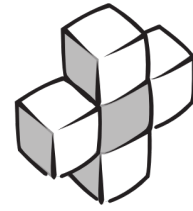




SMACC
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



Bible Study Series:

Exodus



Our Mission:

*To glorify God together in response to his grace
by making disciples of Jesus Christ*

About These Studies

These studies were written by various SMACC leaders for use among young working adults and university students. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

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Study 1: “The beginning and end of a nation?” (Exodus 1-2)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever been in a situation that felt utterly hopeless? What was it and what did you do about it? If it was resolved, how?

So, why Exodus? Exodus is a foundational book of the Old Testament. And if the Old Testament is foundational to Christianity, the stories in it are certainly good for us post New Testament believers. As we go through Exodus, we will begin to uncover a lot about the character of God; how he relates to us, how we relate to him and how he expects us to relate to each other.

2. *Read Exodus 1-2.*

Try to break the passage into smaller chunks and give each chunk a title.

Verses	Title

Context

3. For big picture context, let's just begin by reading Genesis 12:1-3.
 - a) Here God makes a promise to Abraham (formerly Abram). What are three elements of this promise?

 - b) Have we ever seen people living already in these promises (hint – way back in time!). If things changed, why?

 - c) So, what is the significance of these promises?

Digging In

4. Now let's look at Exodus chapter 1. Which of these promises are being fulfilled here (verses 1-7)?

5. What present threats are there to God's promises being fulfilled?

6. What can we learn about God from the response of the Hebrew midwives?

7. Now let's look at Exodus 2:1-10.

Who is crying?	Who hears the cries?	How do they respond?

8. We have seen two stories in Exodus thus far of danger and deliverance – the children who were in danger of dying were delivered by the mercy of the midwives, the baby crying in the river was saved by the daughter of the one who wanted him dead.

Look through Exodus 2:1-22 again. What other instances do we see danger and deliverance in this passage? Break into smaller groups and discuss the danger and deliverance in these sections. Also think about if there was any costs of deliverance.

Verse	Danger	Deliverance	Cost of deliverance (if any)
1-10			

11-15			
16-17			
18-22			

8. Based on the table, what summary can we draw about Exodus 1-2? What can we see about how resolution came about in the times of opposition and danger in these interwoven plots?

9. Look at Exodus 2:23-25.

Who is crying?	Who hears the cries?	How do they respond?

What do we learn about God from this concluding passage?

In Exodus, we see a God who is compassionate and about to come to the aid of a needy nation – a people in distress. But if you recall the promises of Genesis 12:1-3, you’ll recall that God didn’t just have Israel in mind, he had *all people* in mind (all families of the earth). But we’re not slaved in Egypt. How does Jesus, the ultimate saviour, deliver us from danger as the ultimate fulfilment of God’s promises in Genesis?

10. *Read Romans 5:6-11.*

a) How are we a needy people? What is the issue we face?

b) How has God shown compassion and met our needs? How are we to respond?

Application

11. How has today's study informed your idea of God and his nature?

12. How have you responded to how God has provided for our need of reconciliation through the forgiveness of our sins?

Prayer

- Thank God for revealing his gracious nature in Exodus and in the cross.
- Pray that God would give us the strength to trust him in times of difficulty and that we would always respond to the greatest deliverance – the spiritual deliverance from sin – with rejoicing.

Study 2: “God is faithful in keeping His promises despite our weakness” (Exodus 3:1-4:17)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever experienced being asked to do a task that was beyond what you think you’re capable of? How did you respond?

Recap

Last study, we read that God fulfilled one of His promises to Abraham’s descendants. God has blessed the sons of Israel to be fruitful and to multiply but that was seen as a threat to Pharaoh. He makes the Israelites slaves – their living becomes harsh and all new Hebrew sons are to be killed. But God did not forget about his covenant. Moses was spared and preserved because God was going to use him for the express purpose of leading his people out of slavery to the Egyptians and play a role in the fulfilment of his covenant with his people.

Digging in

Read Exodus 3:1-4:17

2. Try to break the passage into smaller chunks and give each chunk a title.

Verses	Title

3. How does God get Moses’ attention? (3: 1-6)

4. Why does God appear to Moses? (3: 7-10)

5. We read about the numerous times God described who He is to Moses. Why is God revealing Himself to Moses? (3:13-18)

6. In 3:11-4:17, Moses gives God five objections, and God gives Moses five responses. List them in the table below.

7.

Verses	Objections from Moses	Responses from God
3:11-12		
3:13-15		
4:1-9		
4:10-12		
4:13-16		

8. What has God revealed about himself in His responses to Moses' objections?

9. Based on the characteristics of God that you've learnt from this study, in what ways do you see these characteristics revealed in Jesus?

Application

10. If a Christian is suffering, and God remains silent, does that mean He is not aware of our suffering or that He doesn't care? Discuss.

11. What kind of excuses do you usually come up with when you know what the right/godly decision is? How might you be encouraged to respond rightly in the future, in light of what you have learnt from the study?

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learnt about his nature and character in this section of Exodus.
- Ask God to help you respond to God's revelation in Christ and in the Scriptures with faith and obedience.

Study 3: “God’s Sovereignty during Suffering” (Exodus 4:18-5:23)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever wondered why bad things happen to good people? How would you respond to this question when someone tells you this?

Context

In our previous study, we looked at how God has chosen Moses to be the mediator between God and the people of Israel. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and God introduced himself as I am who I am and the God of Abraham, God of Isaac and God of Jacob which represents the covenant that He has made from the very beginning. However, Moses was giving many different excuses on how he should answer to the people of Israel. Despite Moses’ weaknesses, we can still see that God can use people despite their weaknesses in order to fulfil his promises.

Digging In

Read Exodus 4:18-5:23.

