's disobedience escalates as his heart grew harder more and more against God's revelation.

As such, the power struggle between God and Pharaoh that had begun in the earlier chapters continues to escalate. Yet it was not a struggle - God's purposes will prevail. God is way too powerful. From chapter 7 to 12, we see God showing his power so that "the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD" (Exodus 7:5). And God does this through 2 men - Moses and Aaron - who were chosen by Him.

### OBSERVATION

1. How did God handle Moses' complaint that Pharaoh will not listen to him due to his unclean lips? (Exodus 7:1-2; 6:12, 30) What does God mean when He says He will make Moses "god before Pharaoh" and Aaron "Moses' prophet" (Exodus 4:14-16; Acts 14: 11-13)?
2. What miracle did Aaron perform when Pharaoh asked for one? Were the Pharaoh's magicians able to do the same? What happened to the snakes? (Exodus 7:8-12)
3. What was Pharaoh's response? Why were Moses and Aaron not surprised by Pharaoh's response? (Exodus 7:3-4, 13; 4:21)
4. What was God's purpose in hardening Pharaoh's heart? (v.5)

### MEANING

5. What did the power to turn Aaron's staff into a snake come from (Exodus 7: 8-10, 19-20, ...) Where did Pharaoh's magicians' power to perform similar miracles come from? (Exodus 7:11-12, Acts 13:8-10; Ephesians 6:10-12) What is the significance that the magicians' snakes were "swallowed up" by Aaron's staff?
6. Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord,...? I do not know the Lord..." (Exodus 5: 2)). What is the condition of Pharaoh's heart? Why did God say He will harden Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 7: 3-5)? Does God have the right to do what he did (Romans 9:14-24)?

7. What is the significance of verse 13 ending off with these words that Pharaoh's heart was still hardened, just as the Lord had said?
  
8. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? Why do you think the Holy Spirit gave us this text?

## **APPLICATION**

9. How may our hearts be hardened against God? How has God broken down the hardness of our hearts? How may we guard against the hardness of our own hearts?
  
10. God is our Father and it is correct to pray to God as our Father but we often forget that God is also the all-powerful Creator and Lord of the Universe! How should this aspect of God change our prayer life? (Rom 9:15, 21-23; Ephesian 3:20-21)
  
11. What do you think God wants you to know through the text? How can the group pray for you in responding to what God is saying through the text?

## **Memory Verse** – Hebrews 13:20-21

*May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

**28 Apr 2019**

**Exodus 7:14-24**

## **God Speaks Through The Plagues**

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### **CONTEXT**

The first plague. The hardened heart of the most powerful man on earth against the almighty and sovereign God. The Lord has a message, if His word is ignored, there will be consequences, which Pharaoh is about to discover. As pharaoh's heart hardens, the plague will become "louder", this is the first warning, the Lord message will be heard, whether Pharaoh likes it or not. The Lord's message is simply this, "by this you will know, that I am the Lord".

### **OBSERVATION**

1. What was God's instruction to Moses v19? What was the result v20?
2. How does God describe pharaoh's heart? v14 and v22-23
3. What are God's instructions? v14a, v16a, v19a.
4. Who has predicted pharaoh's response v22b? What did the Egyptians do to find water v24?
5. How many times did "Nile" appear in this passage?

### **MEANING**

6. Why is the Nile targeted with the first plague? Why is the Nile so important that Pharaoh has a ritual there? v15
7. How did the Lord demonstrate His Sovereignty? v14 and v22
8. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? What is the Lord trying to tell Pharaoh, Moses, Aaron and everyone else? v17

## APPLICATION

9. The Lord could clearly see inside the heart of Pharaoh. He could see all our hearts; how should our actions be considering this? v22. Anything that we might have “hardened” our heart? Any specific area for others to pray for you?
  
10. Even while the Nile is turned into blood, the Egyptians are still shown grace, how is that applicable to us and the world today? What is the parallel to our situation today that we can thank God for His grace despite the difficult circumstances? v24
  
11. Everything on earth obeys the Creator v19, yet He uses Moses and Aaron to execute His commands. We too are His instruments; how do you think He is using you today?
  
12. What are the interesting aspects of this well-known story that stands out to you? What in God's character stands out to you as you re-read this story? What are the aspects that make you want to worship Him?

### **Memory Verse – Psalm 19:1**

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

# Daily Prayer Guide

## Sunday: The Church

Church members & families  
Visitors  
Pastor & church leaders  
Sunday School teachers  
Worship leaders  
Small group leaders  
Other churches  
Outreach efforts

## Monday: The Workplace

Supervisor  
Co-workers  
Subordinates  
Customers & suppliers  
Difficult situations  
Work attitude  
Work performance

## Tuesday: Acquaintances

Mentors & mentorees  
Accountability partners  
Friends  
Neighbours  
Merchants  
Public servants  
Teachers & other school Workers  
Children's friends & their families

## Wednesday: My Country

Public officials - executive, legislative,  
& judicial  
Armed forces  
Public morality  
The media  
The economy

## Thursday: The World

International peace & understanding  
Missions and missionaries  
Persecuted churches  
Hunger, sickness, & disaster relief

## Friday: My Spiritual Growth

Maturity  
Understanding  
Faith  
Love toward God  
Love toward others  
Servanthood

## Saturday: My Family

Spouse  
Children  
Grandchildren  
Parents  
Brothers & sisters  
Extended family  
Unsaved loved ones

*"Call to me and I will answer you and  
tell you great and unsearchable things  
you do not know."-Jeremiah 33:3*

# Little Steps To Great Learning!

## Preparation:

- Attempt all questions in the relevant Bible study before your group meeting.
- Expect spiritual growth by thoughtfully working on the Bible study questions (and the suggested reading, if any) throughout the week.
- Seek the Holy Spirit's insight and guidance by praying daily in reflection of what you have learned through the Bible study.

## Group Time:

- On the following Sunday, take notes during sermon to assist in focusing your thoughts.
- Be punctual for your group meeting.
- Share the insight gained through the sermon with your group.
- Be frank in sharing your response to the questions in the discipleship pointers.
- Encourage others by attesting to God's goodness and reality by sharing to the group (and others) how the Word has changed your thinking and action in response to your study in the past week.
- Using the front sheet, summarise how the lessons have helped you to understand God's revelation in the Bible through Jesus Christ, and your response to the revelation.

**THE BIBLE is to be...**

*Read through...*

*Reflected in...*

*Lived out...*

*Given away...*