



### FIND MORE RESOURCES AT GRACE-BIBLE.ORG

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### WELCOME

Exodus is the continuation of the biblical story begun in Genesis and recounts the compelling narrative of how the promises that God had made centuries earlier to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob begin to be fulfilled. God dramatically rescues His people, Israel from oppressive slavery in Egypt and personally leads them toward the land of promise. In Exodus, God reveals His name, His attributes, and His instructions for living and for worship.

This study will guide you to:

**CONNECT** in authentic community as you and your group share the joys and struggles of life and pray together for big things.

**GROW** in biblical truth by searching the scripture and actively applying this truth to your life.

**ENGAGE** in helping people find and follow Jesus by practicing simple disciple-making tools that tune your heart to those who are far from God.

### PERSONAL STUDY + PRAYER

God's word, the Bible, is a unique and wonderful library of books that tells a united story. It is one of His greatest gifts to us. By reading it regularly, meditating on it, and studying it with others, we begin to hear God's voice and to know Him more deeply. As we put biblical truth into practice, cooperating with the Holy Spirit, our relationship with God grows. We become more like Jesus, transforming into mature sons and daughters of God.

"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, the law of freedom, and has continued in it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an active doer, this person will be blessed in what he does."

James 1:22-25

Each lesson begins with personal study sections designed for you to walk through the selected passage verse by verse. The Survey provides the big picture and background information for the book of Exodus. Lessons 1-9 focus on studying each section in detail. The Synthesis is a place to record an overall summary of what you learned in the study.

In this study, you will practice a basic Bible study method that answers three questions:

**Look it Over** (Observation): What do I see?

Think it Through (Interpretation): What does it mean?

Make it Real (Application): How does it work?

An overview of this method is summarized in the Bible Study Tools section in the Appendix beginning on page 106.

**Prayer Reminders:** We need God Himself to illuminate His word to us. As we prayerfully approach the study of His word, God shows up! Pray before, during, and at the end of each lesson for eyes to see and ears to hear the things the Holy Spirit has planned to reveal to you.

**Spiritual Practices:** Some lessons feature basic disciplines and habits that believers can intentionally build into the rhythm of their days and weeks in order to cooperate with the Spirit's work of forming us into Christlikeness.

### GROUP DISCUSSION

At the end of every lesson, there is a Group Discussion Guide that provides a balanced plan for the time you spend together as a group - connecting, growing and engaging. Use this guide to plan your group time.

### APPENDIX

**Leader Helps:** This section contains a few helpful ideas for anyone leading others through this study. See pages 104-105.

**Bible Study Tools:** Each lesson contains descriptions of tools that will help you to observe, interpret, and apply scripture. These are summarized on pages 106-111.

**Engage Tools:** We are called to partner with God in helping people find and follow Jesus. Some of the basic tools for becoming a disciple maker will be introduced in the lessons and can be found on pages 112-120.

Additional Study Resources: This section contains a list of recommended books and online tools on page 122.

WELCOME 7

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The Gospel is the good news of how we can be reconciled to God through Jesus.

### GOD'S DESIGN

Out of God's great love, He created a world that was good. He made people to enjoy a deeply connected relationship with Him and to represent Him through our lives. (Genesis 1:26-28, 31) As a loving Father, He communicated boundaries to protect us and to allow us to fully enjoy our relationships with Him and with other people (Genesis 2:15-17).

### **BROKENNESS**

Yet, when we look around our world, brokenness and evil are evident everywhere - war, famine, disease, corruption. If we are honest, we also see brokenness and evil inside ourselves - deceit, hatred, greed, lust.

This is because we have rejected God's design and chosen to follow our own way. Our rejection of God and His ways is what the Bible calls sin. (Romans 3:23) Our sin results in separation from God which the Bible calls death. (Romans 6:23a) Unless our sin is forgiven, we will remain separated from God forever.

### **JESUS**

God does not want to leave us in our sin and brokenness!

God graciously provided a way to forgive our sin and to freely give us eternal life - a life connected to God both now and forever. (Romans 6:23b; John 17:3)

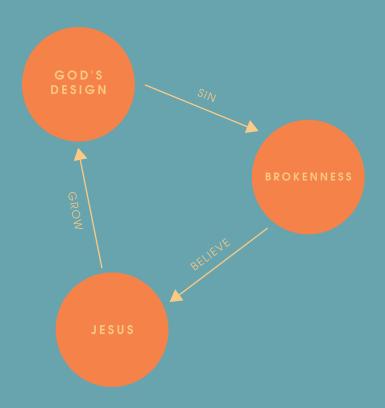
God's only Son Jesus died in our place. He took upon Himself the penalty that we deserve because of our sin. Then, Jesus rose from the dead0 and forever defeated the power of sin and death. (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

### BELIEVE

We respond to Jesus by believing in Him for the forgiveness of our sin.

To believe in Jesus means that you no longer try to earn God's approval through what you do, nor do you deny that you need forgiveness and rescue. Instead, you accept God's free gift of eternal life. Belief or faith is simply being convinced or persuaded that something or someone is trustworthy. (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9)

Everyone who believes in Jesus is forgiven of their sin and receives eternal life. We can now know God personally and experience the life we were designed to live. (John 3:16-17)



Which circle or arrow best represents your life right now

Have you put your trust (believed) in Jesus alone to be reconciled to God?

EXODUS CONTRACTOR CONT





## SURVEY+ EXODUS 1



### SURVEY

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In order to fully grasp the compelling story of the book of Exodus, we need to see that it is actually part of a larger literary work that includes the first five books of the Bible. This group of writings is known by various names including The Book of Moses, the Torah and the Pentateuch (which is Greek for "five books"). These books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) provide the critical foundation for the entire biblical story, introducing both the identity and purposes of God and of humanity.

In Genesis 1, God is introduced as Creator of the heavens and the earth. This poetic chapter focuses on the "why" of creation rather than the "how" and concludes with "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Genesis 1 also explains that God made mankind "in His own image" to be His representatives and to partner with Him in ruling His creation, extending His goodness and flourishing throughout the earth (Genesis 1:26-28).

In Genesis 3, we see the tragic choice of Adam and Eve to rebel against God and the devastating results that followed. Their sin brought pain, suffering, and spiritual death to all of creation. Yet God remained committed to His original plan and immediately began a process of restoration, a process that would end with all of creation made right once again. The first step in the plan of restoration centered on one man, Abraham, whom we meet towards the end of Genesis 11.

1. Read Genesis 11:26-12:3; 13:14-18; and 15:1-7. What does God promise to do for Abraham? How does Abraham respond to God's promise?

In Genesis 15:8-21, God sealed these promises in an irrevocable covenant with Abraham, a covenant that was passed on to Abraham's son Isaac, his son Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons, the fathers of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel.

2. Why did God give this gracious covenant to Abraham? Read Genesis 18:17-19.

As the book of Genesis closes and Exodus begins, the story of Abraham's family has taken a devastating turn. Though they possess these gracious and irrevocable promises from God, they find themselves slaves of the nation of Egypt just as God had predicted in Genesis 15:13-14. Oppressed and impoverished, they cry out to God to fulfill His promise and bless them. The book of Exodus is the continuation of God's story of the redemption of humanity through Abraham's family, begun in Genesis and culminating in Jesus.

### GENRE: NARRATIVE

Everyone loves a good story. Stories comprise 40% of the Old Testament and 60% of the New Testament, far exceeding all other types of biblical literature (epistles, poetry, proverbs, and prophecy). Therefore, for us to understand God's Word, we must learn how to appreciate, study, and apply the stories of Scripture.

The purpose of all Scripture is to communicate truth. Every type of biblical literature conveys truth but stories do so in a uniquely powerful way. They engage not only our minds, but also our senses and emotions. Stories invite us to share an experience of God's truth. We enter into the lives of the story's characters; we share their joy and pain, their victories and defeats. And in that experience, God's truth takes hold of our hearts and minds and changes us in the process.

The book of Exodus is historical narrative in that it gives an account of events that happened in space and time. More specifically, it narrates a theological history because of its focus on God's relationship with Israel and how He reveals Himself to them. Exodus also contains a lengthy section of instruction or law (Exodus 19-24) as well as a chapter of poetry (Exodus 15).

Skim read through the book of Exodus in one sitting. You could do this by reading through the paragraph titles found in most Bibles.

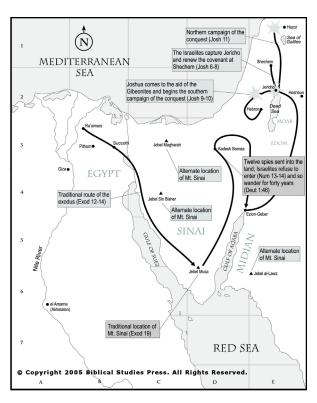
Afterwards, answer these introductory questions (these six questions are helpful for every story of Scripture you study):

1. Who is the story about? Who are the central characters?

2. What is the story about? What are the big ideas, events, and themes of the story?

3. When does the story take place? What does the author tell you about this time period?

SURVEY 13



4. Where does the story take place? What does the author tell you about the physical setting?

5. Why does God include this story in the Bible? What key lessons does He mean for us to learn from it?

6. How does this story affect you? What emotions does this story elicit in you? How does it draw you in personally?

### TRACING THE PLOT

What makes a story "good"? While complex characters, interesting settings, and surprising events all help, nothing is as important to a good story as its plot. A story's plot is the sequence of events that keep the story moving forward. An engaging plot almost always includes (1) an initial introduction of setting and characters, (2) a conflict or set of conflicts that build as the story progresses towards, (3) a climax where the conflict(s) come to a head, after which (4) a resolution to the conflict emerges and the story ends.

Let's trace the overall plot and corresponding themes of the book of Exodus.

PLOT THEME

God Rescues Israel from Egyptian Bondage (1-18)

Delivering His People

God Gives Israel Torah (19-24)

God Instructs Israel to build the Tabernacle (25-40)

Defining His People

Dwelling with His People

### TITLE, AUTHOR, TIMEFRAME

The word "exodus" is derived from the Greek exodos, meaning "exit" or "departure." The traditional view is that Moses is largely responsible for writing the book of Exodus. Several statements in the book indicate that he wrote certain sections (17:14; 24:4; 34:27). Exodus covers about 431 years of history, from the arrival of Jacob and his family in Egypt (ca. 1876 B.C.) to the erection of the tabernacle in the wilderness of Sinai (ca. 1445 B.C.). About 364 years elapsed between the death of Joseph and the building of the tabernacle. The bulk of the book (chapters 3-40) deals with only two of these years, the year before and the year after the exodus from Egypt.

### READ EXODUS 1:1-22

1 Now these are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob; they came, each one with his household: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; 4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. 5 All the people who descended from Jacob were seventy people, but Joseph was already in Egypt. 6 And Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. 7 But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them. 8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, otherwise they will multiply, and in the event of war, they will also join those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land." Il So they appointed taskmasters over them to oppress them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they oppressed them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out, so that they dreaded the sons of Israel. 13 The Egyptians used violence to compel the sons of Israel to labor; 14 and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they violently had them perform as slaves.

15 Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah, and the other was named Puah; 16 and he said, "When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." 17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live. 18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?" 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them." 20 So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. 21 And because the midwives feared God, He established households for them. 22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born, you are to throw into the Nile, but every daughter, you are to keep alive."

### **OBSERVE**

| 1. Who are the central characters in this scene?                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                   |
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|                                                                                                   |
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|                                                                                                   |
| 2. What do you learn about the setting and circumstances in which the characters find themselves? |
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|                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                   |
| 3. Read Genesis 50:22-26. What is significant about Joseph's dying words?                         |
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|                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                   |
| 4. What is remarkable about the midwives and what they do? How are they contrasted with           |
| Pharaoh?                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                   |
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|                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                   |

| REFLECT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. What are you hoping to gain from studying the book of Exodus?                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2. While it may be challenging to relate to the circumstances of an ancient people group, what part of this scene resonated with you? Why?                                                                                                                                              |
| SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Praying together is an important and life-giving part of being in a small group. Begin to pray regularly for your fellow group members as they share the joys and struggles of their lives. Pray for God's Spirit to illuminate His Word and truth to them through your study together. |

### GROUP DISCUSSION

### CONNECT

### CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

- 1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share something you are celebrating or something that disappointed you during the last week.
- 2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.

### WHY ARE WE HERE?

Spend a few minutes discussing your group's purpose. Of all the things we could be doing, why are we here? Why is this time important to be present for and to prioritize?

Pray for your time together.

