



Scotts Hill Baptist Church

EXODUS: GOD'S EXIT PLAN LESSONS FROM THE WILDERNESS • EXODUS 2:23-3:1 •

MAIN POINT

God faithfully keeps His promises to His people and is compassionate towards them in their suffering.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever temporarily lost your child in a public place? Share what happened with the group.

If you had trouble finding your child in a public setting, do you think you could pick out your child's voice? Why or why not? Encourage learners to recall times when they had to respond to a painful or fearful cry from one of their children—or when their parents responded to their cries.

Many parents have experienced hearing their child's cries for help in the midst of many other cries or voices, and many testify to their ability to distinguish their child's cries from those of other children. A parent's natural instinct is to listen to the cries of her child and to respond. This instinct is rooted in God-given love, and most parents are willing to do whatever it takes to meet their children's needs. In a similar way, God listens to the cries of His children and His commitment to work on their behalf.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| INVITE SOMEONE TO READ EXODUS 2:23-25.

How did the Israelites respond to their oppression at the hands of the Egyptians? What action words describe God's response?

What prompted God to take action on behalf of the Israelites?

God's remembering His covenant does not imply that He had forgotten it. Rather, it means that He chose to put His promises into effect. What is the relationship between the cries and prayers of the people, and God's promises?

The Bible gives no indication the Israelites knew God had taken notice of their situation and remembered His covenant with their forefathers until Moses arrived to lead them out of Egypt. Even then, many did not initially recognize that God would use Moses as their deliverer (5:19-21). But God had remembered.

From what we know of Moses, did he seem a likely deliverer? Why did that not matter to God?

Moses was a murderer, a fugitive, didn't want the job, did not speak well, and lacked leadership experience. In a similar manner, centuries later when the ultimate Deliverer came, this man was not what the Israelite people wanted or expected. Jesus did not come as a military leader or great warrior to lead the masses into battle and overturn Roman domination. Like Moses, He strove to lead people to worship the Father and to more clearly and fully understand God's expectations of them.

How was Jesus similar to Moses? Read John 1:17. In what way did Jesus' law supercede that given to Moses?

We may wonder if God hears our prayers. Suffering can make us desperate enough to pray, yet discouraged enough to conclude nothing can be done, even by God. When we find ourselves in difficult situations, we can take confidence because we know God knows about our suffering. He hears our prayers and acts to bring us courage, patience, peace, comfort, and help.

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ EXODUS 3:1

Horeb, the mountain of God, is located in the south-central part of the Sinai peninsula. It has been identified by some with the mountain known today as Jebel Musa. Horeb and Sinai were apparently two different names for the same mountain where the Lord God would later give the Law to Moses (Ex. 19:20; Deut. 5:2).

Which of the 4 Core Classes are most difficult for you (humility, obscurity, patience, discomfort)? Why?

In what ways are these Classes evidence of God's grace in your life?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What circumstances have driven you to cry out to the Lord for help? Which of His promises give you hope in the midst of your trouble?

In what ways has the Lord "chipped away" idolatrous worship in your life through the GW University?

What insights gained from this study could you share with a non-Christian who asked you, "How do you know God cares what happens to you?"

PRAYER

Close in prayer, praying for the needs of learners who are hurting or in need of God's hand to deliver them from trouble or oppression. Thank God that He notices, discloses, takes action, and works wonders for His people.

COMMENTARY

| EXODUS 2:23-25

2:23. As long as Egyptian kings remembered how Joseph had saved their nation from famine, the Israelites received good treatment. That treatment changed when an Egyptian king rose to power who did not know or want to know what Joseph had done. Pharaoh [FEHR oh], a word meaning "great house," served as a title for the Egyptian king. The Israelites used the title as a personal name for all Egyptian kings. The new Pharaoh decided to oppress and enslave the Israelites. When they continued to multiply, he decreed that all sons be killed immediately after birth. However, two Hebrew midwives protected the newborn boys, and God blessed them and the people (Ex. 1:1-22).

2:24. The use of the verbs "heard" and "remembered" do not mean God had ignored His people's earlier cries or had forgotten His covenant with Abraham. Both of these Hebrew verbs include the idea of acting on what is heard or remembered. During the oppressive

Pharaoh's reign, God had brought Moses, His future deliverer, into the world. Moses' birth was God's next step in fulfilling His ancient promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (see Gen. 12:2-3,7).

2:25. The Hebrew verb translated "took notice" typically carries the meaning "to know" and reflects a personal, intimate knowledge of another. God was intimately involved with His people. He knew and understood their oppression and would soon deliver them.

| EXODUS 3:1

3:1. Moses was born into the tribe of Levi in Egypt. When his parents could no longer hide him, his mother placed him in a watertight basket and floated the basket down the Nile River. One of Pharaoh's daughters found the baby and adopted him.

Later, when Moses was grown, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. Moses killed the Egyptian. The next day Moses tried to settle an argument between two Hebrews, and one of them revealed he had witnessed Moses' crime. Moses escaped to Midian [MID ih uhn] where he met Jethro [JETH roh](also called Reuel), a priest. Moses married Jethro's daughter and became a shepherd for his father-in-law (2:1-22).

Midian lay east of the Gulf of Aqaba [A kuh buh] in the northwestern corner of Arabia. One season as Moses traveled toward Egypt to find pastures for the sheep, he arrived at Horeb [HOH reb], another name for Mount Sinai, located in the south-central part of the Sinai peninsula. At Horeb God would call Moses to shepherd His people.