

# FROM THE ELDERS

---

Thank you for your commitment to study the book of Exodus with us and with your community groups for the next nine weeks and beyond! We say it every semester, but other than preaching God's Word each week, living out the truth of the Gospel in the context of community is the most important thing we do at Capstone Church.

As a community group leader, you are on the front lines of real-life ministry. You see the bumps and bruises, scars, hurts, joys, tears and fears of your groups. Since we know that Jesus – and the salvation He gives us through His finished work on the cross – is better than anything this world has to offer, it is our great joy to help equip you and come alongside you to proclaim that truth in community.

It is critical as we are studying Exodus together that we see two streams of thought that should flow in our reading and discussing:

- 1. The events of Exodus are real, historical and connected to us and the story of redemption.** These are actual events that happened to actual people at an actual point in history. This is the great story of God redeeming and drawing His people



out of bondage in order to draw them into a personal relationship with Himself. When we understand the story of Exodus, we better understand the ONE story of redemption in the Bible – the single thread that runs from the first promise of God in Genesis 3:14-15 to send a Savior to crush Satan’s head to some of the last words in Revelation where we’re promised that God will dry our tears as He lives with us – His spotless bride – forever!

**2. The events in Exodus are a word picture – an example – that points us to the Gospel and to God as the hero of the whole Bible.** God is the one who reveals himself to Moses as the Great I Am. God is the one who hears the cries of His people in bondage and takes pity on their suffering, raising up a deliverer to save them. God is the one who sends the plagues to Egypt, who divides the sea, and who drowns Pharaoh’s army. God is the one who provides bread from Heaven and water from the rock. God is the one who gives the Law and establishes a covenant on the mountain and fills the tabernacle with His glory. Through Exodus, we see the nature of God – His mercy, justice, holiness and glory – on display. We see God ruling history by His sovereign power and saving His people by grace alone through faith alone.

The story of Exodus is our story too. We were enslaved to our sin, children of wrath who lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great



love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. For His own glory's sake, Christ saved us from the Egypt of our sin and drew us out to be in a relationship with Him.

In Luke 24, Jesus has risen from the dead and is on the road to Emmaus with some of His disciples. He says in verse 27 that, "...And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." The Exodus finds its ultimate meaning and final interpretation in Jesus!

Exodus is an example for us – a picture of the nature and character of God and the nature and character of man. When the Apostle Paul wanted to encourage the church at Corinth, he reminded them of their connection to the salvation in Christ with the salvation in Exodus.

1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.



6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were;... Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

1 Corinthians 10:1-7;11

Again, it is our hope that this study encourages and challenges you and your community groups to pursue Christ together as you live life in the light of the Gospel. Know that you are loved and prayed for!

**– For the Glory of Christ Alone  
The Elders of Capstone Church**



# SERMON SCHEDULE

---

Introduction To Exodus	Exodus 1:1-8	October 1
The New Pharaoh & The Need For Redemption	Exodus 1:8-22	October 8
Moses: Drawn Out	Exodus 2:1-22	October 15
Our Compassionate God, Who Sees & Knows	Exodus 2:23-25	October 22
The Burning Bush	Exodus 3:1-22	October 29
God's Response To Moses' Excuses	Exodus 4:1-17	November 5
Moses' Obedience & God's Faithfulness	Exodus 4:18-31	November 12
Fighting Discouragement	Exodus 5:1-22	November 19
Resting In God's Promises	Exodus 6:1-7:5	November 26



# SET APART FOR GOD'S GLORY AND SALVATION: THE STORY OF GENESIS

Before we jump into the story of Exodus, it's important to remember what has happened in the story of redemption up to this point.

The first two chapters of Genesis introduce us to the Triune God – the creator of everything – speaking into the universe. When God speaks, all nature obeys. By the word of His power, stars, planets and galaxies come into being. The earth is formed and filled and all life comes from His hand. He calls everything He makes “good”. Then, as the last act in creation, God makes men and women. He calls them “very good” and commands them to be fruitful and multiply.