### GROW

### DISCUSS OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION (choose from these)

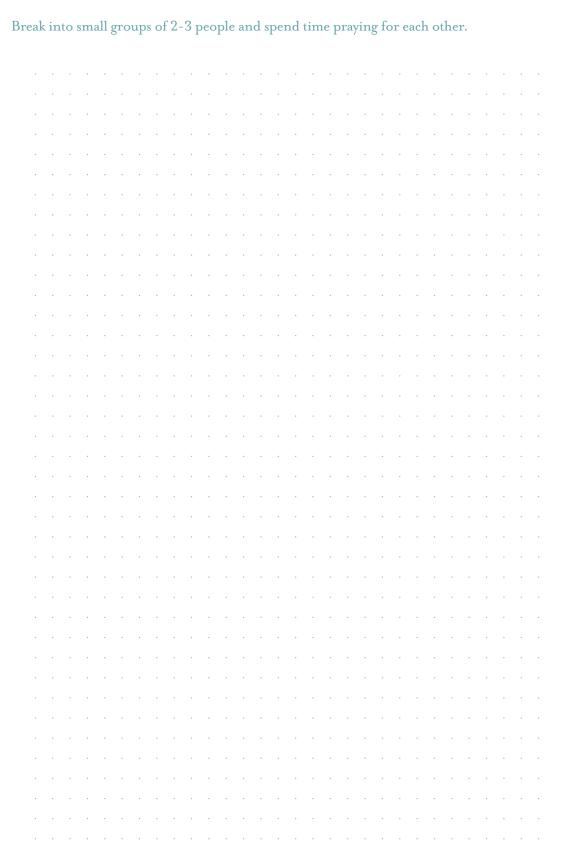
- 1. Ask someone to summarize the historical background information including how the events in Genesis set up the book of Exodus.
- 2. Discuss the genre of the book and why it's important to its interpretation.
- 3. Share some of your observations from the book as a whole.
- 4. Review the plot breakdown of the book as a whole. What are the three big sections of the book?
- 5. Read Exodus 1:1-22 and discuss the characters and setting.
- 6. What is significant about the midwives and what they did? How are they contrasted with Pharaoh?

### ENGAGE

### DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

- 1. What are you hoping to gain from studying the book of Exodus?
- 2. While it may be challenging to relate to the circumstances of an ancient people group, what part of this scene resonated with you? Why?
- 3. Prayer Discuss how you will pray for each other as a group.

### PRAY







## EXODUS 2-4



### LOOK IT OVER

### **OBSERVATION**

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, "What do I see?" This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. We will learn observation skills as we proceed through the story of Exodus. This week, simply read the chapters and make note of all setting details of the story. Identify the people, places, time periods, and events of a story. These details not only provide significant background to understand the action within a story, but they also invite the reader into the story as an engaged participant.

### **READ EXODUS 2-4**

Summarize what happens in this section of Exodus by filling in the following:

| SECTION  | SETTING | CHARACTERS | PLOT SUMMARY |
|----------|---------|------------|--------------|
| 2:1-10   |         |            |              |
| 2:11-14  |         |            |              |
| 2:15-25  |         |            |              |
| 3:1-4:17 |         |            |              |
| 4:18-31  |         |            |              |

### **OBSERVATION SKILL: CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS**

In narratives, there are many different types of characters as seen in the list below:

**Protagonist** | character who overcomes conflict and serves as the hero often drawing the audience's sympathy (such as David in the story of David and Goliath)

Antagonist | character who creates the conflict or problem in the story (such as Goliath)

Round | character who has many strengths and weaknesses (such as Jonah - as he's admirable at times and deplorable at others)

Flat | character who appears one-dimensional (both Goliath and King Saul in the story of David and Goliath - there's little depth or development for either character in this story)

Agent | character who appears only to help move the plot along as he performs a simple action (such as the messenger in 1 Samuel 4 who brings Eli the disastrous news of Israel's defeat - we don't even learn his name because he's merely an agent in the story)

Foil | character who acts as a mirror to compare or contrast the main character or main events of a story (such as the pagan sailors in Jonah who proved more reverent of God than Jonah did, the prophet).

Despite their variety, no character is extraneous to the story as each character fulfills a specific purpose. Often the narrator or other characters will directly describe a character. Yet, usually an audience learns about a character through his or her own words, thoughts, and actions in a story. Use every relevant detail available in a story to get to know the characters as well as possible especially as they develop and change throughout a story.

| CHARACTER NAME | CHARACTER TYPE |
|----------------|----------------|
|                |                |
|                |                |
|                |                |
|                |                |
|                |                |
|                |                |
|                |                |

What themes and big ideas do you see in these chapters?

### THINK IT THROUGH

### INTERPRETATION

### INTERPRETATION SKILL: STUDY CROSS REFERENCES

Cross references are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such cross references can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by visiting online tool such as netbible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that "NET2" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for "Greek" on the right side of the screen. Now hovering over any word in English will highlight the corresponding Greek term and reveal its Strong's definition in the opposite window. Then, you can select a word, click the magnifying glass above it, and choose to run a "Word Search" that will provide all Biblical references that use the English term.

| Greek term and reveal its Strong's definition in the opposite window. Then, you can select a word, click the magnifying glass above it, and choose to run a "Word Search" that will provid all Biblical references that use the English term. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. What is ironic about who God uses to rescue the life of Moses (see also 1:17, 20-21)? And why is it significant?                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2. How does God begin to prepare Moses as a leader through both failure and isolation (see also Hebrews 11:23-28)?                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

3. What do we learn about God from how He reveals Himself to Moses in this section? Specifically, what's significant about God referring to Himself as "I AM WHO I AM" in 3:14?

| 4. What truths does God remind Moses of in response to each objection Moses makes as he wrestles with God's call on his life?                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5. Why does God respond so harshly to Moses' lack of circumcision of his own son when He had been so gracious to Moses' fears and insecurity? Specifically, what is at stake and why is circumcision so critical to obey for the covenant people of God (see Genesis 17:11-14)? |
| SUM IT UP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| In a sentence or two, summarize your thoughts about this section of the story.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| What did you learn about the character of God from this section?                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| What did you learn about God's formation of His people from this section?                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

LESSON 2 25

### MAKE IT REAL

### **APPLICATION**

The goal of application is to internalize and embody God's life-giving love and truth. Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you. Answer the reflection questions designed to demonstrate how each passage relates to our lives.

1. How do your past failures and present insecurities create doubt that you can fulfill the calling of God in your life? How does Moses' story encourage you to trust God's sovereignty and sufficiency to use you for His purposes?

2. What is the clear calling God has placed on your life today (see also Matthew 22:35-40, 28:18-20)?

3. List some of the biblical truths, principles, ideas, or images God has revealed to you from this passage. A few questions to consider are:

Is there a promise for me to claim?

Is there a truth for me to believe?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is God showing me a picture or image of what He desires?

How does this passage connect to what God has been saying to me lately in prayer, in conversations with fellow believers and through His word?

4. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

5. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play? Write your response in the box below.

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYER - A CONVERSATION WITH GOD

Have you ever thought of the dialogue between Moses and God in these chapters as prayer? Essentially prayer is a conversation with God and is one of the most important aspects of our relationship with Him. Through connecting to God in prayer, we learn how to trust, love and follow Him in deeper ways.

If you are new (or need a refresh) to praying consistently, make a plan using these beginning questions:

- •When will you pray? First thing in the morning? At night or during a midday break? Plan for a time when your energy and awareness are optimal.
- •Where will you pray? It can be really helpful to have a specific space dedicated to prayer that is free from distractions (phones, screens, responsibilities, tasks).
- How long should you pray? There is no right answer to the amount of time to pray. Start where you are and seek to deepen the quality and quantity of time you spend with God who, after all, is the source of all goodness, beauty and truth!
- •What will you pray about? Some of the best things to pray through are the truths you have been learning through your reading and studying of God's Word. The themes of Exodus consistently highlight who God is and who He is forming His people to be which can provide a springboard for your prayers.

Like any ongoing conversation between friends, prayer is a mixture of talking and listening. As you spend time talking to God in prayer this week, make sure to take time to listen to God's Spirit as well. Remember, as a believer, your body is the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19) and Jesus promised that His Spirit will "guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). (See also the PRAY Model on pg 121.)

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LESSON 2 27

### GROUP DISCUSSION

### CONNECT

### CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

- 1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share high or low from the week.
- 2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.
- 3. Looking back: how did you do with your application of truth last week?

### GROW

### DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

- 1. Share some of your observations regarding the plot and characters in these chapters.
- 2. How did you describe some of the characters?
- 3. What themes and big ideas do you see in these chapters?

### DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss the skill of looking up cross references. How is it helpful in studying the Bible? Discuss 2-3 questions.

### ENGAGE

### DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

- 1. How does Moses' story encourage you to trust God's sovereignty and sufficiency to use you for His purposes?
- 2. What is the clear calling God has placed on your life today (see also Matthew 22:35-40, 28:18-20)?

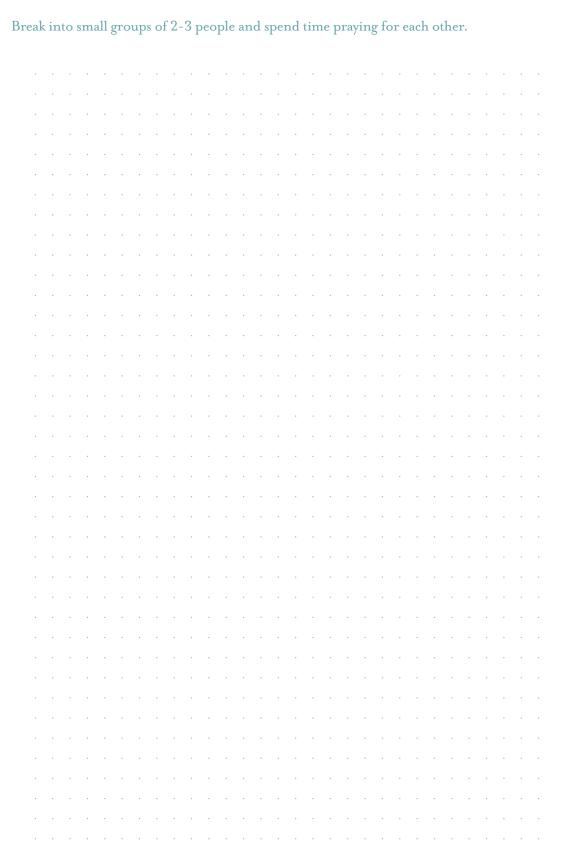
### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE Prayer

Discuss the practice of prayer. Why is it important? What have been your experiences or struggles in learning to pray? What could we do together as a group to grow in our prayer practice?

### RESPONSE

What will we do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

### PRAY







## EXODUS 5-11



### LOOK IT OVER

### **OBSERVATION**

Summarize what happened in this section of Exodus by answering the following:

1. Who? Who are the central characters? What type of character are they?

2. What? What are the big ideas, events, and themes of these scenes?

3. When? What does the author tell you about this time period?

4. Where? What does the author tell you about the physical setting?

| 5. Why is this section included in the story? How does it drive the plot forward?                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 6. <b>How does this story affect you?</b> What emotions does this story elicit in you? How does it draw you in personally?                                                                     |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| OBSERVATION SKILL: HIGHLIGHT CHARACTER DIALOGUE                                                                                                                                                |
| Notice the character dialogue within the story. Dialogue not only demonstrates the thoughts, feelings, and actions of characters, but it also reveals events that move a story's plot forward. |
| 1. What do you notice about Moses' dialogue with Pharaoh?                                                                                                                                      |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2. What do you notice about Moses' dialogue with the Lord?                                                                                                                                     |
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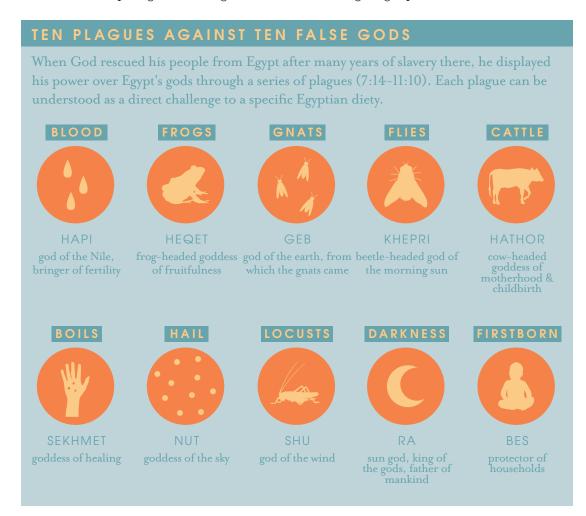
### THINK IT THROUGH

### INTERPRETATION

### INTERPRETATION SKILL: LOOK UP BACKGROUND INFORMATION

You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall. The *IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

Background information can be found by visiting the online reference netbible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that "NET2" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for "Notes" on the right side of the screen. Now, anytime you select one of the numbered annotations above particular words or verses, you can immediately see the relevant Biblical or historical context for that term or passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!



1. What is significant about the initial request that Moses and Aaron present to Pharaoh in chapter 5:1-5? How does it highlight the contrast between God and Pharaoh and their purposes for the people of Israel?

