

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Purpose:

To study the men in the Bible in order to draw out issues directly affecting men today, and to learn how these principle may be applied to everyday life.

Topic

- Moses, as portrayed in Book of Exodus

Historical background

- Author: Moses
- Audience: Gods chosen people, the Israelites
- Setting: Egyptian Empire, Jews in slavery
- Date: 1446 to 1406 BC
- Theme: God reveals Himself to His people and delivers them from slavery in Egypt in order to establish a covenant with them in the desert.

EXODUS, CHAPTER 1

Reading **Outline**

- Read Exodus, chapters 1-6
- Read straight through in one sitting, concentrating on “big picture “ themes.
- Make sure reading is done in a relaxing situation. Have fun, think of how the life of Moses can edify your personal walk with your Lord and future relationships with others.
- Keep the Gospel in your mind as you read, trying to see Jesus Christ on every page.

Post Reading Questions / Conclusions

Chapter 1

Verses 1-7

1. Describe the situation of the sons of Israel in Egypt according to verse 7.

Verses 8-10

2. What were the fears of the new king concerning the sons of Israel?

Verses 11-14

3. Describe the relationship between the sons of Israel and the Egyptians.

Verses 15-21

4. Why did the midwives disobey Pharaoh? Can you think of another way (or ways) that the midwives could have handled this without being dishonest with Pharaoh and still please God?

Look deeper

The midwives disobeyed the king's orders. The women are described twice as fearing God, and God clearly rewards them for what they did. As you look at other examples in Scripture where someone lied or disobeyed the authority and yet pleased God in doing so, why were those situations "permissible" and pleasing to God?

Joshua 2:1-21; Hebrews 11:31; Daniel 6:1-23

In the book of Acts, Stephen gave a speech in which he reviewed the history of the nation of Israel. Review the history of that time in [Acts 7:11-19](#). Are there any new insights that you gain from this passage?

5. The midwives feared God, meaning that they had awe for God, not that they were scared of Him. [Proverbs 1:7](#) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. What are some ways in which the fears of God can/should affect you in making decisions and in how you interact with others?

6. How do you react to people who make your life difficult, such as verbally abusing you, betraying you, "draining" you emotionally, or trying to take advantage of you?

Reflect

If there are people in your life presently who are difficult for you, ask God to give you the grace to endure and the ability to trust Him one day at a time. Pray for that person or persons.

EXODUS, CHAPTER 2

Today, we will look at the early years of the life of Moses. As you read, make note of the ways God directed Moses' path through the people God placed in his life. Our early years are never wasted. They are part of the process God uses to prepare us for following Him throughout our lives.

Verses 1-10

1. How do you see God's hand on Moses? Through his parents, through his birth into the tribe, through his sister, through the family who adopted him.
2. Who actually named him Moses?

Exodus 2:15-22

3. Why did Moses flee Egypt?
4. What character qualities do you see in Moses during this time in Midian?
5. What "events" happened in Moses' life here? (See also [Acts 7:29](#).)
6. If you were Moses, how would you be feeling about your life at this point?
7. Does God have to take us through a "desert" experience before He can use us? Explain your thoughts. How does God work in your life during a "desert" experience or after a failure?

Psalm 51

David also "blew it" when He sinned in his relationship with Bathsheba. Describe David's perspective and attitude after his sin.

Why would God delight more in the sacrifice of a broken spirit and contrite heart than in burnt offerings (vv.16-17)?

God has a reason for where He takes you. Look at your “desert” experiences as His time of preparing you and making you usable.

Take some time today to thank God for those dry times in your spiritual life and for the “desert” experiences. Thank Him specifically for what you have learned from those times and for what He has done in your life through them.

Being usable doesn’t mean being perfect.

It is important to note that many of the characters in Hebrews 11 made mistakes in their lives and were not perfect, yet God used them. Take some time to thank Him that He doesn’t “disqualify” us from being usable because of mistakes we may have made along the way.

GOD’S RESPONSE

Do you ever feel that God is just “out there” somewhere and isn’t really involved in your life?

LOOKING TO GOD’S WORD

Exodus 2:23-25

8. What had happened in Egypt during these days?
9. How were the sons of Israel dealing with their bondage?

LOOKING UPWARD

10. Is there an area in your life where it seems that God is silent?
11. How do you respond to God when it “feels” like He is not actively involved in your life or aware of what is going on?
12. Does our crying out to God move Him to “deliver” us from a tough situation? Explain your thoughts.

LOOKING DEEPER

As you look at these psalms, how did David, in the midst of his troubles, describe and find comfort in God?

PSALM 56:1-13

PSALM 59:1-17

PSALM 62:1-8

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

God is very much aware of what is going on in your life. He cares even when it seems He is silent.

God had His hand on Moses from the time he was born. He knew the purpose He had for Moses. He knew what would be required to prepare him and when Moses would be ready.