Adam and Eve are put in a garden to tend and maintain it. They are naked and unashamed. They have a perfect, open and direct relationship with God. God speaks directly to them!



God told Adam and Eve that they could eat of any fruit in the garden, except one – the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God promised them life and love and an eternal fellowship with Himself for obedience. He promised that death would come into the world through disobedience.

It's at this point that we are introduced to God's enemy – Satan. Satan was at one point an angel in Heaven with God, but his heart was filled with evil and pride. He rebelled against God and was cast out of Heaven – with a third of the other angels. The main point to understand about Satan is that he is not God's equal. This isn't a yin-yang relationship between good and evil. God is vastly superior in every attribute (think comparing ants to galaxies).

Satan appears in the form of a talking snake and – instead of going to Adam as the appointed loving leader of their family – starts tempting Eve to eat of the one tree God commanded her not to eat. Satan tells his three great lies to Eve (which are the same lies that infect our hearts to this day: A) Did God really say... B) God is keeping His best from you and C) You can be like God (in knowledge and power).

As Adam neglects his duty to resist Satan and protect his wife, Eve eats the fruit. She



gives it to Adam, and he eats. Sin enters the world – marring God’s perfect creation – and brings death and destruction with it.

Adam and Eve now know they are naked, so they attempt to cover their sin and shame with coverings of their own making. They sew together fig leaves to make clothes for themselves. When God confronts both of them about their sin, He curses the man and woman. He also curses Satan and gives the first promise in Scripture that He would send a Savior to crush Satan’s head.

God kills the first animals and covers Adam and Eve with their skins. This is the first time blood is shed as a covering. This is the mechanism that God set up – only the shedding of blood can cover up or forgive sins.

Through Genesis, we see how depraved human beings can become and how merciful God is to save us at all. God’s character of mercy, justice and power flow through the whole book. Through Noah, we see God calling and saving a remnant of people with His own mighty hand. God nearly wipes out mankind with a worldwide flood but saves a family by grace for His own glory.





Generations pass, and we see the story of Genesis focus on the family of Abraham. God appears to him and calls him to leave his own people and his own land to go to a land God will show him. God gives Abraham a promise of redemption that carries through the entire Bible. God promises that He will make Abraham a great nation and through his family, the whole world would be blessed (Genesis 12:3; 22:18). That blessing to the whole world is going to ultimately come from Jesus!

God demonstrates that He is a promise-maker and a promise-keeper time and time again with Abraham. He promises Abraham that he will have a son. God gives him Isaac. Isaac has a son named Jacob, and Jacob has 12 sons.

Of all the sons, Joseph was Jacob's favorite. His brothers were so jealous that they sold him into slavery in Egypt. They lied to Jacob and told him that Joseph was dead. In Egypt, God continued to show grace, mercy and favor to Joseph as he prospered wherever he was. Joseph rose to power in Egypt after God allowed Joseph to interpret one of Pharaoh's dreams – predicting a famine in the land. As the famine ravaged the land where Jacob and his family lived, they came to Egypt in search of food. Through trial, tribulation and hardship, God positioned Joseph to be in a place to save the people of God from the famine.



Joseph showed mercy and forgave the same brothers who had betrayed him. He invited the whole family to stay in Egypt to survive the famine. At the end of the book, Joseph reminded the people of God's promise to bring them out of Egypt and into the promised land.

Throughout Genesis, we see the story of redemption beginning and centering on a family. This family had done nothing to earn God's favor. We see the grace of God toward broken and undeserving people. We see God making promises to His people and proving His trustworthiness by keeping every promise He makes!



## EXODUS 1:1-8

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, 4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. 5 All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. 6 Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. 7 But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

### HOW SHOULD THE COMMUNITY GROUP WALK THROUGH THIS PASSAGE?

It is always recommended to begin any discussion of Scripture with prayer. Take some time in your group before you begin discussing to pray that God would open eyes and ears to truly hear what He is saying through His Word. Pray and believe that God will change lives through the study of His Word.