"The Egyptians were just about the most polytheistic people known from the ancient world. Even to this day we are not completely sure of the total number of gods which they worshipped. Most lists include somewhere in the neighborhood of eighty gods ..."\*

2. How does the repetition of "I will" in 6:1-9 highlight the promises of the Abrahamic covenant and encourage Moses' wavering faith seen at the end of chapter 5? How does the introduction of God as "God Almighty" in 6:3 further solidify that God is able to fulfill His promises? (See also Genesis 17:1-2, 28:3-4)

3. Why does God demonstrate His power to the Egyptians through these ten specific plagues? (see Exodus 7:4-5, 9:14-16, 10:1-2, and especially 12:12) Furthermore, why does God supernaturally use natural phenomena in order to reveal His power over Egyptian gods?

| 4. What is significant about Pharaoh's responses to God's power in the ten plagues? What pattern do you see in Pharaoh's heart as the plagues continue? (see chart of plagues on p. 34) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| What does it mean that the Lord "hardened Pharaoh's heart"? What reasons are given in 7:3 and 10:1?                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| RACKGPOUND INFORMATION                                                                                                                                                                  |

The confrontation between God and Pharaoh is the major focus in this narrative, but what does it mean that God will harden his heart? It is important to read this part of the story closely and in sequence. In Moses and Pharaoh's first encounter, we are told simply that

God proceeds to send the first set of five plagues, each one confronting Pharaoh and his However, after each plague, we are told that Pharaoh either "hardened his heart," or that his "heart grew hard." He's doing this of his own will. It's only with the second set of five plagues that we begin to hear that God hardened Pharaoh's heart.

The point is that even though God knew Pharaoh would resist his will, God still offered him many chances to do the right thing. Eventually Pharaoh's evil reaches a point of no return, and even his advisors think he has lost his mind. It's at that point that God takes over and bends Pharaoh's evil to his own redemptive purposes.\*



### MAKE IT REAL

### **APPLICATION**

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. Egyptians worshiped many idols to try to find success and security in life. What idols do you see worshiped in our culture? Which of these idols are you tempted to worship, serve, or pursue? Why?

2. Though Moses' mission eventually succeeded, he suffered significant opposition and discouragement before, during and after the process. How do you handle opposition and discouragement? Do you expect these things, or are you surprised by them? Why?

3. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

| 4. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? Wh  | at |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, an | d  |
| play? Write your goal in the box below.                                                    |    |

### ENGAGE FOCUS - EVERY NEIGHBOR MAP

Part of God's covenant promises to Israel was that they would become a blessing to all nations (Genesis 18:18). Israel's relationship with God would show other nations that Yahweh was the one true God worthy of their worship. As followers of Israel's Messiah, Jesus, we are also called to love our neighbors (people in our spheres of influence) and to show them what it is like to be in a relationship with God. A great way to begin is to identify and pray for people who are near to you but may be far from God.

Turn to page 113 and prayerfully fill in your Every Neighbor Map. Be ready to share it with your group next week.

For more insight, watch the Every Neighbor Map video at grace-bible.org/disciplemaker.

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### GROUP DISCUSSION

#### CONNECT

### CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

- 1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share high or low from the week.
- 2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.
- 3. Looking back: how did you do with your application of truth last week?

Pray for your time together.

### GROW

### DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

- 1. Share some of your observations regarding the plot and characters in these chapters.
- 2. What were some of the things you noticed in the dialogue between characters?
- 3. What themes and big ideas do you see in these chapters?

#### DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss the skill of looking up background information. How is it helpful in studying the Bible?

Discuss 2-3 questions.

#### ENGAGE

### DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

- 1. Egyptians worshiped many idols to try to find success and security in life. What idols do you see worshiped in our culture? Which of these idols are you tempted to worship, serve, or pursue? Why?
- 2. Though Moses' mission eventually succeeded, he suffered significant opposition and discouragement before, during and after the process. How do you handle opposition and discouragement? Do you expect these things, or are you surprised by them? Why?

### ENGAGE TOOL Every Neighbor Map (p. 113)

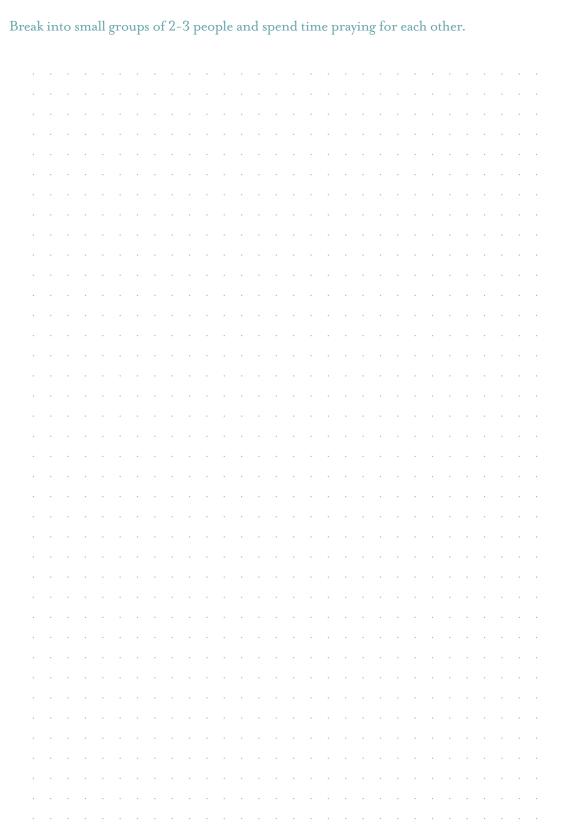
Share your maps with your group or fill them out together now.

Spend some time praying for these friends. Ask God for opportunities to deepen friendships and to practically bless them with His Love. Ask God to reveal Himself to them and to open their eyes to His grace.

#### RESPONSE

What will we do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

### PRAY







## EXODUS 12-15:21



### LOOK IT OVER

### **OBSERVATION**

**READ EXODUS 12-15:21** 

Summarize what happens in this section of Exodus by filling in the following:

| SECTION     | SETTING | CHARACTERS | PLOT SUMMARY |
|-------------|---------|------------|--------------|
| 12:1-30     |         |            |              |
| 12:31-35    |         |            |              |
| 13:1-16     |         |            |              |
| 13:17-14:31 |         |            |              |
| 15:1-21     |         |            |              |

### OBSERVATION SKILL: POINT OF VIEW

Determine point of view within the story. This refers to the perspectives within a narrative, whether those of each character or even the narrator who controls the overall point of view of the story itself. A story's author uses a narrator to control what the reader sees, how he sees it, and when he sees it. Such selectivity and arrangement of details create a lens through which the reader interacts with a story and each of its characters. In this way, the narrator's point of view guides the reader to the story's lessons by the end.

| seem like each character thinks and feels as the action unfolds in these scenes? |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| God                                                                              |
|                                                                                  |
| Moses                                                                            |
|                                                                                  |
| Israelites                                                                       |
|                                                                                  |
| Pharaoh                                                                          |
| THATAOH                                                                          |
|                                                                                  |
| Egyptians                                                                        |
|                                                                                  |

2. What themes or big ideas do you see in this section of the narrative?

### THINK IT THROUGH

| INTERPRETATION                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Look up background information on the festival of Passover. (Use skill instructions on p.34) What is significant about the various elements and what they symbolize?                                       |
| 2. Why does God ordain the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread to be celebrated for generations to come (see also Deuteronomy 16:1-3, 12)?                                                          |
| Jesus is called our "Passover lamb" in 1 Corinthians 5:7. What are the implications of this comparison? In what sense is Jesus like a Passover lamb? In what ways is He different? (See also 1 Peter 1:18-19) |
| 3. What is the significance of the judgment on the firstborn in Egypt (12:29-30) as the final plague? (See also Exodus $4:22-23$ )                                                                            |
| What does the consecration of the Israelite firstborn in 13:1-2 teach us about God's sovereignty and His redemption purposes for the nation of Israel?                                                        |



### MAKE IT REAL

### **APPLICATION**

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. Are you one to naturally reflect back and remember? Or do you typically keep running to the next thing?

2. The Jewish calendar created a rhythm of remembrance and worship for the nation of Israel (see also 13:3-16). In a similar way, how can we develop a rhythm of remembrance in our lives? And why is it important?

3. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

4. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play? Write your goal in the box on the next page.

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: JOURNALING

"Make me know your ways, Lord, teach me Your paths." Psalm 25:4

Life speeds by day by day, year by year and the experiences of our lives quickly become a blur in our memory. If we're honest, we rarely make the time to reflect deeply on what is happening in our lives.

The practice of journaling creates intentional moments to remember and to reflect on our life experiences in the presence of the Holy Spirit. When we take the time to journal, we "listen to our lives," providing space for the Spirit to reveal the state of our souls: consistent themes, desires, frustrations or sin patterns. Journaling helps us to pay attention to God's presence, guidance and provision in our actual lives. The physical act of writing often helps us to focus and to clarify what we are thinking and feeling.

This week, prayerfully journal at least one time. Reflect back on the previous day or week. Then, simply write down your thoughts, feelings, gratitude or prayers. Or try one of these ideas:

- Two Sentence Journaling Ask the Spirit to guide you as you reflect back on the last 24 hours. What is something you are grateful for? What insight or understanding did you gain from yesterday's experiences? Write one "gratitude" sentence and one "insight" sentence. Do this for several days if possible.
- Documentation Journaling Write about an experience or situation as if someone else was going to read it. Writing from this mindset often brings clarity and helps you to recall details. Use the prompt "This is what happened/s when..." Ask the Spirit to guide you.
- •Scripture Write out any verses that stand out to you.

"We do not learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience." John Dewey

| How you will actively embody biblical truth and engage missionally this week? |  |
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|                                                                               |  |
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### GROUP DISCUSSION

#### CONNECT

### CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

- 1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share high or low from the week.
- 2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.
- 3. Looking back: how did you do with your application of truth last week?

Pray for your time together.

### GROW

### DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

- 1. Share some of your observations from looking at the events in these chapters from varying points of view?
- 2. What themes and big ideas do you see in these chapters?

#### DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

### ENGAGE

### DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

- 1. Are you one to naturally reflect back and remember? Or do you typically keep running to the next thing?
- 2. How can we develop a rhythm of remembrance in our lives? And why is it important?

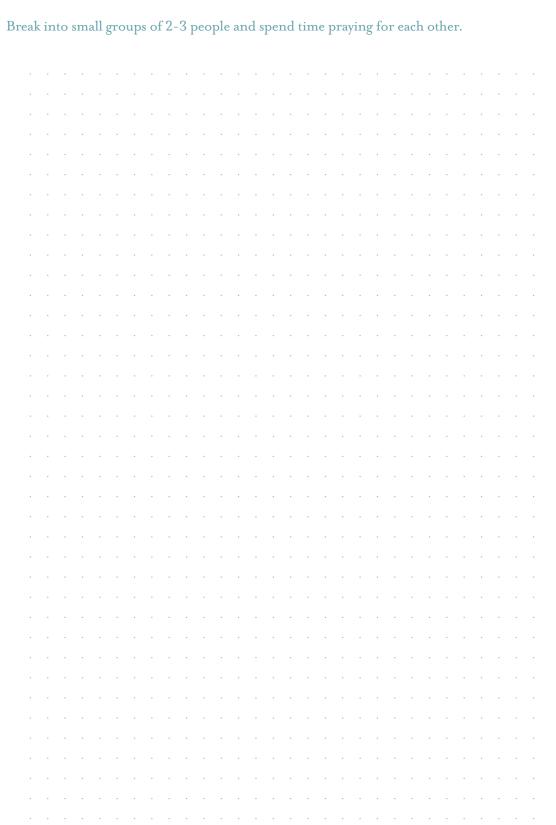
### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE Journaling

Share any insights from your experience with journaling.

### RESPONSE

What will we do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

### PRAY



LESSON 4 51





## EXODUS 15:22-18:27



### LOOK IT OVER

### **OBSERVATION**

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Summarize what happened in this section of Exodus by answering the following: 1. **Who?** Who are the central characters? What type of character are they? 2. What? What are the big ideas, events, and themes of these scenes? 3. When? What does the author tell you about this time period? 4. Where? What does the author tell you about the physical setting? 5. Why is this section included in the story? How does it drive the plot forward? 6. How does this story affect you? What emotions does this story elicit in you? How does it draw you in personally?