Are you willing to let God use you? If you've made mistakes, don't let those mistakes defeat you and discourage you.

EXODUS, CHAPTER 3

GOD'S APPEARANCE

Exodus 3:1-10

Acts 7:30 And when forty years were fulfilled, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush.

1. How long was Moses in the desert? Looking back at **Acts 7:23**, how old would that make Moses at this time?
2. What was Moses doing when God appeared to him? How might that have prepared Moses for his future task?
3. Describe Moses' response to the burning bush and to God's appearance. (Look also at **Acts 7:31-32**)
4. In **Exodus 3:7-9**, list the responses of God to the cries of the Israelites. What is God communicating to Moses here?

Another look

Acts 7:30-35

Contrast God's plan for Moses with the perspective of the sons of Israel. How does this encourage you personally?

5. What characteristics would you use to describe God in **Exodus 3:1-10**?
6. What methods has God used to direct or redirect your life, or to get your attention?

Be attentive to God's calling and leading in your life. You are never too young or too old to serve Him.

God took Moses, who was a murderer, and made him into one of the greatest Prophets of the Old Testament. Your past mistakes do not necessarily hinder God from using you.

How does God answer prayer in your life?

God knew that Moses was the man He wanted to deliver the Israelites. Now He must show Moses that he can do it, with God's help. As you study His Word today, think through your own life and in what ways you relate to Moses.

Exodus 3:10-12

7. How did Moses respond to God's call in **verse 11**?

8. What are some possible reasons why Moses hesitated to step out now and be the leader and deliverer he once wanted to be?

9. What were the two promises that God made to Moses (**verse 12**)? How would those promises encourage Moses to follow God's calling?

Horeb was another name for Mount Sinai (**Deuteronomy 5:2**). God would again meet with Moses at this mountain, Horeb or Sinai, once he brought the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Notice how God kept His promise in **Exodus 19:1-2**. It would also be on this same mountain that God would give Moses the Mosaic covenant (**Exodus 19-23**).

How did God encourage others in the following passages? Write down any phrases that specifically encourage you.

Joshua 1:1-9

Isaiah 41:8-10

Matthew 28:19-20

Hebrews 13:5-6

10. How do you respond to God when you feel inadequate to do something He has called you to do?

11. How does knowing that God is “with you” affect your daily life?

12. What kind of character qualities does God desire in our lives so that He can use us to draw others to Himself?

Spend some time with Him today and be honest concerning your feelings about where He has you in life. Do you trust God in how He is leading you? Are you willing to step out in faith and follow His leading? Are you where He wants you?

LOOKING TO GOD’S WORD

Exodus 3:13-22

13. What was Moses’ next response to God’s call (**v. 13**)?

14. God gives several names for Himself that he repeats a number of times in Exodus 3. List the names. (Look at **vv. 6, 14, 15, 16, and 18.**)

15. What were the details of God’s plan in **verses 16-22**?

16. What do you suppose was God’s intent in laying out the details of the future for Moses at this point?

17. What are some possible reasons why God doesn’t lay out the details of our future for us today?

EXODUS, CHAPTER 4

Exodus 4:1-17

1. What were the excuses or objections that Moses gave God (**vv. 1, 10, 13**)?
2. What was God trying to communicate to Moses by His response in **verses 11-12** and **14-17**?
3. As you look at **Acts 7:22**, how had Moses changed in those 40 years in the desert?

LOOKING UPWARD

4. In what areas do you feel inadequate in serving God? In what areas do you feel gifted?
5. How can we balance using our gifts and strengths in serving God, and yet draw from His strength and not our own? How do we keep from becoming prideful in our strong areas?

LOOKING DEEPER

Jeremiah 1:4-10

What similarities do you see in the way Moses and Jeremiah responded to God's calling, as well as the way God encouraged them?

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

The way God sees us is more important than the way we see ourselves. Are you looking at yourself through God's perspective or your own?

God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows how He wants to use us for His glory. Are you willing to put aside your fears, inadequacies, and excuses and follow His leading?

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

Exodus 4:18-31

6. How was Moses encouraged by Jethro and Aaron?

The incident in **4:24-26** tells us that Moses had failed to circumcise his second son. Circumcision was God's appointed sign of the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 17:9-14, which signified Abraham's commitment to the Lord. The Lord alone would be His God, whom he would trust and serve. Circumcision symbolized a self-cursing oath: "If I am not loyal in faith and obedience to the Lord, may the sword of the Lord cut off me and my offspring, as I have cut off my foreskin." Thus, Abraham was to submit himself under the rule of God, consecrating himself, his offspring, and all he owned to the service of the Lord.

7. Why was it important for Moses to circumcise his son? (Look also at **Gen 17:10-14.**)

8. After Moses and Aaron told the elders of the sons of Israel what God had spoken to Moses, the people bowed low and worshipped (**Ex 4:31**). What expectations of God did they have?