After praying, have someone in your group read through the passage. Since the passage in Exodus is a continuation of the events that happened in Genesis, it would be a good idea to talk through the story of redemption that begins in Genesis. You can use the previous pages as a guide to lead them through an overview of Genesis.



**DISCUSSION TOPIC 1: GOD IS A PROMISE-MAKER AND A PROMISE-KEEPER.**

Throughout the book of Genesis, God makes promises to His people. He promises to send a Savior in Genesis 3 to save mankind. Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment to that promise.

God promises Noah that he and his family will be saved when He destroys the world in a global flood. God gives Noah the exact instructions he needs to build an ark. God even shuts him in on the ark.

God promises Abraham that He will not only give him a son but make him into a great nation that will bless the whole world. God fulfills this promise in short-term and long-term ways. In the short term, Jacob's son Joseph saves the people of Israel and the nation of Egypt from a great famine. In the long-term, Jesus is going to come through this family's lineage as the true blessing to the whole world.

In Acts 7:2-22, Stephen is giving a testimony in front of synagogue leaders and lays out the story of redemption starting with Abraham.

**HAVE SOMEONE IN YOUR GROUP READ THIS PASSAGE:**

7 And the high priest said, "Are these things so?" 2 And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, 3 and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land



that I will show you.’ 4 Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. 5 Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. 6 And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. 7 ‘But I will judge the nation that they serve,’ said God, ‘and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.’ 8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

9 “And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him 10 and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household. 11 Now there came a famine throughout all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food. 12 But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first visit. 13 And on the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph’s family became known to Pharaoh. 14 And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all. 15 And Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers, 16 and they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.



17 “But as the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt 18 until there arose over Egypt another king who did not know Joseph. 19 He dealt shrewdly with our race and forced our fathers to expose their infants, so that they would not be kept alive. 20 At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God’s sight. And he was brought up for three months in his father’s house, 21 and when he was exposed, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. 22 And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

**DISCUSSION TOPIC 2: GOD SHOWS GRACE TO UNDESERVING SINNERS.** As you are walking through Genesis and the first few verses of Exodus, one important thing to make sure the group talks about is how much mercy God continues to show to people who definitely don’t deserve it.

Adam and Eve deserved immediate death, but instead God covers them with animal skins and sends them out. God plans to destroy the world because of sin but saves Noah’s family by grace. Abraham tries to fulfill God’s promise on his own by sleeping with Hagar to produce Ishmael. Instead of abandoning him, God reaffirms His promise to make Abraham a great nation through children that would come from Sarah, his wife. Jacob steals the birthright and blessing from Esau, yet God continues to show him grace.

As Phillip Ryken says in his commentary on Exodus,



“The sons of Israel were all sinners – ordinary mortals, as their obituary proves: ‘Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation.’ Joseph and his brothers really had just one thing going for them, and that was their God. What was important about these people was that they were God’s people. And what a God they had! Not only was he the God of Jacob, but he was also the God of Abraham and Isaac. He was the God of the everlasting covenant, who turned what they meant for evil – namely, selling their own brother into slavery – for good. He is the same God we will meet throughout the book of Exodus: ‘The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.’. What made the sons of Israel special, however unpromising they may have seemed, was their relationship to God. They had God on their side, with all His promises.”

**One of the initial questions that may come up in your group is, “Why do we need to study Exodus?” There are several great answers to this question.**

**1) FIRST, WE NEED TO KNOW GOD BETTER.**

We meet the living God in Exodus, and He tells us His name! Exodus continues to give us an ever-clarifying view of God’s nature and character. We find out how God defines Himself – as merciful and gracious and slow to anger. We will see that God wants to be known and wants to be glorified. In fact, if you wanted to summarize Exodus in one phrase it could be “saved for God’s glory.”



**2) WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND GOD’S REDEMPTION BETTER.**

The Exodus is a real, historical event that happened in a real place at a real time, but the Exodus is also a picture of the Gospel. Just as the Israelites were shackled in slavery, we are shackled in slavery to sin. Just as God redeems the Israelites, Jesus redeems us! Jesus’ triumphant death and resurrection was the greater exodus. Jesus is even referred to as our passover lamb (which we’ll read about later in the book).