### OBSERVATION SKILL: IDENTIFY IRONY

Irony is a rhetorical device that an author uses intentionally but subtly in several ways:

- · Irony is present when the narrator states one thing but intends for the reader to understand something different.
- · Irony occurs with a dramatic reversal of a situation. Hence, it can involve poetic justice when good people are rewarded and bad people are punished.
- · Irony is present when the least likely person does an expected action or when the least expected thing happens in a story (e.g. when the pagan sailors and pagan king of Nineveh

| prove far more responsive to God than Jonah, God's prophet). We especially find irony in the Bible as God's thoughts and actions are so often unexpected and unseen from man's natural and limited point of view. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Note all of the occasions when the Isrealites grumble, quarrel, or complain in this section                                                                                                                    |
| 2. Identify all irony within this section of the narrative.                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3. What attributes of God are demonstrated in these events? In other words, what do you learn about the character of God from this part of the story?                                                             |

### THINK IT THROUGH

#### INTERPRETATION

### INTERPRETATION SKILL: LOOK UP KEY WORDS

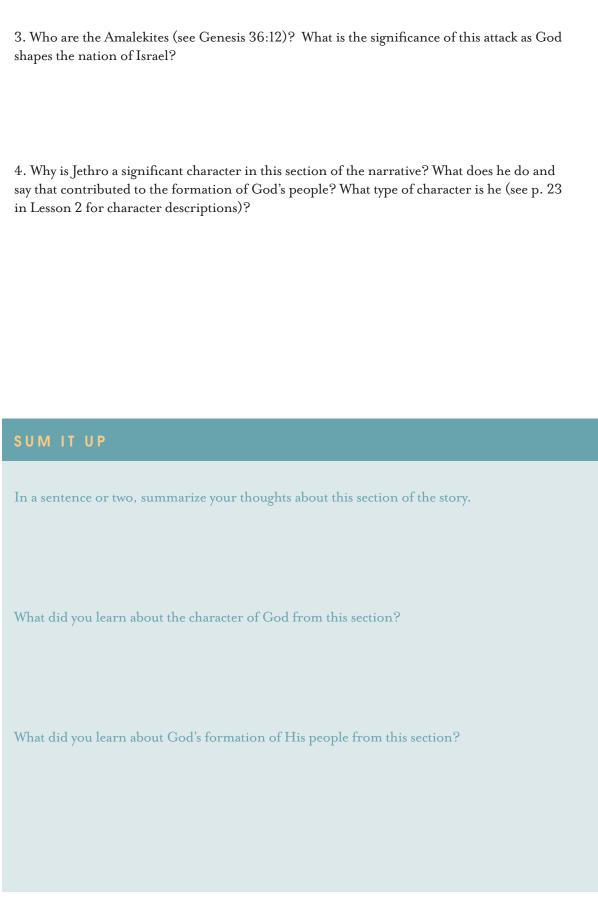
While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in the original language provides deeper understanding and is surprisingly easy, thanks to online tools such as net.bible. org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that "NET2" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for "Hebrew" on the right side of the screen. Now hovering over any word in English will highlight the corresponding Hebrew term and reveal its Strong's definition in the opposite window. For even further study, you can select a word, click the magnifying glass above it, then choose to run a "Word Search," "Strong's Search," or "Word Study." The first will provide all Biblical references that use the English term. The second will provide all Biblical references that use the Hebrew term. And the third will provide the full definition and derivatives of the Hebrew term. What used to take multiple books & many hours now takes one internet browser & a few seconds!

1. For what purposes does God use the journey through the wilderness to begin to form the Israelites as His people?

Specifically, what does God's provision of manna in chapter 16 teach Israel about how He works in their lives?

How could their past experiences have impacted their responses to Him?

2. The first occurrence of the word "sabbath" occurs in 16:23 and detailed instruction follows later in 31:12-17. What does it mean (use the instructions above to look up this key word)? Why would God choose this time to institute an official day of rest for the nation of Israel?



### MAKE IT REAL

### **APPLICATION**

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. In the midst of difficulty and struggle, do you typically focus on your circumstances or the character of God, and why?

2. Is it difficult for you to rest? Why or why not?

3. Who are the Jethros in your life that provide wise counsel in times of need? Do you have someone like this today in your life? If not, begin to pray for God to provide this type of friend for you.

4. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

5. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play? Write your goal in the box below.

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: SABBATH

The most literal meaning of the Hebrew verb shabbat is "to stop, to cease, to be done." In Genesis 2:1-3, we see that God Himself stopped and rested after His work of creation. He blessed the day of rest, building a rhythm of work followed by rest into the fabric of creation.

At its heart, sabbath is God's gift to us for our delight and for communion with Him. Sabbath time is characterized by being in the midst of a life of doing and helps to free us from the compulsions of busyness, rush and hurry. By regularly practicing sabbath, we acknowledge and learn to live within our human limits, trusting that God's presence and provision is sufficient for us.

Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

- Pick a day to sabbath this week either one full day or a 3-4 hour time period. Consider Sunday as it is the typical day we gather to worship.
- •On your sabbath day, simply stop doing the "work" of your daily life (tasks, chores, planning, communicating, etc.) and delight in restful activities that are life-giving to you (worshipping, napping, reading, praying, playing, walking, eating with friends and family, creating, exploring, etc.).
- Prepare for the day by arranging for meals, making plans with people, completing errands or work tasks. Also, prepare for resistance, both internally and externally. Resting is countercultural!
- $\cdot \text{Consider powering off your devices during your sabbath in order to be fully present.} \\$

"Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the Lord loves rests between his shoulders." Deuteronomy 33:12 NIV

| How you will actively embody biblical truth and engage missionally this week? |  |
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### GROUP DISCUSSION

#### CONNECT

### CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

- 1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share high or low from the week.
- 2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.
- 3. Looking back: how did you do with your application of truth last week?

Pray for your time together.

### GROW

### DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

- 1. Share some of your observations regarding the irony in these chapters.
- 2. What were some of the things you noticed about God's character in these chapters?
- 3. What themes and big ideas do you see in these chapters?

### **DISCUSS INTERPRETATION**

Discuss the skill of looking up key words. How is it helpful in studying the Bible? Discuss 2-3 questions.

### ENGAGE

### DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

- 1. In the midst of difficulty and struggle, do you typically focus on your circumstances or the character of God, and why?
- 2. Is it difficult for you to rest? Why or why not?
- 3. Who are the Jethros in your life that provide wise counsel in times of need? Do you have someone like this today in your life?

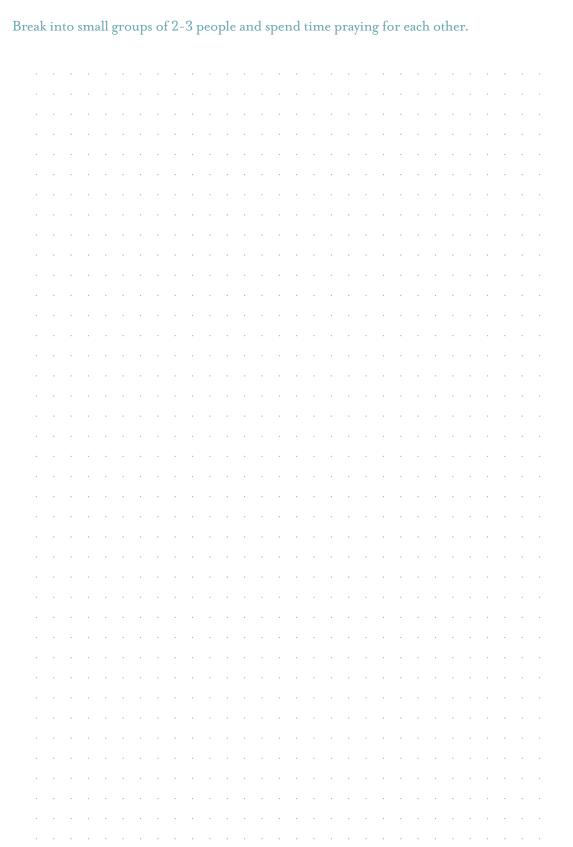
### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE Sabbath

Share your experiences with practicing sabbath this week.

### RESPONSE

What will we do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

### PRAY







## EXODUS 19-24



### LOOK IT OVER

### **OBSERVATION**

**READ EXODUS 19-24** 

Summarize what happens in this section of Exodus by filling in the following:

| SECTION (Narrative) | SETTING | CHARACTERS | PLOT SUMMARY |
|---------------------|---------|------------|--------------|
| 19:1-25             |         |            |              |
| 20:1-26             |         |            |              |

| SECTION (Instruction) | CATEGORY OF INSTRUCTION |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 21:1-11               | Slaves/servants         |
| 21:12-32              |                         |
| 21:33-22:15           |                         |
| 22:16-31              |                         |
| 23:1-9                |                         |
| 23:10-19              |                         |
| 23:20-33              |                         |

| SECTION (Narrative) | SETTING | CHARACTERS | PLOT SUMMARY |
|---------------------|---------|------------|--------------|
| 24:1-18             |         |            |              |

### OBSERVATION SKILL: ASKING INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS

Simply record the questions that naturally come to mind as you try to understand the passage. If you need help getting started, you can use these samples.

| WHO IS                                                                          | WHAT IS THE                                                                                                           | WHY DID THE AUTHOR                                                      | HOW                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| the author talking about? accomplishing the action? benefiting from the action? | meaning of this word? significance of this phrase? implication of this statement? relationship between these phrases? | choose this word? include this phrase, statement, or command? not say ? | was this action accomplished? will this situation occur? |

List any interpretive questions you have about this section.

### THINK IT THROUGH

### INTERPRETATION

### COVENANT

The covenant described in this section of Exodus is often called the Mosaic Covenant. A covenant is a promise or binding agreement between two or more parties, similar to a contract. The four primary biblical covenants were given by God to a person or group of people. In each case, God sovereignly and "unilaterally" gave the covenant to whoever He chose (there was no bargaining or negotiation.) Ancient unilateral covenants came in two forms: the "grant covenant" where a king gave land or power as a reward to a loyal subject, and the "suzerain-vassal covenant" where a subject vowed to obey a king and the king vowed to protect and the subject if he obeyed and punish if he disobeyed. The Mosaic Covenant is considered a suzerain-vassal covenant in that it is conditional, depending on Israel's actions for its fulfillment.

1. Why does God make this covenant with the people of Israel (Exodus 19:1-9, Romans 7:7-8, Galatians 3:22-24)?

What does it mean that Israel will be a "kingdom of priests" and a "holy nation" (Exodus 19:6)? What is unique about the vocation that God intends for Israel to take up? (See also 1 Peter 1:14-15, 2:9-10)

- 2. How does the Mosaic covenant relate to the covenant He made with Abraham 600 years earlier? (See Genesis 12:1-3 and 17:1-8 and Deuteronomy 5, 28-30, Galatians 3:17-18) Does the Mosaic covenant replace or modify or complement the Abrahamic covenant?
- 3. What is the importance of the "preamble" in 20:2 to the instructions traditionally known as "The Ten Commandments" in 20:3-17?

How does Jesus' answer to a question about the law in Matthew 22:35-40 provide a framework for how "The Ten Commandments" or decalogue can be grouped?

| 4. In Exodus 21-23, we see fifty-two more instructions (case laws) that expand upon the universal ethical principles of the decalogue and are specific to the social and historical situation of Israel. How do these commands relate to the vocation God envisioned for Israel? What do they say about what God values (See Leviticus 11:44-45)? |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5. What is the significance of the covenant ratification ceremony in chapter 24 (see also Genesis 12:8-12, 17-18)?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| How does the presence of blood in the ratification ceremony foreshadow the inauguration of the New Covenant (see also Matthew 26:26-28, Galatians 3:13-14, and 1 Corinthians 15:23-26)?                                                                                                                                                           |
| 6. BONUS: Should believers today follow all aspects of the Mosaic Covenant or just some portions?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| SUM IT UP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| In a sentence or two, summarize your thoughts about this section of the story.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| What did you learn about the character of God from this section?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| What did you learn about God's formation of His people from this section?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

### MAKE IT REAL

### **APPLICATION**

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. Why are clear expectations in relationships a gift? Can you think of a relationship in which you wanted to fulfill someone's expectations but you had no idea how to do it?

2. What comes to mind when you hear the words "law" and "commandment"? Do you think of them as for your good or as limiting? What does your response reveal about your belief about God?

3. Do you primarily see yourself as an individual or as a member of the faith community of God through Jesus? Why is this important? How are you living out your identity and purpose as described in 1 Peter 2:9-10?

| 4. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.                                                                                                                                     |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 5. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play? Write your goal in the box below.                                        |  |  |  |
| ENGAGE FOCUS: STARTING A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |
| How has your time praying for friends who don't know God been going? Has the Lord opened up any opportunities for you to bless a friend or neighbor through a tangible act of kindness?                                                                                |  |  |  |
| A great way to show genuine love to someone is to take an interest in their lives that goes deeper than surface level. Start a "spiritual conversation" with a friend by asking one of your friends how you can pray for them. Most people are happy to be prayed for! |  |  |  |
| For more ideas on how to start spiritual conversations, go to page 114 and watch the Starting a Spiritual Conversation video at grace-bible.org/disciplemaker.                                                                                                         |  |  |  |
| How you will actively embody biblical truth and engage missionally this week?                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |
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### GROUP DISCUSSION

#### CONNECT

### CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

- 1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share high or low from the week.
- 2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.
- 3. Looking back: how did you do with your application of truth last week?

Pray for your time together.

### GROW

### DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

- 1. Share your summaries of what is happening in these chapters.
- 2. What themes and big ideas do you see in these chapters?
- 3. What interpretation questions do you have?

### DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss the skill of looking up background information. How is it helpful in studying the Bible?

Discuss 2-3 questions.

### ENGAGE

### DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

- 1. What comes to mind when you hear the words "law" and "commandment"? Do you think of them as for your good or as limiting? What does your response reveal about your belief about God?
- 2. Do you primarily see yourself as an individual or as a member of the faith community of God through Jesus? Why is this important? How are you living out your identity and purpose as described in 1 Peter 2:9-10?