2. Divide the passage into smaller sections by giving them a title

Verses	Title

3. How does Jethro respond to Moses’ departure back to Egypt? (4:18)

4. What does the LORD tell and instruct Moses to do? (4:19-23)

5. Why do you think God might be angry with Moses? (cf. Gen 17:9-14)

Thinking it Through

13. Are there any situations in your life when you are like Moses when you do God's work but don't personally obey him?

14. In light of our study, how does this passage encourage you that God is in control even in the midst of our suffering?

Prayer

- Ask God to give you confidence in Christ and in God's good will for you even when it is hard to understand what he is doing.
- Pray about the way you handle hardships and ask God to help you put into practice what you have learnt in this study.

Study 4: “Knowing God” (Exodus 6:1-7:7)

Getting Started

1. Imagine: You are surrounded by a group of bad people and they are gonna kill you, but suddenly a saviour appears, and he saves you from their hand. Would you be interested to know this saviour personally after all that’s happened? Why?

Context

So far in Exodus...

- 1:1-2:25 – God is in control and His promise will be fulfilled even when evil people are oppressing His people.
- 3:1-4:17 – The almighty and faithful God can use incapable and weak people to fulfill His promise.
- 4:18-5:23 – People did not respond to God’s word with faith and reliance despite His sovereignty and faithfulness.

From last week’s study, we saw Moses and Aaron were carrying out their mission from God by performing miracles and speaking His message to the Israel elders and Pharaoh.

- When the Israelites first heard the words from God, they responded by believing in it and worshipping God. However, when the persecution from the Egyptians came, they stopped believing in what God had said to them through Moses.
- When the Pharaoh heard the words from God, he responded by looking down on God. Furthermore, he became more evil and he persecuted the Israelites even more.

We also read that even though everything that God predicted has happened, Moses did not treat what God had said and His promise seriously, he loses faith in God’s salvation plan when he saw the Israelites were being persecuted.

Read Exodus 6:1-7:7

2. Divide them into sections and give them a short title each.

Verses	Title

Digging In

Read Exodus 6:1-9

The story last week ended at Moses questioning God and saying, “O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all.”

3. How did God respond to Moses?

4. Based on God’s self-introduction in v2-9, what are the reasons and purposes of God saving the Israelites?

Read Exodus 6:10-7:2.

5. God gave the same mission to Moses again – Go and tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of Egypt. How did Moses respond to this mission? Did his response change God’s mind?

6. Compare the genealogy in v14-25 with Gen 46:8-12, what are the differences? How does this genealogy help us to see the fulfilment of God’s salvation plan? (c.f. Gen 15:13-16)

Read Exodus 7:3-7

7. What was God going to do with Pharaoh and the Egyptians? What was the purpose of Him doing all of that?

8. What does ‘knowing God’ mean to the Israelites and the Egyptians?

9. How does God's redemption act in this passage point forward to the greater act of redemption that will be done through Jesus Christ our Lord? (c.f. 2Thess 1:5-12)

Application

10. Through the process of going through suffering in Egypt and then be redeemed by God, the Israelites got to know better that God is just and faithful to His covenant and they could have a relationship with Him. How does this story help us as we face our struggles and sufferings in this world?

11. God's judgement will fall upon those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel. What can we do this week to help our friends or family members who have yet to know the gospel, so that they may be saved before it's too late?

12. If someone tells you, "I don't think I can share the gospel with my friends because I don't have the talent to convince people." How would you respond to this brother/sister?

Study 5: “Pharaoh’s Hardened Heart” (Exodus 7:8-10:29)

Getting Started

1. Has someone ever stood in the way of something you wanted so badly and would not give it to you? What did you do about it?

Context

So far in the story of Moses and Aaron we have seen how they doubted God’s plan to redeem his people up out of slavery because of the opposition from Pharaoh. But despite their lack of faith and trust in God, God was still faithful in fulfilling his promises to his people and gracious in using Moses and Aaron despite their weaknesses. We saw God just a few verses before reaffirm his identity to Moses and assure him of the plan God has had from the very beginning and that it will still be accomplished.

Read Exodus 7:8-10:29. Note down the judgement God brought on Egypt and Pharaoh’s response.

Verses	God’s judgement	Pharaoh’s response
7:14-25		
8:1-15		
8:16-19		
8:20-32		
9:1-7		
9:8-12		
9:13-35		
10:1-20		

10:21-29		
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Digging In

Read Exodus 7:8-8:19 – Cycle 1

2. What is the purpose of Moses performing the miracle in 7:8-13? And what is the significance of how Pharaoh responded (see 7:3-5)?

3. What was God's intended purpose in performing the first three plagues?

4. What was the magicians able and not able to do? What was their response to this?

Read Exodus 8:20-9:12

5. What are the similarities between the next three plagues? What is God intending to show through them?

6. How was the progression of these plagues from the first three plagues? Did Pharaoh's reaction change?

Read Exodus 9:13-10:29

7. What does God say about the next three plagues that makes them stand out from the ones before it? What does it show us about God's interaction with Pharaoh, and Pharaoh's role in all of this?

9. What does he want them to know about himself through these plagues?

10. What was the response of the Egyptians to the plagues?

a. Hail

b. Locusts

11. Who hardened Pharaoh's heart? (7:3, 7:13-14, 7:22, 8:15, 8:19, 8:32, 9:7, 9:12, 9:34, 10:1, 10:20, 10:27)

Why? (7:3-5, 9:13-16, 11:9)

Thinking it Through

12. What does Pharaoh's responses to God's mercy teach us about the state of our own hearts? What could we have done differently? (Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 1: 21-32)

13. So what hope do we have that Pharaoh did not? (Ephesians 2:4-10, John 20:29-31)

Application

14. Is there any part of our lives that we are currently living in disobedience to God in? Are we hardening our hearts to the truth and our need for repentance? (Talk to some of the leaders if you need to about this)

15. In light of the current political situation in our country, what does today's study reveal to us about God and the rulers of this world? How should we be living and responding to these truths?