**3) WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND GOD’S MISSION (AND OURS) BETTER.**

The mission of the church does not begin in the Great Commission. It begins in the Old Testament, starting with the promise of God to Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through his family. It continues in the book of Exodus where we find out that God sees, hears and knows the cries of His people. God intervenes in history to rescue and save.

**4) WE NEED TO DRAW LESSONS FOR LIVING OUT OUR FAITH ON A DAILY BASIS.**

We have examples to avoid and examples to follow in Exodus. We see the faithfulness of God. We see the faithlessness of the people and of Moses toward the mission of God. We will see how quickly God’s people abandon the truth to serve idols in the desert. We see how difficult it is for people – who are seeing the power of God displayed in a physical way in front of them – to still trust in God.

**EXODUS IS ALSO GOING TO ADDRESS:**

- Taking care of the unborn
- Racism and murder





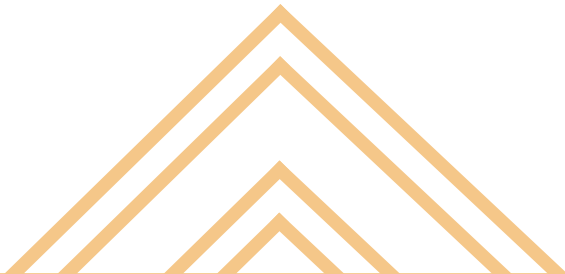
- How God can use weak, ordinary people
- The importance of singing praise
- The nature of true community
- How to rely on God's presence daily
- Delegation and the need to take counsel from others
- Obeying God's word
- The issue of idolatry and true worship

## QUESTIONS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP

For the last several semesters, we have used a set of four diagnostic questions that we believe help create a great framework for you and your group to discuss Scripture each week.

1. What does this passage say about God, who He is and what He does (Father, Son & Spirit)?
2. What does this passage teach me about me?
3. What comfort/promise can I take away from this passage?
4. How will I respond or live differently because of what I've read?

We still believe this is a great framework to study the book of Exodus, but since it is presented as a narrative, you may have to lead people a little more toward how to



answer the questions during the first sections of the book. It's good to go through these questions together as a group each time you meet.

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP (WHAT IS IT?)

We talk a lot about rhythms in community group at Capstone... Finding a rhythm that works for your group to fellowship, study God's Word, show compassion, and even a rhythm that works for childcare needs in your group. The family discipleship section of this guide will serve to help you include the children and teenagers for a few minutes into your group time. The other component of this family discipleship section is for engaging your kids with God's Word throughout the week.

*Deuteronomy 6:4-7 tells us, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."*

First of all these verses begin with "Hear, O Israel." That's the nation. That's the church. As the church, we partner with you to show and teach your children the great and marvelous deeds of the Lord, namely His providing redemption for us through Jesus, by Jesus and for Jesus.

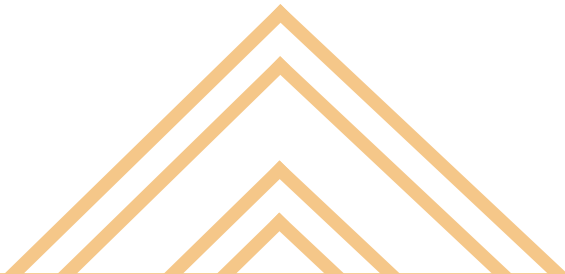


Secondly, do you catch the rhythm of these verses? Teach diligently to your children... when you sit in your house (meal time, screen free), walk by the way (that's in the car while they're strapped in and can't go anywhere in today's world), when you lie down (bedtime), and when you rise (morning time). Your family has a rhythm. It may seem a little crazy or a lot crazy, but you have one. Leverage the time you have with your kids. Time is quickly becoming our most precious commodity. Think of morning time as you being the coach to encourage your kids for the day and instill purpose. Drive time is the chance to be a friend and interpret life during informal conversation. Be a teacher at meal times, establish values with intentional conversations while you eat together. This is most helpful at the table with screens off for parents and kids! Then at bed time, be a counselor. Strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day. The rhythm of your week will shape the values in your home.