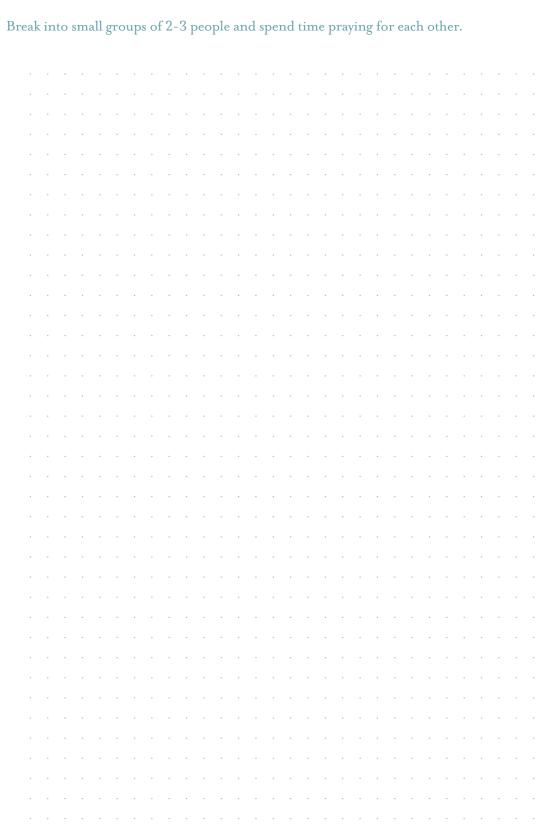
### ENGAGE FOCUS Starting a Spiritual Conversation

Spend some time talking about how your group is doing praying for and engaging with friends who are far from God. Has the Lord opened up any opportunities for spiritual conversations?

### RESPONSE

What will we do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

### PRAY







# EXODUS 25-31

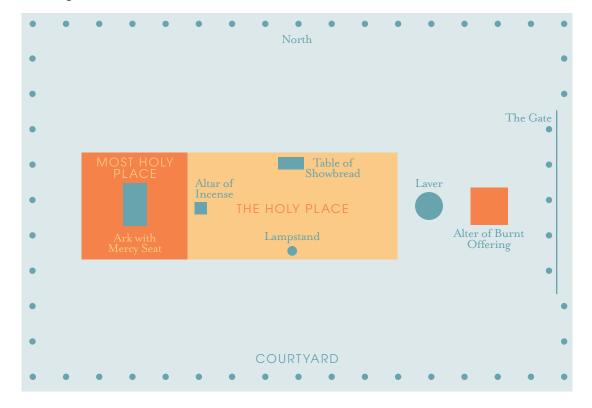


# LOOK IT OVER

### **OBSERVATION**

### READ EXODUS 25-31

This section of Exodus describes in detail the architectural blueprints of a sacred tent God commissioned the people of Israel to build. It is variously described as the sanctuary (25:8), the tabernacle (25:9), the tent of meeting (29:42). Overall, the tabernacle consisted of a curtained outer courtyard with an altar and a tented room in the center which was divided into an inner room and outer room. The courtyard was approximately 150 feet wide by 75 feet long.



1. Make a list of the tabernacle furnishings. Note anything you see regarding their purpose.

| . What are the main responsibilities of the priests within the tabernacle?                 |
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| There are a lot of details in these chapters that can seem very foreign to modern readers. |
| Spend some time looking up background information to learn more (https://netbible.org      |
|                                                                                            |
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| INTERPRETATION                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Why does this section begin with seven lengthy chapters with instructions related to the tabernacle?                                                           |
| What is the purpose of the tabernacle?                                                                                                                            |
| Why is the symbolism of the various elements important?                                                                                                           |
| 2. What does the "ark of the covenant" represent? Why is it particularly important for Israel in their relationship with God (see also Leviticus 16; 1 John 2:2)? |
| 3. What is significant about the different elements of the priests' garments and preparation for service?                                                         |

| 4. How does the Spirit empower the people to fulfill their vocational calling in 31:1-11?                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| How does Sabbath rest provide further empowerment for the people of God to complete their calling as a "kingdom of priests" (31:12-17)?     |
| How does generosity and giving play a vital role in the construction of the tabernacle (see also 25:1-9 and 30:11-16)?                      |
|                                                                                                                                             |
| SUM IT UP                                                                                                                                   |
| In a sentence or two, summarize your thoughts about this section of the story.                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                             |
| What did you learn about the character of God from this section?                                                                            |
| What did you learn about the character of God from this section?                                                                            |
| What did you learn about the character of God from this section?  What did you learn about God's formation of His people from this section? |
|                                                                                                                                             |

# MAKE IT REAL

### **APPLICATION**

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. How does it impact you when you consider the lengths God went to dwell physically amongst the nation of Israel? What emotions does this story elicit in you? How does it draw you in personally?

2. What gifting, abilities, experience and resources has God entrusted you with to advance His kingdom? How are you using them currently?

3. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

4. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play? Write your goal in the box below.

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: SERVICE

Service is a way of offering our resources, time, influence and expertise for the care, protection, justice and nurture of others. God's vision from the beginning was for His people to be a blessing to others. As followers of Jesus, we have been gifted to serve and to partner with Him in His mission to reconcile the world to Himself.

This begins by cultivating Jesus' heart of compassion and seeing people as He does; as beloved image bearers for whom He died. Then, by the Spirit's power and prompting, His people begin to intentionally "love your neighbor as yourself" by serving people in real and tangible ways, meeting physical and spiritual needs.

Start with one of these ideas:

- Make a list of a few friends, family and neighbors that you know have needs or are struggling in some way. This week, meet one or more of these needs.
- Discuss with your group ways that you might serve together to meet a need around you.
- Go to the Grace Serve page to see opportunities to serve our church body: grace-bible.org/serve-with-grace
- $\hbox{$\, \cdot$ Check out our local Community Partnerships for more opportunities to serve: } grace-bible.org/community-partnerships$
- If you are uncertain as to your particular gifting to serve, ask those who know you well what they see in you or take this Spiritual Gifts Survey: giftsurvey.grace-bible.org

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love." Galatians 5:13

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# GROUP DISCUSSION

### CONNECT

### CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

- 1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share high or low from the week.
- 2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.
- 3. Looking back: how did you do with your application of truth last week?

Pray for your time together.

### GROW

### DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

- 1. Share some of your observations regarding in these chapters.
- 2. What themes and big ideas do you see in these chapters?

### DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss 2-3 questions.

### ENGAGE

### DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

- 1. How does it impact you when you consider the lengths God went to dwell physically amongst the nation of Israel? What emotions does this story elicit in you? How does it draw you in personally?
- 2. What gifting, abilities, experience and resources has God entrusted you with to advance His kingdom? How are you using them currently?

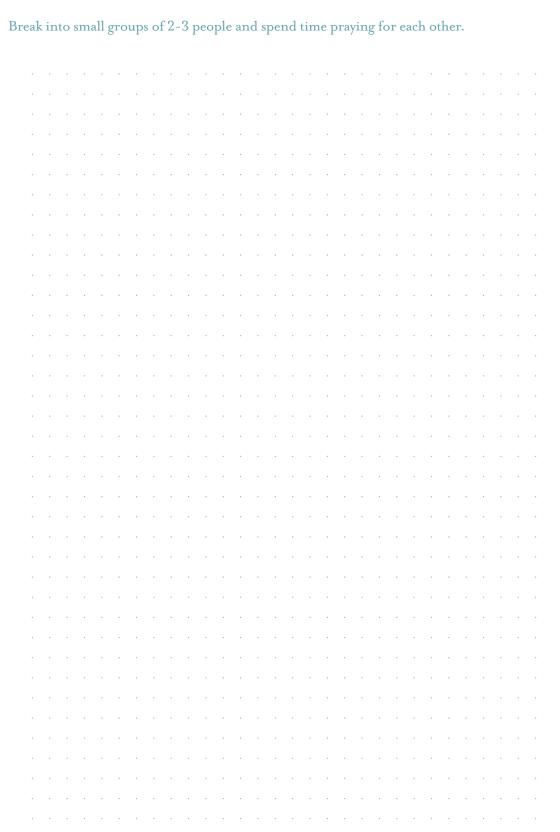
### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE Service

Discuss the importance of service in our lives. What are the ways we can serve together and as individuals?

### RESPONSE

What will we do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

### PRAY





# LESSON VI



# EXODUS 32-34



# LOOK IT OVER

### **OBSERVATION**

READ EXODUS 32-34

Summarize what happened in this section of Exodus by answering the following:

1. **Who?** Who are the central characters? What type of character are they? 2. What? What are the big ideas, events, and themes of these scenes? 3. When? What does the author tell you about this time period? 4. Where? What does the author tell you about the physical setting? 5. Why is this section included in the story? How does it drive the plot forward? 6. How does this story affect you? What emotions does this story elicit in you? How does it draw you in personally?

### ADDITIONAL OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

| . Make a list of all the things in these chapters that shine or radiate.     |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|                                                                              |  |
|                                                                              |  |
|                                                                              |  |
| 2. What consequences come upon the Israelites as a result of their idolatry? |  |
|                                                                              |  |
|                                                                              |  |
|                                                                              |  |
| 3. List any interpretive questions you have about this section.              |  |
|                                                                              |  |
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# THINK IT THROUGH

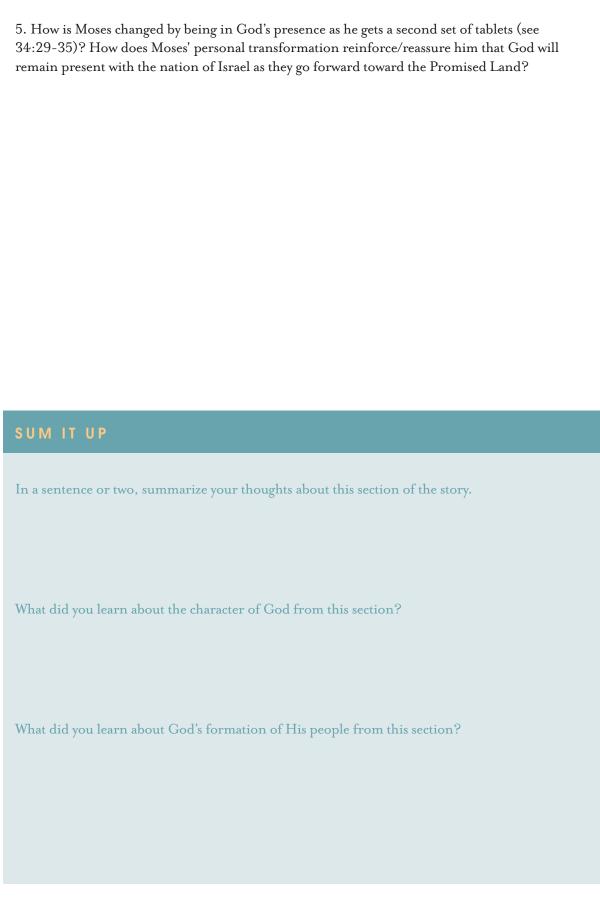
### INTERPRETATION

| 1. Why do the Isrealites | ask Aaron to '  | "make us | a god w | ho will go | before u | ıs" in 3 | 2:1? | What c | lo |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|---------|------------|----------|----------|------|--------|----|
| a nation's god(s) repres | ent to its peor | ole?     |         |            |          |          |      |        |    |

2. Review the first two commandments in Exodus 20:3-6. What is the distinction between them? In what ways do the Israelites disobey both of these commandments?

3. What is significant about Moses' appeal to and interaction with God in these scenes? Why does "God change His mind" concerning the destruction of Israel in chapter 32 and His presence with them in chapter 33?

4. How is God's nature and character seen in His covenant renewal with Israel in chapter 34? How do His justice and compassion work together (see 34:6-7)?



# MAKE IT REAL

### **APPLICATION**

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. Why do we struggle with first commandment idolatry (replacing God) and second commandment idolatry (re-making God in our image)? Why do they appeal to us?

2. We see from God's responsiveness to Moses' intercession that God hears and often acts upon our prayers for His mercy for those far from Him. Continue to pray for the friends and family you have identified on your Every Neighbor Map to turn and be restored in relationship with the one true God.

3. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

4. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play? Write your goal in the box below.

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

Often it can be easier to ignore rather than to confront patterns of sin in our lives. We may even be blind to these patterns; especially to the unconscious thoughts and inner orientations of our hearts.

The regular practice of reflection and confession is a means of healing and restoration for believers. Psalm 139:23-24 reminds us, "Search me, God, and know my heart; put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there is any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way."

Use the following prompts to help you begin this practice:

### REFLECTION

Reflecting back on the last 1-2 weeks, ask the Spirit to reveal:

- ·Any blatant, deliberate sins you have ignored or indulged.
- · Specific times you have walked out of step with the Spirit, operating from your flesh.
- ·Anyone you have hurt through thoughtlessness, neglect, or anger.
- Tendencies toward self-preservation, self-promotion, or self-sufficiency.
- Who or what you are really trusting for significance, security or sense of well-being.

### CONFESSION

Talk to the Lord about all of these things. He loves you deeply. Lay down the burden of hiding and pretending. Receive forgiveness and healing.