Study 6: “God is Glorified in Redeeming His People” (Exodus 11-12)

Getting Started

1. Name some (or one) big people/days that are remembered throughout all generations worldwide. Why are they so celebrated? Do their impacts last?

Context

So far in Exodus..

Although it seemed like Israel’s world was coming to an end, we have seen that God was in fact in control. He was faithful in keeping his promises to Israel despite Moses’ doubts and weaknesses. Through that, we learnt of his sovereignty. Although Israel was full of blame, God said that they would know that He is the LORD through all the miracles and wonders he does when delivering them from the hands of the Egyptians.

Last study however, we saw that Pharaoh’s heart was hardened despite all the plagues that befell him. Could this call for a mission abort, or is God still sovereign over the situation and because he is powerful and able to deliver the Israelites?

Digging In

2. *Read Exodus 11-12.* Divide the passage into smaller sections by giving them a title.

Verses	Title

Read Exodus 11:1-10

3. What did God promise the Israelites? (vv1-3)

4. What will the final plague look like and where do we see God actively working? (vv4-10)

Read Exodus 12:1-28

5. What might be the reason for all the details of the memorial day? (vv1-20)

6. After Moses had instructed the Israelites all that the LORD had said, how did they respond? (vv21-28). Where have we seen this before?

Read Exodus 12:29-51

7. If sojourners must eat the Passover meal, how must they observe it? Why?

8. Throughout the passage, Israel was instructed to do many things and had actually done them. Do verses 50-51 in any way suggest that the LORD delivered Israel only because they observed what the LORD commanded? What was the purpose of it all (the instructions)? (cf Exodus 12:24-26)

9. What are the similarities and differences between the redemption we now celebrate and that of Israel's during the Exodus? (cf. Matthew 26:26-29)

a) Similarities

b) Differences

OT	NT

10. How do the Passover and the Exodus point forward to the ultimate redemption act of Jesus Christ on the cross and the feast we will partake in heaven?

Application

11. As a Christian who is saved by the grace of God, are you tempted to thank yourself for the good things in life because you worked hard for them after all? If yes, in light of the passage, how has this informed the way you express your gratitude?

12. God's glory is displayed in His act of judgement against Egypt and rescue of Israel. This can be a little unsettling, but is indeed what we encounter in this passage. How does reading the passage today help shape your understanding on how God works and is glorified?

13. Like the Israelites, it can be hard for us to 'see' God in action in our lives. In the uncertainty, the Israelites trusted in God to fulfil His promises and to rescue them out of slavery. How does this help us when we ourselves are faced with periods of uncertainty?

Prayer

- Thank God for his grace, that he sent his son Jesus to die on the cross and be raised again, so that we may be redeemed from slavery and sin.
- Ask God to keep you from growing indifferent to his amazing grace revealed in Jesus Christ.

Study 7: “Glorify the Redeemer!” (Exodus 13-14)

Getting Started

1. Imagine: One morning, you decide to tune into the news, be it on social media, the newspaper, TV or the radio. Based on what you hear, what might be the greatest danger to humanity today?

Last week, we took a look at the tenth and final plague that God sent upon Egypt; the death of all the firstborns of Egypt was a pure reversal of the power dynamic between the Israelites and the Egyptians (Exodus started with a command of genocide upon the male sons of Israel from Pharaoh). God redeemed his firstborn, Israel, and gave them two feasts and celebrations meant to remind them of the Exodus – the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Was this the conclusion of the showdown between the LORD and Pharaoh?

Digging in

2. *Read Exodus 13-14.* Consider the flow of the narrative. Divide the passage into smaller sections and give each section a short title.

Verses	Title

Read Exodus 13:1-16

3. a. Almost a recap; what was the purpose of these ‘memorial ceremonies’? How would the details help with this purpose?

b. Where does Jesus fit into all this (cf Romans 8:32, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)?

Read Exodus 13:17-22

4. a. What aspects of God do we see highlighted here?

Verse	Aspect of God
17	
19	
21-22	

b. God's nature is unchanging, from the Exodus to Revelations. How does this section apply to and encourage us?

Read Exodus 14:1-31

5. What was the purpose for this final showdown (1-9)?

6a. As Pharaoh and his forces approach, how do the people of Israel and Moses react (10-14)? What do we learn?

b. How then are the people of Israel an example for us today?

7. In the events that follow, what active roles did God, the people of Israel and Moses play?

a. God

b. Israel

c. Moses

8. How the Israelites finally respond? (You can also sneak peak into Exodus 15:1-21!)

When people talk about Exodus, they are usually referring to this section of the book – God's plans are revealed in this book. We see that by the end of this section, **(a) God is glorified, (b) his people are saved and (c) both Egypt and Israel know that he is God, that Israel would fear him and put their trust in him.** But on this side of the cross, we know that's not the end of God's plans.

9 a. Quickly turn to these verses and see how things have progressed.

Verse	This side of the cross
John 17:1-5	
Romans 5:1-10	
1 Timothy 2:1-7	

b. And so, what is the greatest danger for humanity today and has God done anything about it?

Application

10. Hopefully it's clear that in this passage we are to identify ourselves with the people of Israel. Look again at how they acted throughout this passage. How does this relate to us? (see Heb 3:12-19)

11. a. How does the crossing of the Red Sea foreshadow our relationship with God?

b. Finally, how should we respond?

Prayer

- Praise and thank God for the saving work of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection, that we are now freed from slavery to sin.
- That we would be empowered to live for God now that we are slaves of righteousness, to preach the gospel to unbelievers and to teach, encourage and admonish other believers.

Study 8: “Sing the Song of Salvation!” (Exodus 15:1-21)

Getting Started

1. Imagine if you are a soldier in the army and the war has been won, “Victory! Victory! We have won!” How would you celebrate this victory?