LOOKING UPWARD

9. Have you used any of the excuses of Moses when God has asked you to serve Him in some way? What was the outcome?

10. How has God encouraged you through others to move forward in doing something you were hesitant to do?

11. How has God shown you an area of disobedience in your life?

LOOKING DEEPER

How do these verses encourage you at times when God is asking you to step out in obedience even though you may feel inadequate?

Psalm 32:8

Proverbs 16:3, 9

2 Corinthians 3:5

Philippians 4:13

1 Thessalonians 5:24

There is no better place to be than in the center of God's will, doing what He has asked you to do.

EXODUS, CHAPTER 5

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

Exodus 5:1-23

1. How did Pharaoh view the God of Moses (**v. 2**)?
2. What effect did Moses' request have on the Israelites? What does verse 9 give as a reason for Pharaoh's response?
3. Describe Moses' feelings as expressed in **verses 22-23** after the foremen of the sons of Israel showed hostility toward Moses and Aaron?

LOOKING DEEPER

How might it have helped Moses if he had remembered what God had told him in **Exodus 4:21**?

In **Exodus 5:3**, what was Moses trying to communicate to Pharaoh by saying, "Let us go...lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword"?

Why would the sons of Israel "need" to go out of the land to sacrifice to God (**Ex 8:25-26**)?

LOOKING UPWARD

4. How have you seen obedience lead to tougher circumstances in your life or in the lives of others?
5. When do you tend to get discouraged and question God?
6. What helps you work through this period of discouragement and questioning?

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

Even when our obedience leads to unexpected or negative results, we must trust that God is still in control and that this is part of His plan for us.

GOD'S ENCOURAGEMENT

Is there something in your life that is difficult for you right now? Are you confused about what God is doing? Are you feeling that God has “let you down”? Take some time to be honest with Him, as Moses did, and give your feelings and thoughts to the Lord. Ask Him to give you the grace and patience to wait on Him and His timing.

EXODUS, CHAPTER 6

REVIEW

Moses has stepped out and obeyed God, yet the results are not what he had expected. The Hebrew foremen were already criticizing and complaining about Moses. He (Moses) thought God would deliver the people immediately, even though God had told him that He would harden Pharaoh's heart.

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

Exodus 6:1-9

1. How would reminding Moses of who God is, His names, and His covenant with the people in verses 2-5 encourage Moses?
2. List the promises God made to the sons of Israel in verses 6-8.
3. How did the people's response in verse 9 differ from their response in **Exodus 4:29-31**? Why did their response to God change?

LOOKING UPWARD

4. How would you describe God as He is revealed in this passage?
5. How do difficult times affect your fellowship with God and the way you listen to other Christians?
6. How do you handle discouragement?

LOOKING DEEPER

God appeared to Moses in **Exodus 3:14**. He made Himself known as God Almighty to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (**Ex 6:2-3**). In the passages below, what was the situation in which God was called by His name, God Almighty?

Genesis 17:1-2

Genesis 35:9-12

Ruth 1:20-21

Job 23:8-17; 27:2

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

God is always faithful and true to His Word regardless of how it may seem at the time.

Don't let discouragement hinder you from obeying God. Instead, allow it to draw your focus to Him.

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

Exodus 6:10-13; 28-30

7. What effect did the peoples' response have on Moses?
8. What did Moses see as the problem?
9. In **verse 13**, what does God's response to Moses and Aaron communicate?

LOOKING DEEPER

Look back at **Exodus 4:10-12**. Moses had earlier brought up this "excuse" or "weakness" to the Lord. How did God respond then?

10. What does **Isaiah 45:9-10** communicate concerning our relationship with our Creator?
11. How should we look at our weaknesses in light of **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**?

LOOKING UPWARD

12. How do you usually respond when you feel as if you have failed? Can you give a specific example?
13. In what ways has God encouraged you in the midst of discouragement?

If God has called you to a task, He will make you adequate for it.

Meditate on **1 Thessalonians 5:24**: “Faithful is He who calls you, and He will also bring it to pass.”

Moses turned his focus inward instead of keeping his focus on God. He began questioning and doubting himself. Have you ever felt like Moses, discouraged about something, but feeling better about it after spending time with God and in His Word?

Exodus 6:28-7:13

14. How did God “convince” Moses to step out in obedience in the midst of his self-doubt?

15. What was God’s ultimate purpose in hardening Pharaoh’s heart (**7:3, 5**)?

16. What was the possible significance of Aaron’s staff swallowing up the magicians’ staffs in **verses 11-12**? How old were Aaron and Moses at this time (**v. 7**)?

17. What moves you to obedience? In other words, why do you obey God, even when it is difficult?

LOOKING DEEPER

1 Samuel 15:1-23 How did Saul disobey God? How did Saul differ from Moses in his response to God?

Obedience requires listening to God, not our feelings.