- ·Agree with God about what He has revealed to you. Tell God the truth.
- ·Humbly ask for His forgiveness and cleansing. (1 John 1:9)
- Intentionally trust Him for restoration and healing. (James 5:16)
- · By the end of the day today, ask for forgiveness from anyone that you have hurt.

Stay in this place a bit longer. Be still and enjoy the presence of the Spirit with you. Express your gratitude for His unfailing love.

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# GROUP DISCUSSION

### CONNECT

### CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

- 1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share high or low from the week.
- 2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.
- 3. Looking back: how did you do with your application of truth last week?

Pray for your time together.

### GROW

### DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

- 1. Share some of your observations regarding the plot and characters in these chapters.
- 2. What themes and big ideas do you see in these chapters?

### DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss the skill of looking up background information. How is it helpful in studying the Bible?

Discuss 2-3 questions.

### ENGAGE

### DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

1. Why do we struggle with first commandment idolatry (replacing God) and second commandment idolatry (re-making God in our image)? Why do they appeal to us?

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE Reflection and Confession

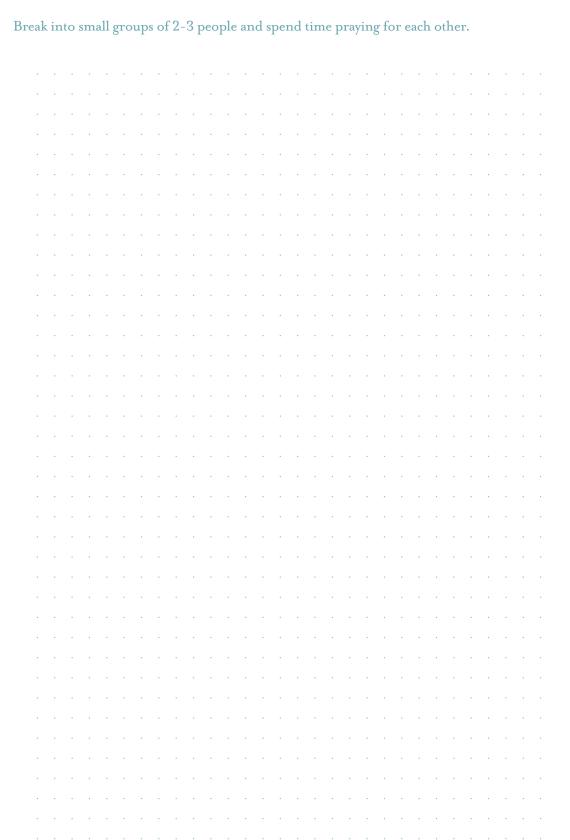
Spend some time discussing the importance and challenges of regular reflection and confession.

Ask your group if they have a community of relationships in which you can practice confession together? If not, what can you do to develop those relationships?

### RESPONSE

What will we do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

### PRAY





# LESSON |



# EXODUS 35-40 +SYNTHESIS



# EXODUS 35-40

### **OBSERVE**

### **READ EXODUS 35-40**

After renewing the covenant with Moses, God again commissions the building of the Tabernacle.

1. Refer back to the beginning of the Exodus story. Compare and contrast Israel's work projects under Pharaoh versus under God.

2. List key moments in these chapters that highlight the full obedience of Israel. How many times do you see the repetition of "just as the Lord commanded Moses" in chapter 39?

### INTERPRET

1. How do these chapters provide a fitting plot conclusion to the story of Exodus?

2. What does the presence of the Lord dwelling in the tabernacle represent to Israel?

### APPLICATION

| Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Do you struggle to prioritize gathering for worship with your church community? Why or why not?                                                                                                                              |
| 2. What do we experience in gathered worship that cannot be found anywhere else?                                                                                                                                                |
| 3. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.                                                                                              |
| 4. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play? Write your goal in the box below. |
| How you will actively embody biblical truth and engage missionally this week.                                                                                                                                                   |

# PUT IT BACK TOGETHER

Before we get to the synthesis, one word of encouragement ... please realize how much you have grown as a student of God's Word through your study of Exodus! Each week, you've learned how to better observe, interpret, and apply the stories of Scripture. Those same three steps will serve you well as you continue to study God's story throughout the Bible. Continue to practice and refine these skills so that you become, "a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Looking back over the epic story in the book of Exodus, answer the following questions.

- 1. What does God's faithfulness entail? How is it evidenced in His words and actions?
- 2. What are some of the greatest threats to experiencing God's covenantal blessings and promises?

The previous lessons have led us to observe, to interpret, and to apply the entire book of Exodus. That is no small task! Now it is time to draw our detailed study to a useful conclusion, a process known as synthesis. Our goal is to create an overall summary of the book of Exodus that we can quickly review any time in the future to remind us of the flow and content of the book.

### OUTLINE THE BOOK

The first step of the synthesis is to create your own outline of the book. Review the work you completed each week. Then, create your own brief outline on the next page. Feel free to use any outlining style, but here is an example of how you might start:

- 1. The liberation of Israel (1:1–15:21)
  - a. God's preparation of Israel and Moses (chs. 1-4)
  - b. God demonstrates His sovereignty (chs. 5-11)

# MY EXODUS OUTLINE

The second step of the synthesis is to record what you learned or were reminded of. This is more personal than your outline. Create a list of the theological truths and life lessons you have either learned for the first time or been reminded of from your study of Exodus. As an example of a theological truth, you might write "I was taught that the Holy Spirit is a pledge or guarantee of our eternal inheritance to come in the future (Ephesians 1:13-14)." As an example of a life lesson, you might write "This book reminded me that spiritual growth is a community project pursued not just individually but also corporately." List some theological truths and life lessons on this page that you learned from your study of Exodus, and record the verses where each one is addressed.

THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS I'VE LEARNED

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at you developed and began to practice during previous lessons, o create entirely new applications. Whatever your choice, two things must be true about them:

Both applications should relate to areas of your life where you are currently in need of growth. Do not choose "be kind to others" if this is already something you do very well.

Both applications should be specific with a clear plan for growth and the name of someone who will hold you accountable. "Study the Word more" is not specific enough. Instead, develop a specific plan, such as, "I will read through Romans this month and write down my observations, interpretive questions, and applications in a journal. Steve will hold me accountable on a weekly basis."

### APPLICATION #1

| ]   | Principle from Exodus:       |
|-----|------------------------------|
|     |                              |
| 7   | Verses where it's discussed: |
|     |                              |
| ]   | Plan of Action: I will       |
|     |                              |
|     |                              |
| APF | PLICATION #2                 |
| ]   | Principle from Exodus:       |
|     |                              |
| 7   | Verses where it's discussed: |
|     |                              |
| ]   | Plan of Action: I will       |

# GROUP DISCUSSION

### CONNECT

### CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

- 1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share high or low from the week.
- 2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.
- 3. Looking back: how did you do with your application of truth last week?

Pray for your time together.

### GROW

### DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

- 1. Share some of your observations regarding the plot and characters in these chapters.
- 2. What themes and big ideas do you see in these chapters?

### DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss 2-3 questions.

### ENGAGE

### DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

- 1. Do you struggle to prioritize gathering for worship with your church community? Why or why not?
- 2. What do we experience in gathered worship that cannot be found anywhere else?

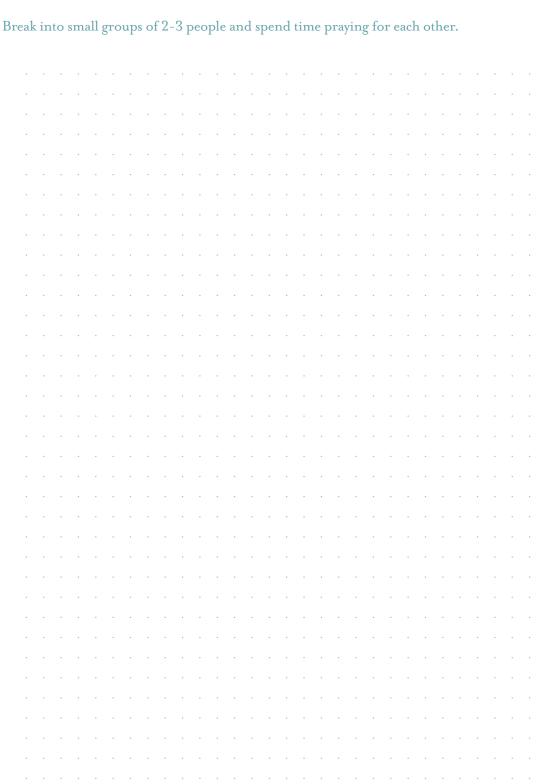
### SYNTHESIS

Discuss your review of the book of Exodus. What were your biggest takeaways?

### RESPONSE

What will we do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

### PRAY



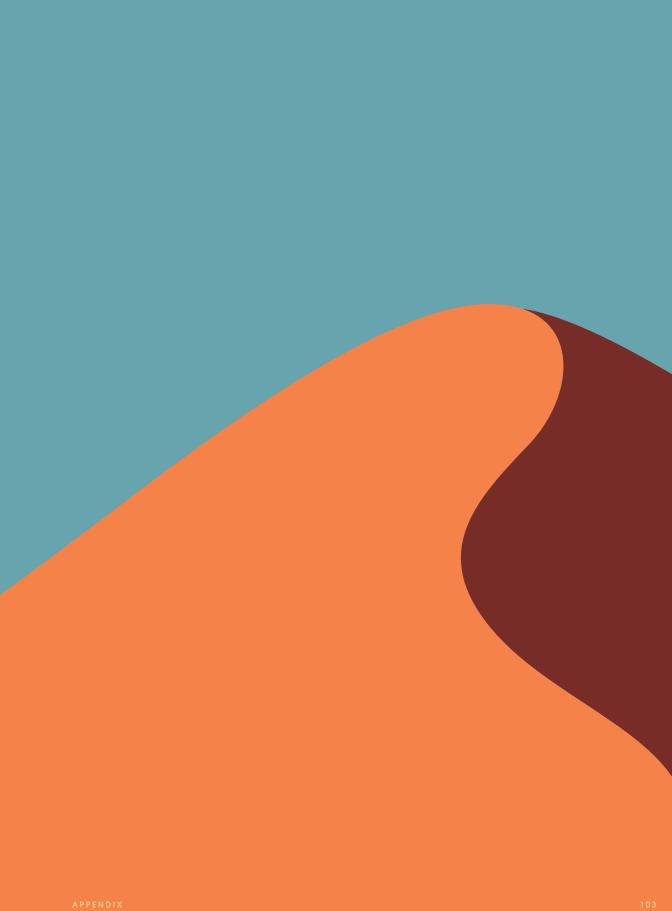
# APPENDIX

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STUDY TOOLS 106

**ENGAGE TOOLS 112** 

ADDITIONAL STUDY 122
RESOURCES



## LEADER HELPS

### WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION

The best preparation for leading a Bible study is following Jesus closely yourself.

- Spend time with God daily to keep your relationship with Him fresh and growing! Healthy leadership is ultimately an overflow of your personal relationship with God.
- Spend time in the passage throughout the week.
- Pray regularly with your co-leader for each person in your group.
- Prepare ahead of time and make a plan (see below) for your group time. Discuss with your co-leader.
- •As a facilitator of discussion rather than a teacher, you are encouraged to be a colearner with your group. Your job is not to know "everything." It is acceptable to leave some questions partially answered or unresolved, trusting for clarity at a later time. Reach out to ministry leaders and pastors at your church for clarification as needed.
- Lead and walk by faith in the Holy Spirit's work in your life and in the lives of your group members.

### LEADING WELL

- Set a regular meeting place and time. Consistency helps avoid obstacles that will keep people from being there and a plan helps people know what to expect.
- Create a welcoming environment! Learn people's names and make sure everyone is introduced to each other. Possibly have a snack each week, alternating between healthy and "less healthy." Everyone likes a snack!
- Regularly remind people of the group's purpose to:

**CONNECT** Relationally

**GROW** Biblically

**ENGAGE** Missionally

- Regularly break up into smaller groups of 2-3, starting from the very first meeting. Smaller groups help people feel known. Keep the groups no bigger than three. This will pay off in the long run.
- Stress confidentiality about what is shared in the group.
- Try reaching out to different people each week to grab lunch or coffee outside of group time as your schedule allows.

### MAKE A PLAN EACH WEEK

Utilize the Group Discussion Guide (located at the end of each lesson). Divide your time into three relatively equal thirds that focus on CONNECT, GROW, ENGAGE. For example, if your group meets for one hour, try intentionally focusing about 20 minutes on Connect, 20 minutes on Grow, and 20 minutes on Engage. Each one of us can easily drift towards overemphasizing one category and neglecting another, which is why making a plan is an important step. Here are some leading tips for connecting, growing, and engaging.

### CONNECT

Build group community by using the connect suggestions in the Group Discussion Guide. Depending on your group size, try getting into groups of 2-3 for an icebreaker question, to catch up on application from last week, and for prayer. The question could vary from more fun or more serious. For example: "What was a highlight and lowlight of your week?" or "How did you apply last week's lesson?"