Context

Previously in Exodus...

We have seen the importance of consecration of Israel’s firstborn to the LORD. Israel is to redeem their firstborn which calls for a lamb to be sacrificed. This acts as a sign of remembrance of what God has done for them by bringing them out of Egypt. God was always with Israel via the cloud and fire. Shortly after that, God delivered Israel by grace and brought judgment upon Egyptians in the event of crossing the Red Sea.

Digging In

2. *Read Exodus 15:1-21* and divide the passage into smaller sections by giving them a title

Verses	Title

Read Exodus 15:1-3

3. What was the Israelites’ response to their redemption? Why should they respond? (cf. Ex 14:31)

4. How did the songwriter describe God’s character? (v2-3)

Read Exodus 15:4-12

5. a) What happened to Pharaoh and his armies?

b) What does v9 show about the character of Pharaoh and the Egyptians? (cf. Ex 14:5-9)

6. a) How is God's power being described?

b) Who is more powerful between God or Pharaoh? Why?

Read Exodus 15:13-21

7. How is God's love being described? (cf. Ex 6:3-6)

8. a) How did the people from the other nations respond?

b) How did Miriam and all the women of Israel respond?

We have learned in Exodus 15:1-21 that Moses and the people of Israel sang to the LORD to celebrate their salvation as the LORD delivered them from the Egyptians by praising and exalting him. They gave glory to God alone for Israel has seen what God has done for them. Is that the end of the story? Surely not!

9. a) Quickly turn to these verses and see how things have progressed.

Verse	This side of the cross
Philippians 2:8-9	
Colossians 3:16	
Revelations 15:2-4	

- b) What kind of victory are we celebrating today? What song are we singing today?

Thinking it through

10. Hopefully this passage shows us who God is and what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. In light of our studies, how should you respond knowing that God has delivered you from sin through His Son?

11. If someone says, "I don't feel comfortable singing with people. I would rather just sing by myself". How would you advise this person?

12. Another person says, "I enjoy listening to Christian music. It makes me feel good and I feel like I can dance to the beat and groove. My favourite genre is electronic dance music!" What would you say to this person?

Prayers

- Praise and thank God for we are able to sing hymns that remind us of God's saving work through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection on the cross for us.
- Pray that we will continue to let the word of Christ dwell in us by teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in our hearts to God

Study 9: “Testing in the Wilderness” (Exodus 15:22-17:7)

Getting Started

1. What are some of the “must have” items in your house in the current MCO?

Context

Previously in Exodus...

Last week, we read about God’s people singing God’s praises because “he has triumphed gloriously” (v. 1). This song is like one an army would sing after winning a great victory. But Israel did no fighting. God did everything. Which is why, the whole song is about God’s might and power over Egypt and their false gods. God says that through this event, He has gotten glory over Pharaoh and shown the whole world that there is no God like Israel’s God! And as Israel sang their victory song, declaring God’s glory and power over that of Pharaoh, we too sing a new song of victory. We go out into all the world with the song of the cross on our lips. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus proved that there is no power like His power and no authority like His authority (Matthew 28:18). God wins all the glory for Himself in the Gospel of Jesus.

Digging In

2. Read Exodus 15:22-17:7 and divide the passage into smaller sections by giving them a title

Verses	Title

Read Exodus 15:22-27

3. a) What were the Israelites grumbling about? (v 22-24)

b) How does Moses and God respond? What is the purpose of God’s response? (v 24-26)

c) What do we learn of Israelites’ character from this scene?

Read Exodus 16:1-36

4. a) What were the Israelites grumbling about? (v 1-3)

b) How does God respond? What is the purpose of His response? (v 4-12)

5. What rules were given for collecting the bread? What is the significance of (not) following the rules? (v 16-20)

6. Why did God command the Israelites to keep an omer of manna throughout their generations? (v 32)

Read Exodus 17: 1-7

7. a) What were the Israelites grumbling about? (v 1-2)

b) What do we learn about the Israelites? (v 2-3, 7)

c) How did God respond? What did it prove about God? (v 5-7)

8. Linking to New Testament

a) Read the verses below and discuss how they relate to Christ.

OT (From the passage)	NT	How does it relate to Christ?
<p>Manna</p> <p>Exo 16:31</p>	<p>“Jesus, the bread of life”</p> <p>John 6:31-35</p>	
<p>Resting on the 7th day</p> <p>Exo 16:23</p>	<p>“Jesus is the Lord of Sabbath”</p> <p>Mark 2:27-28</p>	
<p>Striking the rock</p> <p>Exo 17:6</p>	<p>“Christ the Rock”</p> <p>1 Cor 10:3-4</p>	

Thinking it Through

9. Given the current circumstances (e.g. Covid-19), do you live in fear that your basic needs (e.g. food, water, clothes, shelter) will not be met? What has Christ promised to provide for all those who “come to Me”?

10. Israel rebels and grumbles despite all that God has done for them. As you reflect on the salvation you’ve received, are you more often someone who grumbles and complains to God or are you someone who is content and thankful?

11. After studying today’s passage, what do you think is your greatest need?

Prayers

- Praise God for his great generosity and kindness towards us in providing us with so many of the good and basic elements of daily life, despite our sinfulness. Particularly thank God for providing us with our greatest need—salvation in Christ.
- Pray that we would not complain, but trust God’s goodness and provision.

Study 10: “The LORD is My Banner” (Exodus 17:8-18:27)

Getting Started

1. Share about your life, what are the things you usually find happiness from? (you will go to them when you feel unhappy)

- Friends
- Running
- Favourite series in that moment
- Movies

Context

So far in Exodus..