Leverage the time you have with the phase your children are in to show them the Gospel, live the Gospel, trust the Gospel and proclaim the Gospel. Remember, it's a long obedience in the same direction. We're here with you and for you!

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP (IN COMMUNITY GROUP)**

If the kids in your community group are in the same place as you for your gathering, begin with them in the room with you. Pray together. Even let a child do the praying



(if they are willing). Read the passage. Allow the kids, if possible, to discuss God being a promise-maker and promise-keeper along with the adults. You could even ask the little ones what they think it means for God to keep His promises.

Dismiss kids at this point with the sitters. Remember to include sitters in your group fellowship time. Get to know them as they serve your group.

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP (AT HOME)

It helps to know that Exodus actually begins with the word “And.” It’s a continuation of Genesis. So, set aside some time for your family to read or summarize the story of Abraham. YouTube has some cool videos under the Jelly Telly channel that could be fun to watch. What a cool reminder - even in the first two books of the Bible - that it’s a continuous, very true story telling us about who God is and what He’s going to do through Jesus!

Talk about God being a promise-maker. What promise did He make to Abraham? How do the verses in Exodus 1:1-8 show that God kept His promise to Abraham?

How is God keeping His promises to your family? How are you celebrating and remembering God’s promises kept for your family? What is a way that you can remember them?

For parents of elementary kids, encourage them to complete their God Time Card. Maybe even read through it with them at bed time or in the car. The God Time Cards will coordinate with this material and what they’re learning in kids church.



## GROUP GUIDE – EXODUS 1:8-22

As we said last week, we think these four questions create a good framework to study Scripture and to think through a passage individually or with a group.

### 1. What does this passage say about God, who He is and what He does (Father, Son & Spirit)?

It's good as you read through this passage to think back to what God has already done for His people (in Genesis) and what He could be doing in the middle of this terrible slavery and genocide.

### 2. What does this passage teach me about me?

How would you react to this kind of harsh slavery? Despite living under the rule of Pharaoh, the Hebrew midwives walked in fear of God. Who or what are we most likely to fear more than God? What is the key to living in fear of God more than the fear of men?

### 3. What comfort/promise can I take away from this passage?

Think about verses 12, 20 and 21 as you answer this question. What was happening in the midst of slavery and genocide?

### 4. How will I respond or live differently because of what I've read?

Think about how we as a group can trust God in the middle of our troubles and suffering.



## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

This is a tough passage to chew on. God's timing is always perfect. He's graciously given this passage to us this week with it's timeliness, as you will probably have discussion with your children about the tragedy in Las Vegas. This week in your family time in community group, take a minute to pray together with children. Remember, you don't have to use a lot of words to pray, fill in with a lot of "Christian words" or speak a long time. Just talk to God. If you'd like, use the tool below to pray through with your group and kids.

1. Acknowledge the situation (whether it is a crisis in your group or the Las Vegas tragedy).
2. Bring God in. God knows all circumstances. He's not surprised by anything. Remember His character. Praise Him for who He is. Thank Him that He is working even if you don't see it.
3. Claim His promises. Praying Scripture is a great way to help calm fears and remember who God is and that He is sovereign.

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP AT HOME FOR EXODUS 1:8-22

Read Exodus 1:8-22 together. If you've got eager readers or young readers in your family, let them read the passage. Before diving into a few things in this passage, read Genesis 15:13. Notice the words, "know for certain." Read John 16:33 and notice the words "In this world, you **WILL** have trouble." With such clear truth from Scripture, why do you think we are always surprised when our circumstances aren't what we want them to be? Are there circumstances in your family that you need to trust that God is working out? Take time to thank God this week for who He is, what He's already done in your family and what you are trusting Him for.