Then pray in the small groups. (Prayer at the beginning is a good way to help make it an emphasis.) Suggest something for them to pray for as a group, that is bigger than themselves and the group. Some ideas: For neighbors, family members, friends, or classmates who they would like to point to Jesus; for a missionary or a people group in need of the gospel.

### 2/3 GROW

Gather back as one group and have one person pray for your time in God's Word. Discuss the passage using the Grow suggestions in the Group Discussion Guide. Summarize or read aloud the passage together.

### ENGAGE

Read and discuss the tool or spiritual practice in the lesson. Give time to try out sharing the tool or spiritual practice as a group. Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week. Create a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in small groups (of 2-3) again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

APPENDIX 105

# STUDY TOOLS

### **OBSERVE**

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, "What do I see?" This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. Here are four tasks involved in observation which should be performed in the order below. All examples are taken from the book of Galatians.

### **OBSERVATION TASK 1**

Mark up the passage by visually identifying the following specific elements:

**Underline all verbs**. A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action is taking place ("we will reign with Him") or that a state or condition exists ("we are faithless"). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author's flow of thought.

Circle key words or phrases. These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like "gospel" in 1:6) or thematically (they set the theme or main idea for the passage) such as "approved" and "works of the law" in 3:2,5,10.

**Highlight repeated words or phrases.** Also, include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates (such as "suffer hardship" and "endure suffering"). You'll also want to highlight things that are repeated from previous passages (such as "son" in 4:23 and 4:30)

**Box connecting words.** These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. Here are eight types of common connecting words to look for:

- 1. **Comparison** either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include *and*, *like*, *as*, *just as*, *also*, *so also*, *even so* (e.g., "like the Gentiles" in 2:14).
- 2. **Contrast** points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include but, rather, yet, however (e.g., "No longer I... but Christ" in 2:20).
- 3. **Purpose** indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words and phrases include *that*, *so that*, *in order that* (e.g., "Christ redeemed us... in order that in Christ Jesus..." in 3:13-14).
- 4. **Result** is similar to "purpose," but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words and phrases include that, so that, as a result, with the result that (e.g., "The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy." in 2:13).
- 5. Cause expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include because, since, and sometimes for. (e.g., "Why the Law then? It was added on account of the violations," in 3:19)
- 6. **Explanation** is what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word *for.* (e.g., "For prior to the coming of some men from James," in 2:12).
- 7. **Inference** provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion. Inference words and phrases include *therefore* and *for this reason*. (e.g., "Therefore, recognize that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham." in 3:7)
- 8. Condition presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or

conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e., it could be hypothetical). Key word is *if.* (e.g., "For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise..." in 3:18)

### **OBSERVATION TASK 2**

List 2-3 primary themes you see in the passage each week.

A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth, or command that the passage focuses on, such as "humility" in 5:16-26. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

### **OBSERVATION TASK 3**

Write two or more observations per verse.

Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see.

### **OBSERVATION TASK 4**

Ask your own interpretive questions.

| WHO IS                                                                          | WHAT IS THE                                                                                                           | WHY DID THE AUTHOR                                                     | HOW                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| the author talking about? accomplishing the action? benefiting from the action? | meaning of this word? significance of this phrase? implication of this statement? relationship between these phrases? | choose this word? include this phrase, statement, or command? not say? | was this action accomplished?<br>will this situation occur? |

### OBSERVATION TASK 5 Figurative Language

As every writer knows, one of the most powerful ways to emotionally engage an audience with your words is to use figurative language. FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE uses words and phrases in an unexpected way to create a vivid image in the mind of a listener. This image adds color to the author's message, holds the listener's attention, forces the listener to slow down and reflect on the idea being communicated, makes the abstract more concrete, and aids in retention of the author's point. While there are many types of figurative language, here are the eight major types you should be looking for as you study the Bible:

- l) Simile: compares two things by using the explicit formula *like* or *as*. "He will be like a tree planted by streams of water," Psalm 1:3
- 2) Metaphor: compares two things but omits *like* or *as* and instead simply equates them (A is B) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;" Matthew 5:14
- 3) Metonymy: one word is substituted for another word closely associated with it, such as referring to military officers as "brass." A biblical example would be James' use of "tongue" to refer to one's speech (e.g. James 3:5).
- 4) Hyperbole: conscious exaggeration for the sake of effect or emphasis "I robbed other churches by taking wages from them to serve you;" 2 Corinthians 11:8

APPENDIX 107

- 5) Personification: treating something non-human (and frequently inanimate) as though it were a human. Example: "And their tongue parades through the earth." Psalm 73:9 "Then the moon will be ashamed and the sun be put to shame," Isaiah 24:23
- 6) Anthropomorphism: attributing human characteristics, even body parts, to God. Example: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear." Isaiah 59:1
- 7) Apostrophe: addressing a thing as if it were a person or an imaginary person as if he were present. Example: "where, o death, is your victory? where, o death, is your sting?" 1 Corinthians 15:55
- 8) Symbol: a concrete image that points to or embodies other meanings. Examples include "light" used to represent God, goodness, truth, or blessing (such as in Psalm 27:1) and "throne" to represent power and authority (such as in Psalm 89:4 and 14).

### INTERPRET

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for answers (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). Use the following six methods, as needed, to tackle a variety of questions. Also, make sure to familiarize yourself with the three "Principles of Interpretation" on page 110.

### INTERPRETATION METHODS

### **Interpretation Method 1** | Use the context.

Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow the author's flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may need to read ahead in the book for clues.

### **Interpretation Method 2** | Study cross-references.

Cross references are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such cross references can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by visiting online tool such as netbible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that "NET2" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for "Greek" on the right side of the screen. Now hovering over any word in English will highlight the corresponding Greek term and reveal its Strong's definition in the opposite window. Then, you can select a word, click the magnifying glass above it, and choose to run a "Word Search" that will provide all Biblical references that use the English term.

### **Interpretation Method 3** | Look up key words.

While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek provides deeper understanding and is surprisingly easy, thanks to online tools such as netbible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that "NET2" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for "Greek" on the right side of the screen. Now hovering over any word in English will highlight the

corresponding Greek term and reveal its Strong's definition in the opposite window. For even further study, you can select a word, click the magnifying glass above it, then choose to run a "Word Search," "Strong's Search," or "Word Study." The first will provide all Biblical references that use the English term. The second will provide all Biblical references that use the Greek term. And the third will provide the full definition and derivatives of the Greek term. What used to take multiple books & many hours now takes one internet browser & a few seconds!

#### **Interpretation Method 4** | Look up background information.

You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

Background information can be found by visiting the online reference netbible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that "NET2" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for "Notes" on the right side of the screen. Now, anytime you select one of the numbered annotations above particular words or verses, you can immediately see the relevant Biblical or historical context for that term or passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

#### **Interpretation Method 5** | Tackle tough questions step-by-step.

When trying to answer the most challenging questions, follow this four-step process:

- 1. List all the options. Always start by brainstorming every possible answer to your question.
- 2. List pros and cons for each option. See all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology.
- 3. Choose the most likely option. Look at your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books of the Bible, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight unless the solution contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you must eliminate that option.
- 4. Decide on your certainty level. Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct ... 60% = This solution is just a bit more likely than the others!). Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.

#### **Interpretation Method 6** | Compare multiple translations.

This packet uses the New American Standard (NASB) translation. You can often find helpful interpretive clues by comparing this translation with other translations. The New King James Version (NKJV), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (NET) available online for free at netbible.org. You can find and compare numerous translations of any Bible passage at www.biblestudytools.com.

#### INTERPRETATION PRINCIPLES

There are three fundamental principles of interpretation that help us to use our interpretive skills accurately.

#### Interpretation Principle 1 | Discern Author's Intended Meaning

Your goal is to discern the author's intended meaning to the original audience.

Unfortunately, most people begin their Bible study by asking, "What does this passage mean to me?" While there may be multiple possible applications to my life, there is only one meaning, the author's intended meaning, and we must first seek this out. This involves three important steps:

- 1. Always start your study with prayer, asking the same God who composed Scripture through these ancient authors to give you insight to understand His intended meaning.
- 2. Avoid inserting your 21st century circumstances and theological issues into the text as they can skew understanding.
- 3. Work diligently to see the text from the point of view of the original readers. To do this: (a) dig into the historical and cultural background using Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and (b) spend a few moments thinking about the original audience's religious understanding by asking, "What books of the Bible did they have access to? What did they know about God? About Jesus? About salvation? etc."

#### Interpretation Principle 2 | Assume "Normal" Use of Language

The Bible was given to us because God desired to communicate with us, not to hide Himself from us. Therefore, we should not be looking for "hidden" meanings as we study. Instead, we should use the "normal" techniques we would use to understand any piece of literature:

- 1. Study the grammar. Pay attention to nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Think through any figures of speech. Observe how phrases and clauses are connected into sentences and how sentences are linked together into paragraphs.
- 2. Remember that chapter divisions came later. When Paul wrote Corinthians or Luke wrote the book of Acts, they wrote single, unified stories without verse or chapter divisions. These books were meant to be read just like you would read a letter or a novel. Always keep the overall story in mind as you study each passage.

#### **Interpretation Principle 3** | Let Scripture Interpret Scripture

This is the third and last principle of interpretation. Because God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent (John 17:17; Hebrews 3:6; James 1:17), we can, and should, expect the same of His Word. This has two practical applications:

- 1. Check your conclusions. Always compare your conclusions with the teachings of scripture as a whole. If you find your interpretation of a passage contradicts the clear teaching of scripture elsewhere, you probably need to revise your conclusions.
- 2. Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages. Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of

scripture to guide you to the correct interpretation.

One last caution: remember that God revealed scripture progressively, not all at once. Therefore, we should not be surprised by differences between how people related to and understood God at different times in the history of scripture. For example, while Abraham needed only believe that God was faithful in order to be justified (Genesis 15:6), in the New Testament era, we must believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-7).

#### APPLY

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And lest we underestimate the value of this last step, remember that in God's eyes it is the person who does not just know His Word, but also obeys His Word that truly loves Him (see John 14:21). So how do we apply a passage to our lives? Application involves the following two tasks:

#### APPLICATION TASK 1

#### List potential principles from your passage.

A "principle" is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g., 1 Timothy 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g., "do not leave Jerusalem" in Acts 1:4). It is often helpful when listing principles to consider the following questions:

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?

Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?

Is there any relationship I need to work on?

#### APPLICATION TASK 2

#### Choose one principle, and create a plan to apply it to your life this week.

Once you complete your principle list, prayerfully choose the one principle you most need to work on (Do not just choose the easiest to apply!). If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the principle God is leading you to apply. Once you have chosen a specific principle, answer these two questions:

- 1. What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.
- 2. Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

## ENGAGE TOOLS

Because God loves all people, He is constantly working to draw men and women to Himself. He invites believers to partner with Him in this great mission of redemption and restoration. We do this by helping people find and follow Jesus — this is disciple-making. Jesus summarized this calling in Matthew 28:18-20.

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

On the following pages are some foundational tools, practices, and resources to engage in helping people find and follow Jesus.

Visit grace-bible.org/disciplemaker for more resources.

#### **EVERY NEIGHBOR MAP**

Just as Jesus entered into a specific time and place, God has placed each of us into a unique context in which to share His love and to represent Him. Our context includes anyone that we commonly encounter on a regular basis which gives us the ability to have influence in their lives.

Think about the people in your spheres of influence; the people with whom you live, learn, work, and play who are near to you but might be far from God.

Also, think about people that are just beyond your normal spheres. Perhaps there is an acquaintance that you don't know well, or a neighbor who is different from you ethnically or socio-economically, or a community member that the Holy Spirit has put in your path but is more a stranger than friend. Be creative and think outside the box!

### Pray Big - diligently pray for these friends to find and follow Jesus.

Map - write down at least three names in each of these spheres.

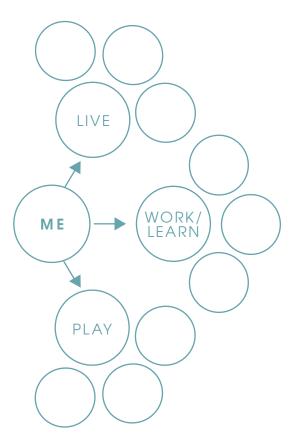
Ask God:

Who might be seeking Him or is asking hard questions about life?

Who needs acts of love and concern shown to them?

How to serve and share the love of Christ with them?

For opportunities to share your story and the gospel.



#### STARTING A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

During His life on earth, Jesus told stories using illustrations from everyday life that created an interest in His Kingdom. Jesus made His message accessible to those who would hear. Sadly, we have become conditioned to put on a filter and not speak of Jesus because we imagine that it is awkward, pushy, or politically incorrect. What would it be like to take off this filter and grow in boldness and love as we share stories about who He is and what He is about?

Marking ourselves as a "spiritual" person can help us gauge whether others are interested in God and His message. Some people will "lean in" as you speak about such topics, asking additional questions, sharing their own beliefs, telling about their own journey. Some will not; they will "lean back" and change the topic, become silent, or shut down altogether. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you as you initiate and let Him do the work of speaking to a person's soul.