- The Israelites were oppressed by Pharaoh and the Egyptians and they were under slavery.
- God remembered the covenant He made with the Israelites’ ancestors few generations ago, hence He delivered the people from slavery and redeemed them as His own people.
- God also destroyed Pharaoh and the Egyptians who were evil.
- The Israelites sang song to praise God for what He had done.
- But soon after the Israelites started grumbling against God whenever they faced problem and they refused to listen to God’s voice.
- However, God still mercifully and generously provided their needs and continued to guide them.

2. Read Exodus 17:8-18:27. Divide them into sections and give them a short title each.

Verses	Title

Digging In

Read Exodus 17:8-16.

The people of Amalek were the descendants of Esau [Gen 36:12]. They came and fought with the Israelites.

3. Who plays the decisive part in the battle?

4. What did God promise that He would do to the people of Amalek? Why?

Read Exodus 18: 1-12

Jethro was not an Israelite; he was the priest of Midian who served other gods. He came and greeted Moses, his son-in-law.

5. How did Jethro respond after he heard of what God had done for His people?

Read Exodus 18:13-27

Moses was the leader who will lead the Israelites to live under God's will, but he was the only person who had access to God's will and hence the only person who solved all the disputes among the Israelites.

6. What were the issues that Moses and the Israelites going to face following this situation?

7. What was needed to solve these issues?

Application

8. Jethro rejoiced and praised God after hearing His work of deliverance for His people.

Is the gospel causing you to rejoice at the moment? If not, are you seeking joy somewhere else?

Jethro offered burnt offering and sacrifices to God after hearing what He has done to His people. As Christians, we are supposed to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice for God. [Romans 12:1]

9. Are there parts of your body that are not currently being offered to God? Are there parts of your life that you cling to as your own?

10. None of us can ever do the work of God's kingdom alone, the leaders in our church need our support. What are the ways that we can be supporting them?

Study 11: “Israel Consecrated Before The Lord” (Exodus 19)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever been to a big fancy event and felt under-dressed or unprepared? What caused your lack of preparation?

Context

Up to this point of Exodus, the Israelites has been rescued out of the hands of the Egyptians and are on their way to their promise land. However, the Israelites proved that there was a much bigger problem that they face aside from their slavery in Egypt. We see how almost immediately after the Red Sea the Israelites grumbled because of lack of water and food. However, God remained faithful in providing for them despite their grumbling and disobedience to God. We again see God faithfully rescuing them from the hands of Amalek just after the Israelites questioned whether God was really for them or not. We are starting to see that the deeper problem was a problem of their hearts and Moses was assigned to teach them the statutes of God and his laws. However, he could not do it alone and required a group of leaders and judges alongside him.

Read Exodus 19.

2. Break the passage into smaller sections and give them a title.

Verses	Title

Read Exodus 19:1-6

3. Where are the Israelites currently at? What is the significance of this? (Exodus 3:12)

4. What has God done for Israel? Why does He do this?

5. What is the relationship between God and Israel? What is God expecting of Israel?

Application

12. The Israelites had to be sanctified before they could come before God. What has changed from since then till where we are now? (Hebrews 10:10)

13. a. According to 1 Peter 2:9-10, how are we as Christians described and what is our function in the world?

b. How can we be doing that in our church, school and work place?

Prayer

- Thank God for what he accomplished through Jesus in:
 - Fulfilling the task that Israel failed to achieve
 - Achieving forgiveness, the changing of human hearts, and the sending of the Holy Spirit by his obedience to God.
- Pray that we will be effective, as God's people in his world, in our priestly role of declaring his great deeds and living godly lives among those who don't know him.

Study 12: “The Ten Commandments” (Exodus 20:1-21)

Getting Us Thinking

1. What is a world without rules? When do we start to think of rules as a burden and what does it reveal about us?

Context

2. If one reads this passage without knowledge of what happened earlier, it may be dangerously interpreted. Briefly recount what happened in Exodus.

Last study we saw that God’s plan for Israel was for her to be a holy nation, set apart and dedicated to Himself. We will see just what sets them apart from other nations in a moment.

Digging in

3. Who spoke these words and why is it significant?

- False:

- True:

4. God reminds Israel in verse 2 that “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery...” Why does he do this, especially for many times now?

The Ten Commandments

5. Identify the commandments and discuss their meaning and reason/consequence (if any).

Commandment	Meaning (& reason/consequence if any)
V3	
V4-5	cf Deut 4:15-19
V7	
V8-10	

V12	
V13	
V14	
V15	
V16	
V17	

Another way to look at the commandments is to identify what they prohibit depriving **God** or one's **neighbour** of. For example, the fifth commandment prohibits depriving one's parents of honour – it belongs to them. With this, we will see later how the ten commandments should be understood, especially when Jesus himself explains them.

Israel's Response (v18-21)

6. What have the Israelites missed in such a response?

Thinking it Through

Here are only ten commandments, and there are more to come in the rest of Exodus and the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible which lay out God's laws). Notice how the commandments can be grouped in a way that it governs Israel's relationship with God (vv3-12) and with people (vv13-17). Cf Mark 12:28-31 **or** Matthew 22:34-40.

7. a) What do you think God is saying to the Israelites through the commandments?

b) How would you read the ten commandments and the whole passage by sections now?

Verses	Title / Principle

Today in the New Testament

8. a) If you were an Israelite, do you think you would have been able to obey the law 100%? Why?

If citizens in the world find it difficult to obey the laws of their lands 100%, what more the law of God, which carries eternal consequences whether obeyed or disregarded. The truth is, you are not alone in failing to obey God's laws 100%. History has proven man unable to satisfy God's law because we are rebellious and sinful in nature. But there is good news.

b) Why are we no longer living under the law and how are we **not** a hopeless people? (Matthew 5:17-20; Galatians 3:2-14)

c) Why then was the law given? (Galatians 3:10-29 esp. vv22-24)

d) What is the significance of Christ fulfilling the law?

- *For more, read Hebrews 7 (Jesus' role as mediator)*

9. "The ten commandments are irrelevant to us now. They were given to Israel but now we don't have to become an Israelite to be God's people." Discuss this statement.

Application

10. Legalism is a longstanding problem in Christianity. Simply put, it is "excessive adherence to law or formula" that puts law above gospel. This is nothing new, as we know that the problem already began manifesting in the Pharisees of Jesus' time. We are also in danger of becoming very legalistic toward our neighbours, Christian or unbeliever, if we begin to secretly judge their actions. How can we be careful to avoid it?

11. Should those who are not Christians be told to keep the commandments? What might result?

12. How are we responding to God's holiness?

Prayer

- Thank God for the new covenant that he has made with us through Jesus.
- Pray that we might respond rightly to this covenant with words, thoughts and actions that please God. In particular, pray that God might help us to love him with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbour as ourselves.
- Ask for obedience and endurance to live a life worthy of our salvation.

Study 13: “Laws of Love” (Exodus 20:22-23:19)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever had a roommate(s)? How has proximity birthed drama? How did you solve this?

Context is the key to understanding and appreciating what we are about to read. The Israelites were redeemed by God from Egypt. There is now a relationship between God and Israel – redeemer and redeemed. God has redeemed them to be a holy nation; they are to live a life demonstrating how people ought to live in God’s world. God gave them the Ten Commandments are the core principles that can be summed up as follows; live in a way that loves both God and neighbour (Luke 10:26-28). We shall now see how it is applied in everyday Israelite life, that they may indeed be a kingdom of priests.

Digging in

I. Concerning Worship (20:22-26)

(a) What do we learn about the style of worship (20:23-24a,25b)? Why?

(b) What do we learn about purity in worship (20:26)? Note that men wore robes!

(c) What do we learn about the location of worship (20:24b)?

(d) What do we learn about the purpose of the altar (20:24)?

(e) Which of the ten commandments are applied here?

II. Concerning Slaves (21:1-11)

Note: Slaves in Israel are not the same slaves we think about in American history. “Slaves”, when used here, refers more to simple ‘contract workers’ who worked for small family businesses, living in their master’s place.

(a) How are slaves to be treated (21:1-6)? (see also 21:20-21, 26-27)

(b) How were (specifically) female slaves to be treated (21:7-11)?

(c) So, what is the underlying nature of how slaves are to be treated?

III. Concerning Behaviour (21:12-32)

(a) What are the laws on homicide (21:12-14)? (see also Numbers 35:9-15)

(b) How is the gravity of the fifth commandment (see 20:12) reflected here (21:15, 17)?

(c) Considering verses 12-17 (note 16, which we haven’t discussed), what do we learn about human life and God?

(d) Taking the laws that we just looked at, and then screening through versus 18-32, what is the underlying principle we see when it comes to laws on injuries? (especially note verses 23-25)

IV. Concerning Restitution (21:33-22:15)

After reading verses 21:33-22:15, how do these laws teach us to live in a community?

V. Concerning Holiness (22:16-20)

Note: Verses 16-17 relate to premarital sex and the seventh commandment, not rape, for the penalty of rape would be death (Deuteronomy 22:25-27).

(a) What are the consequences of premarital sex? What does this teach us?

(b) Why was capital punishment imposed on the crimes of verses 18-20? (cf. Lev 20:22-27)

VI. Concerning Social Justice (22:21-23:9)

(a) How is this section framed (22:21, 23:9)?

(b) How does this framing help us understand how Israel is to relate to each other and to foreigners, when it comes to matters of social justice?

(c) Skim through verses 22:21-23:9. List a few examples of how social justice is championed under God's law.

VII. Concerning the Sabbath and Festivals (23:10-19)

(a) How and why was the Sabbath practiced (23:10-12)?

(b) How were the Israelites to celebrate the three feasts (23:13-19)?

Note: Feast of Unleavened Bread – celebration of Israel's liberation. Feast of Harvest – celebration of God's provision for his people. Feast of Ingathering – celebration of God's salvation.

The Laws and the Saviour

Last week, we explored how (a) Jesus came and fulfilled the law (cf. Matt 5:17-20); (b) the law was given as a guardian and points us to salvation by faith through grace alone (cf. Gal 3:19-26). We learnt that we cannot fulfil the ten commandments, we are hopeless in that regard. The commandments ought to drive us to Jesus, and Jesus drives us to obedience. So, if these laws are an application of the ten commandments for Israel, then we ought to apply them the same way – through the lens of Christ. Hence, to apply the laws of the Old Testament, ask yourselves these two questions. (1) **What are the logical and ethical principle underlying this law?** (2) **Has the coming of Christ changed the implication for Christians** (e.g. food laws)? From this, find the implication for us today.

Application

Go through the seven divisions of today's passage once more, referring to the questions and answers you have discussed. Together, try and think of how we as sinners saved and guided by the Holy Spirit can live our own daily lives applying what we read under each topic. A few New Testament passages have been given for some of these.

I. Concerning Worship (cf. John 4:21-24)

II. Concerning Slaves (Workplace) (cf. Col 3:22-25)

III. Concerning Behaviour (cf. Rom 12:9-21)

IV. Concerning Restitution (cf. Luke 19:8)

V. Concerning Holiness (cf. Gal 5:16-26)

VI. Concerning Social Justice (cf. Acts 2:42-47)

VII. Concerning the Sabbath and the Festivals (cf. Col 2:16)

Prayer

- Thank God for his good, perfect law, that shows us not only where we go wrong, but how we ought to live rightly, now that we are saved.

Study 14: “The Tabernacle: How to Build a Place for God”

(Exodus 25-31, 35:1-40:33)

Getting started

1. What is the most impressive building you've visited? Briefly describe some features of the building.

Context

The laws and commandments are meant to prepare Israel to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Last week, we read about the confirmation and celebration of the covenant between God and his people before proceeding to the Promised Land. It was followed by God giving the tablets of stone with the law and the commandment to Moses at Mount Sinai.