#### Practice talking about two or three of the following "interest creating" topics:

Recently, God/Jesus has been teaching me that...

I am realizing more and more that God has blessed me by...

I used to struggle with (insert fear, stronghold, idolatry) but now I see God wants me to believe...

I decided to follow Jesus because...

I've really been learning to pray more lately. Do you have anything in your life that I can commit to pray for?

Think of common topics that come up as you meet people, for example: career, living situation, family history, educational background. Pick one of these and tell how God changed your path in the past, or how He is guiding you in the present.

#### As you practice talking about these things, try to end with a learning question such as:

Have you ever considered God in this way before?

Do you think God is teaching/blessing/asking you to believe anything right now?

Do you consider yourself on a spiritual journey? What is that like?

What does your tradition say about Jesus?

Your questions are to gauge a response and to allow space for them to interact with your story.

Now, be prayerful and alert as to who God brings across your path!

#### SHARING YOUR STORY

You have a unique story of how you came to know and follow Jesus. Your story is one of the most powerful tools you have for helping other people find and follow Jesus as well. As you begin to let people know that you are following Jesus, simply ask, "Can I share with you the story of my spiritual journey?" Those who are interested in spiritual things are likely to demonstrate their interest in one way or another (asking questions, making a comment) and that often provides an open door to share your story.

#### HOW TO BEGIN

Write out your thoughts on the following topics and questions. These ideas will help you share the story of your spiritual journey, sometimes called your "testimony."

#### MY LIFE BEFORE JESUS

My life revolved around \_\_\_\_\_\_, and I found my identity, happiness and security from \_\_\_\_\_\_. Use an example from your personal life here. For instance, did your security come from money, your relationships, etc.?

How did this disappoint me? How was this unfulfilling? How did I come to realize this? What was I struggling with (if anything) just before I believed in Jesus?

Note: Some people trusted Jesus when they were very young, and don't have clear memories of the time before they knew Him. If that is you, simply share this as part of your story.

#### HOW I FIRST BELIEVED IN JESUS

This part of your story is where you came to a transition in your life.

When and how did I first hear about Jesus?

What did I learn about the life He offers all who believe in Him?

When and why did my perspective about Jesus begin to change?

Why did I decide to believe in Jesus?

Note: Some of us may be able to point to specific times or circumstances regarding how or when we believed. For others of us, we can only point to a time period or gradual understanding. Both are great. Everyone's story is significant and the biggest point is that you now believe in Jesus.

#### MY LIFE SINCE I FIRST BELIEVED IN JESUS

How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude, and perspective on life.

How am I motivated differently now? What do I live for now?

How do I experience God now?

#### BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Think about your answers to the questions above, and ask yourself the following:

Is this a continuous story that makes sense?

Are there any consistent themes in my story?

Can I share my story in 3-4 minutes?

Was I clear about what I believed about Jesus?

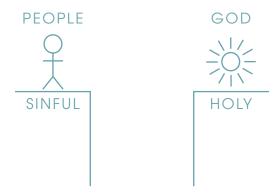
#### SHARING THE GOSPEL: THE BRIDGE

In the Christian faith, the word "gospel" simply means the "good news" about Jesus - His life, death and resurrection. The message that through belief in Jesus we can enter into a loving relationship with God, experiencing forgiveness and receiving the gift of eternal life, is good news, indeed!

Let's look at a concise and understandable way to communicate the gospel to your friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.



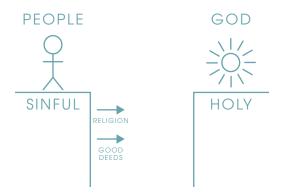
God created people to enjoy a relationship with Him and represent Him through our lives. (Genesis 1:26-28, 31) As a loving Father, He communicated boundaries that protect and allow us to enjoy our relationship with Him and with other people. (Genesis 2:15-16)



Everyone has fallen short of God's standards. The Bible calls that "sin." Our sin results in our separation from God. Unless our sin is forgiven, we deserve eternal punishment, separated from God forever.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23a

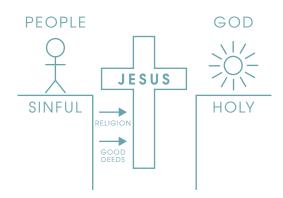


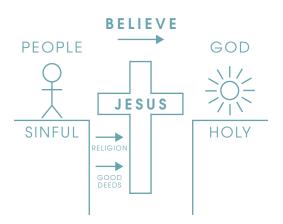
Some try to reach God through religion or by trying to be a good person. But the Bible tells us that there is only one way to God and that is through belief in His Son, Jesus Christ.

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

God graciously provided a way to forgive our sin and freely give us eternal life. God's only Son Jesus died in our place. He took on Himself the punishment that our sin deserves. Then, Jesus rose from the dead. He conquered sin and death forever.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8





Everyone who believes in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins receives eternal life. To believe in Jesus means that you no longer try to earn God's approval through what you do, nor do you deny that you need forgiveness and salvation. Instead, you accept God's free gift of eternal life.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." John 5:24

#### SHARING THE GOSPEL: THREE CIRCLES

In Christianity, the word "gospel" simply means the "good news" about Jesus - His life, death and resurrection. The message that through belief in Jesus we can enter into a loving relationship with God, experiencing forgiveness and receiving the gift of eternal life, is good news, indeed!

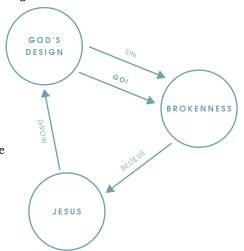
Let's look at a concise and understandable way to communicate the gospel to your friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.

These three circles help us explain the gospel according to the Bible.

Read each section and the scripture verses that follow.

#### GOD'S DESIGN

Out of God's great love, He created a world that was good. He made people to enjoy a deeply connected relationship with Him and to represent Him through our lives. (Genesis 1:26-28, 31) As a loving Father, He communicated boundaries to protect us and to allow us to fully enjoy our relationships with Him and with other people (Genesis 2:15-17).



#### **BROKENNESS**

Yet, when we look around our world, brokenness and evil are evident everywhere - war, famine, disease, corruption. If we are honest, we also see brokenness and evil inside ourselves - deceit, hatred, greed, lust. This is because we have rejected God's design and chosen to follow our own way. Our rejection of God and His ways is what the Bible calls sin. (Romans 3:23) Our sin results in separation from God which the Bible calls death. (Romans 6:23a) Unless our sin is forgiven, we will remain separated from God forever.

#### **JESUS**

God does not want to leave us in our sin and brokenness!

God graciously provided a way to forgive our sin and to freely give us eternal life - a life connected to God both now and forever. (Romans 6:23b; John 17:3)

God's only Son Jesus died in our place. He took upon Himself the penalty that we deserve because of our sin. Then, Jesus rose from the dead, and forever defeated the power of sin and death. (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

#### BELIEVE

We respond to Jesus by believing in Him for the forgiveness of our sin.

To believe in Jesus means that you no longer try to earn God's approval through what you do, nor do you deny that you need forgiveness and rescue. Instead, you accept God's free gift of eternal life. Belief or faith is simply being convinced or persuaded that something or someone is trustworthy (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Everyone who believes in Jesus is forgiven of their sin and receives eternal life. We can now know God personally and experience the life we were designed to live (John 3:16-17).

Which circle or arrow in the diagram best represents your life right now? Have you put your trust (believed) in Jesus alone to be reconciled to God?

#### POSSIBLE ANSWERS AND NEXT STEPS:

#### "Yes."

Ask: "Tell me about that. When and how did that happen for you?" Try to discern if the person is trusting in anything other than Christ alone. Move to Grow and Go.

#### "No, but I want to."

Affirm their decision to believe and help them to tell God in prayer of their belief in Jesus.

Example: "Thank you God for loving me by sending your Son Jesus to die for me. I believe in His life, death and resurrection to rescue me from my sin and spiritual death. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me the free gift of eternal life."

Welcome them to the Family of God!

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." 2 Corinthians 5:17 Move to Grow and Go.

#### "Not Sure" / "Not Yet" / "No."

Ask: "What is keeping you from trusting in Jesus?"

Try to discern their willingness or unwillingness to believe.

For those willing, help answer their questions if possible.

For those unwilling, offer to pray for them and talk further at another time.

#### GROW

Everyone who believes in Jesus should then grow in their relationship with God. We grow by knowing God more deeply and living more like Him personally.

We begin to know Him and we become like Him by following His way of living (Ephesians 4:15).

#### GO

Followers of Jesus have the great calling and opportunity to go into the broken world to share the love of God and the good news of the gospel message (Matthew 28:19-20).

#### DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Discovery Bible Study is an easy and meaningful way to read the Bible with friends in your life who do not know Jesus. The simple practice consists of reading a section of scripture and answering five basic questions. The goal is to facilitate an encounter between God's truth and your friend's heart. Be praying for God to reveal Himself to your friend through His Word.

Choose a passage of scripture, read it aloud (1-2 times).

Ask someone to retell it in their own words. Answer these five questions:

- 1. What does this passage teach about God?
- 2. What does this passage teach about people or myself?
- 3. What stands out most in this passage?
- 4. Since God's word is true, how should I change as a result? What will I do in response to this passage? Consider the following:

Is there an example for me to follow? Is there a sin for me to avoid? Is there a command for me to obey? Is there a promise for me to claim? Is there a challenge for me to face?

5. With whom am I going to share this passage and what I am learning from the Bible?

#### Suggested Passages

Read through these 4 Core Passages about Jesus:
John 3:1-21 (You must be born again)
Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus has authority to forgive)
Luke 7:36-50 (Forgive much/Love much)
Luke 18:7-14 (Self-righteous/irreligious)

Read through the book of John.

#### Creation to Christ

Read through these passages for bigger picture of the Biblical narrative.

- Genesis 1:1-25
- ☐ Genesis 2:4-24
- Genesis 3:1-13
- Genesis 3:14-24
- ☐ Genesis 6:5-8
- Genesis 6:9-8:14
- Genesis 8:15-9:17
- Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7
- Genesis 22:1-19
- Exodus 12:1-28
- Exodus 20:1-21
- Leviticus 4:1-35
- ☐ Isaiah 53
- Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
- ☐ Matthew 3; John 1:29-34
- ☐ Matthew 4:1-11
- ☐ John 3:1-21
- ☐ John 4:1-26, 39-42
- Luke 5:17-26
- Mark 4:35-41
- Mark 5:1-20
- ☐ John 11:1-44
- ☐ Matthew 26:17-30
- ☐ John 18:1-19:16
- Luke 23:32-56
- Luke 24:1-35
- Luke 24:36-53
- ☐ John 3:1-21

#### PRAY MODEL

PRAY\* is a simple acronym to help frame your time of prayer.

#### P - PAUSE

- · Take a deep breath and center your mind and heart on God's presence with you.
- Don't rush; be still and sit quietly with Him.
- · Slowly let go of distractions surrounding you and focus on the nearness of God.

Silence and stillness reorient our minds and hearts to pray from a place of love, joy and peace.

"But as for me, the nearness of God is good for me; I have made the Lord god my refuge," Psalm 73:28

#### R - REJOICE

- Begin praising God for who He is and for how He loves His good creation; the natural world, all people and you.
- Thank Him for specific things in your life, family, church, community and the world.
- · Acknowledge your identity as a "gift recipient" of the abundant grace of God.

"For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace." John 1:16
"Everything that has breath shall praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!" Psalm 150:6

#### A - ASK

- Tell God what is on your heart and mind.
- · Ask Him for what you need and want.
- Cast your burdens upon Him because He cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7).
- · Listen to Him as He reveals His heart to you as well.
- Try keeping a list of people and specific areas of your life that you are praying about.

Prayer is a conversation of talking and listening; communion and communication.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." **Philippians 4:6** 

#### Y - YIELD

- Finish your prayers with a heart posture of surrender; trusting in His love for you.
- Try opening your hands, palms up, as an outward expression of your inward desire.

Jesus is our great example of both asking God for His deepest needs and of yielding the outcome to the Father's will.

"And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

Matthew 26:39

# ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

netbible.org | cross references, word studies biblestudytools.net | word studies blueletterbible.org | word studies planobiblechapel.org/soniclight | commentary bestcommentaries.com | commentary database

Grace Bible Church does not always agree with the views of these commentaries. These are good tools to help understand hard passages, but the particular theological views reflect the author of the commentary and not those of Grace Bible Church.

#### DISCIPLESHIP/BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

Living By the Book by Howard Hendricks and Charles Swindoll

A more in-depth book on how to study the Bible using the tools discussed in this packet.

The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman

A highly motivational analysis of Jesus' own principles of evangelism and discipleship.

The Lost Art of Disciple Making by Leroy Eims

This practical resource will give you a detailed structure to follow and great content to cover as you begin to disciple a new believer.

A Survey of Bible Doctrine by Charles Ryrie

An easy-to-read, relatively short systematic theology primer that you can walk a new believer through to ground them in the faith.

Rooted by Grace Bible Church, College Station, TX

Nine conversations that establish a new believer with foundational truths and practices to follow Jesus for a lifetime. https://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-study/46/rooted