In this study, we will be looking into the construction of a tabernacle i.e. a tent of meeting where God meets His people. But it does not seem to be an easy task - note the 12 chapters of instructions outlining the blueprint, the pattern, the plan, the design, and all of its specifications. Why do you think God concerns Himself so intimately with the smallest details and measurements of the tabernacle?

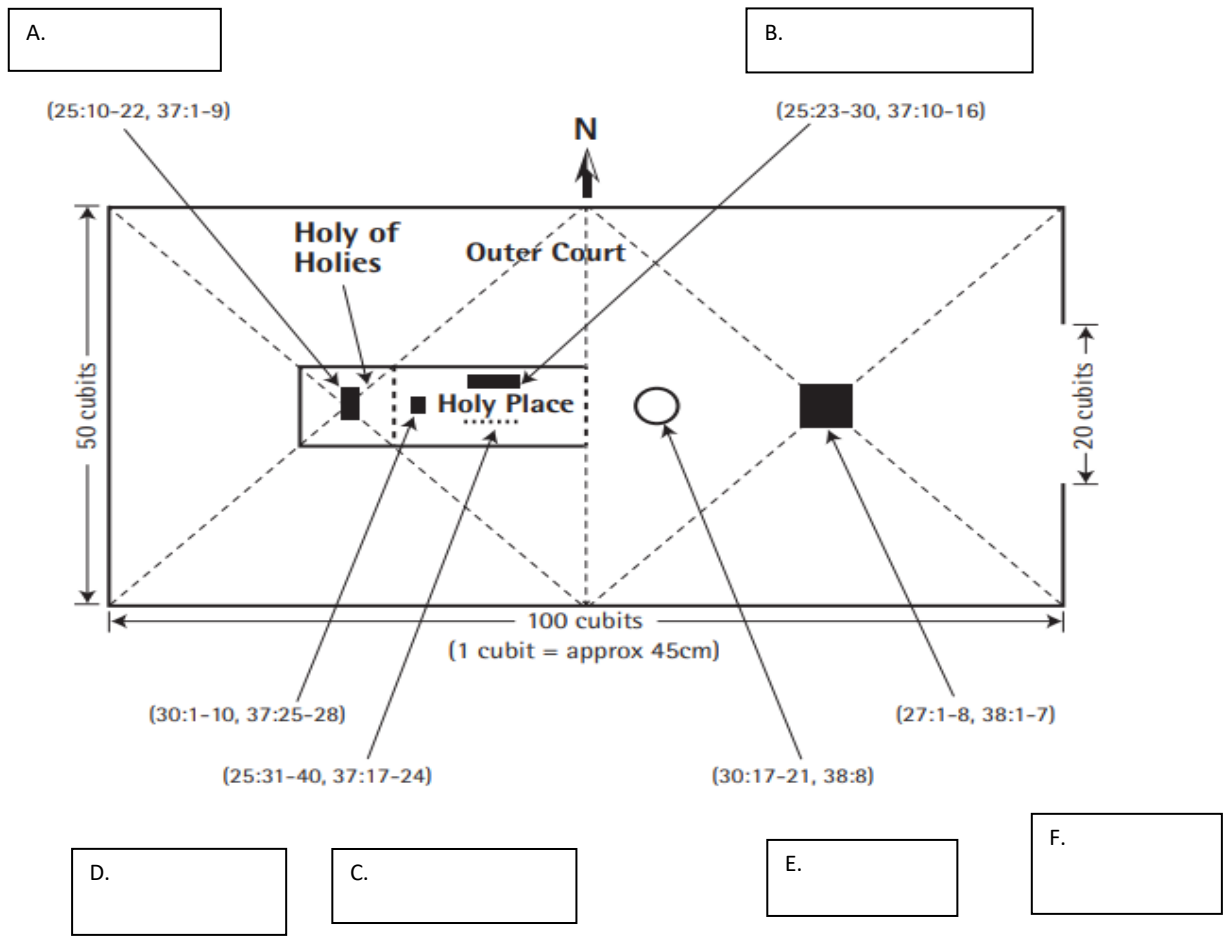
Digging in

2. At the mountain (24:18), the Lord told Moses to take a contribution from the people of Israel. What are the contributions for? (25:8; 35:5-9, 21-29)

3. *Read Exodus 25:9 and 25:40.* How should the Israelites build the tabernacle?

There are 3 main parts in the tabernacle - Holy of Holies; Holy Place and the Courtyard. The tabernacle itself — the main tent houses the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The Holy of Holies occupies $\frac{1}{3}$ of the tabernacle and has a perfect cube size. The Most Holy Place and is separated by a veil from the Holy Place. The Court is the area outside of the tent but still within the compound of the tent.

4. In the following diagram the main items of furniture for the tabernacle are identified with arrows and Bible references. Read the relevant passages and write in the name of the item.



5. What is the function of the tabernacle, and what does it symbolize or say to God's people? (25:8)

6. Think about the two halves of the book of Exodus. The first half tells us that God redeems his people from slavery. However, the second half tells us that God redeems his people to or for something. What is it that God redeems his people to or for? (19:6; 31:1-11)

7. Even when God came close, Israel still had to be separated from Him by the veil (40:3) because of their sinfulness. How did God provide a way to close the gap between Him and Israel? (28:1-3; 29:1)

Application

8. Hebrews 4 says that Jesus is our Great High Priest today. How is Jesus different from Israel's high priests? How should we respond? c.f. Heb 4:14-5:10
9. In the passage, the Israelites met God at the tabernacle, but how can we gain access to God today? (c.f. John 1:14; Matthew 27:51)
10. All believers of Christ are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people for his own possession. How should this change our behaviour in the way we live? (c.f. 1 Peter 2:9)

Prayer

- Give thanks that we can boldly enter God's presence in Christ.
- Pray for us to be speaking the word of the gospel that brings people into relationship with God and into his presence as well
- Pray for our role as God's presence in the world. In particular, pray together for friends or family who do not yet know Christ (you may share the name of these friends and continue to pray for them after the study).

Study 15: “Mediator” (Exodus 32:1-35)

Getting Started

1. When was the last time you were hurt by someone you trust? Do you think that you had the right to express your anger towards that person?

Context

- Back in Chapter 19, God established a covenantal relationship with the people of Israel, that if the Israelites obey God’s voice and keep His covenant, they shall be God’s treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
- The people of Israelites had also enthusiastically declared their obedience (19:8; 24:3)
- Then the ten commandments and a set of laws were given to the Israelites so that they may obey and live as God’s holy people (Chapters 20-23).
- God had also shown Moses the plans for His residence among them, giving us the glorious expectations for the construction and habitation of this tabernacle.
- Our passage today is part of the sandwich filling between the two sections concerning the plans for the tabernacle (chapters 25-31) and the construction and habitation of the tabernacle (chapters 35-40).

2. Read Exodus 32:1-35. Divide them into sections and give them a short title each.

Verses	Title

Read Exodus 32:1-6

3. What did the people of Israel and Aaron do as they saw Moses delayed coming down from the mountain? What is wrong about their actions?

Read Exodus 32:7-14

4. What was God’s reaction when He saw the acts of betrayal by the Israelites? How is this reaction different from the way how God had been treating the Israelites?

5. Moses interceded for the Israelites after hearing God’s judgement on them. How did Moses manage to make God ‘relented from the disaster that He had spoken of bringing on His people’?

Read Exodus 32:15-29

6. What did the stone tablets represent? What, therefore, is being symbolized by Moses breaking them?

7. What else did Moses do to the Israelites? Why did Moses treat them this way?

Read Exodus 32:30-35

8. How did Moses intend to atone for the sin of the rest of the Israelites, and what was God's response?

Moses vs Jesus

9. Moses was a mediator who: a) intercedes for God's people so that God may relent from judging them as they deserve; b) brings judgement in God's behalf upon those who offended God.
How did Jesus fulfill the role of mediator in the New Testament better than Moses? (c.f. Heb 7:25; 9:15; 2Cor 5:10)

10. Moses did not manage to atone for the sin of the Israelites at the end of the passage. How did Jesus manage to do that in the New Testament? (c.f. Heb 9:24-28)

Application

11. The passage shows us that the consequence of idol worship (making someone or something as God or more important than God) will greatly offend God.
Is there any idol in your heart that you might be struggling to get rid of? How can we help each other to fight that?

12. Knowing that Christ has interceded for us in all our sins, how can we respond to Christ for what he did?

Study 16: “Israel’s Glorious God” (Exodus 33-34, 40:34-38)

Getting Started

1. Say you are so engrossed in this Bible study this afternoon. Halfway through, you are suddenly reminded of a 1000-word essay due at 4pm today! Zero progress because you have procrastinated since day one, you knew you couldn’t make it by 4pm even if you started working on it right now. Was there anything you could have done to salvage the situation?

Context

Congratulations! You have made it to the last study of Exodus after working through it for the past few months! From Egypt to Sinai, from the Passover to the covenant, from Moses’ cowardice to mediatorship, and from Israel’s suffering to her grumbling, the whole book of Exodus spells God’s marvellous character.

Last week we saw that right after the covenant was made, the people of Israel so blatantly broke it by making a golden calf to worship. After all that God has done for Israel, he has every right to revoke the covenant. Is Israel doomed? Today we will see what kind of God Israel worships.

Digging in

2. *Read Exodus 33-34 and 40:34-38* and divide the passage into sections.

Verses	Title

Read Exodus 33:1-6

3. What was the problem with Israel that brought about such a strong response from God?

4. How is God’s anger as well as his grace displayed in verse 1-3?

Read Exodus 33:7-23

5. Here, the tent of meeting is set up outside the camp where Moses and the people sought the Lord, just before the Tabernacle is to be built in chapters 35-40. What does this say about God's dwelling among his people? Consider also Moses' and Israel's experience with the Lord in v10 and 11.

6. Why does Moses ask God to show him his glory and why does God grant him his request?

Read Exodus 34:1-9

7. List the seven words or phrases that God uses to describe himself. Pay attention to the contrast certain phrases have with the others.

Read Exodus 34:10-28

8. God renews the covenant with Moses as he earlier broke the tablets on which it was written, out of anger towards the Israelites. Notice how this is not word for word from the previous accounts. Is it any different? Like a recap, briefly categorise them into key sections of the previous accounts and group the verses into the sections.

Section	Verses

Read Exodus 34:29-35

9. Why is it that God's glory, which is displayed through Moses' shining face, causes the people to respond like that?

Read Exodus 40:34-38

10. Based on how the Lord revealed himself in Exodus 34:6-7, how does Exodus 40:34-38 and indeed all of Exodus confirm it? What is its significance?

The New Covenant

Read Hebrews 8:7-13.

11. What is the covenant that God has made with us today and how are we to respond in order that his covenant is appropriated?

Read Hebrews 7:20-28, 9:11-15. In fact, you may read the whole book of Hebrews on your own for a better understanding of Exodus!

12. For a few studies now, we have established the fact that Moses in his role and deeds prefigures Christ. How is Jesus different from Moses and how is this crucial for the sustaining of the new covenant?

Application

13. Have we understood what kind of God we are worshipping? In our hearts how are we still turning to idolatry?

14. The Israelites kept breaking God's commandments, but God was still with them. In what ways can we be taking God's forgiveness for granted?

Prayer

- Thank God that because he is who he claims to be, we now can be justified by faith through Christ.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will keep you from idolatry of all sorts.
- Pray that this very good news of God's character and his wonderful deeds may be brought to many in need of his forgiveness and salvation.