

Session 3: Deliverance

SESSION GOALS

Every session has specific goals—things you want your group to walk away knowing, feeling, and committing to do.

Main Idea: The proper way to respond to God's faithfulness is full, uncompromising obedience.

Head Change: To know that God's deliverance of Israel was a foreshadowing of our deliverance from the power of sin.

Heart Change: To feel hopeful that God can deliver us from any unexpected or unforeseen circumstance.

Life Change: To choose faith over fear when walking in God's instruction.

OPEN

Are you keen on reading the instructions to a board game, building project, or a new gadget, or do you try to figure out how to use it on your own? Why?

Following instructions comes naturally to some people, while others like to be free and figure things out on their own. But when it comes to the laws of God, he desires that we all wholeheartedly obey his instructions because in his commands are assurances of love, safety, and a relationship with him.

In this session, Dr. Pointer will walk through how Israel was rescued from Egypt and how important their obedience was to witness God's power in their deliverance.

READ

Read Exodus 5:1–5; 11:1–10; 6:28–7:13; and 14:19–31. If your group is running short on time, just read Exodus 11:1–10.

Note: *This series touches on parts of the story of Exodus. If you would like to read the whole book of Exodus, check out our daily reading guide in **Go Deeper Section 4** at the end of this study.*

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Dr. Pointer’s teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

What are the three major events that take place in Exodus 5–15?

What is most significant about the tenth plague?

Show Session 3: *Deliverance* (13 minutes).

DISCUSS

In Exodus 5–15, we see God as a deliverer. Through confronting Pharaoh, the ten plagues, the Passover, and crossing the Red Sea, God rescued the Israelites from Egyptian oppression. In Exodus 5–7, Moses and Aaron confronted Pharaoh, telling him that Yahweh demanded Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. But Pharaoh refused and increased his oppression of the people. Read Exodus 6:28–7:13.

In this passage, God gave Moses instructions for standing before Pharaoh. **What reason does Moses give for being nervous about going? What is God's solution for Moses's insecurity?**

God told Moses that Pharaoh will not listen to him. It seems strange that God would send Moses into a losing battle, but this was all part of God's plan. **What questions do you have about God choosing to harden Pharaoh's heart? Why was it important for Moses to know up front that Pharaoh wouldn't listen to him?**

Not only would God be with Moses, but he would do the work of saving the Israelites. God had everything planned out and under control, claiming victory from the very beginning. But Moses was afraid because he felt God's plan relied on his personal gifts and resources. **Do you ever feel like you cannot do what God is asking you to do? What do you think is holding you back from serving God well?**

God did not need Moses's gifts and wasn't hindered by his flaws. God does not always call the most qualified people, but he always equips those he calls. **What would it look like to trust God in faithfulness, even when you feel inadequate to serve him?**

In chapters 7–11, God kept his word by sending the ten plagues upon Egypt. Dr. Pointer explained that each of the ten plagues showed God's supremacy over specific Egyptian gods. Through the plagues, both the Israelites and the Egyptians saw that Yahweh was the one true God, in control over everything and everyone. While God protected his people from all of the plagues, the final plague required unique preparation. Read Exodus 11:1–7 and 12:3–13.

What did God ask Moses and the Israelites to do before he sent the tenth plague?

The Israelites were to take the blood of an unblemished lamb and smear it on their doorposts. The blood served as a sign of God's protection. Despite the chaos surrounding them, those who trusted the Lord would be safe. **Where do you turn when you feel unsafe or unsteady in life? What does it look like to trust God for protection?**

Note: To learn more about the Passover lamb, go to **Go Deeper Section 1** at the end of this study.

Note: To see how the Passover connects to Jesus and the celebration of Communion, go to **Go Deeper Section 2** at the end of this study.

God told the Israelites that they were to memorialize the Passover by celebrating it as a festival. He wanted his people to remember his faithfulness through the generations. **How can remembering God's past faithfulness be beneficial to us in hard times?**

After the tenth plague, Pharaoh finally let God's people leave Egypt. But their liberation was not the end of their troubles. Read Exodus 12:31–32 and 14:5–12.

After enduring ten plagues, Pharaoh relented and let the Israelites leave Egypt. He quickly regretted his decision and assembled his army—one of the greatest military forces in the ancient world—to chase down his former slaves. But he didn't have to chase them far—the people of Israel were stopped at the coast of the Red Sea with not boats. **Can you sympathize with the Israelite's cry in 14:11–12? What sort of situations drive us to hopelessness like the Israelites were expressing?**

The situation seemed hopeless, but God had not abandoned his people. Read Exodus 14:15–31.

God rescued his people through a miracle that caused both the Egyptians (v. 18) and the Israelites (v. 31) to recognize God's authority and power. **What is the main difference between the ways the Israelites and Egyptians respond to God?**

What should our response be when God delivers us from "impossible" situations?

Dr. Pointer asked us to consider our own Red Sea moments—those events, obstacles, and situations that appear to be impossible to walk through. God is not asking us to figure out our circumstances without him; he wants us to walk through life trusting him to make a way.

What obstacle in your life do you need to walk through in faith, rather than finding a way out of it? How could you be praying for God to teach you something while you walk with him through that issue?

Note: For a guided prayer through Exodus 15, go to **Go Deeper Section 3** at the end of this study.

Dr. Pointer reminded us that deliverance is a process. God provides for us, but we have to trust while we walk through our circumstances. **What are you hoping for God to deliver you from today? How will you thank him in advance for delivering you?**

What can you do to remember God’s faithfulness to you and trust him in your current circumstances?

LAST WORD

God’s people doubted their future as they escaped slavery in Egypt. But God showed his power by delivering them from their enemies and performing miracles that they would remember forever. We, too, can live in victory knowing that the spiritual war we’re fighting has already been won by Jesus Christ. God delivered Israel and remains faithful to deliver us as well, even when our lives seem to be filled with trouble and hardship.

This week, think about God’s past faithfulness to you. If he has been faithful in the past, he can be trusted today. No matter what situation you are in, you can rest in his plan for your life.

GO DEEPER

This section has two potential functions:

1. It can supplement your small group discussion with topics your group may be interested in. We've highlighted where each of the following segments could fit in the Discuss section of the study guide. As the leader, it would be good to familiarize yourself with this section just in case your conversation turns to one of these topics.
2. These sections can also function as short devotionals to carry you through the week until your next group meeting. Consider using these sections to deepen your group's study of the book of Exodus.

1. The Passover Lamb

In Exodus 12, God commanded the Israelites to sacrifice a one-year-old male lamb. Each household needed to find a lamb with no defects and slaughter it before smearing its blood over the doorposts of their homes. When God saw the blood on the doorframe, he would "pass over" their home and spare it from his judgment. Just as the blood of the Passover lamb protected families in Egypt, the blood of Jesus rescues us from God's wrath.

Read through Exodus 12:3–16 and take note of all of the specifics regarding the sacrificial lamb. Then, read the following passages and write down the similarities between Jesus and the Passover lamb: John 1:29; John 19:33–36; 1 Peter 1:18–19; Hebrews 9:11–14.

Based on these passages, in what ways is Jesus like the Passover lamb?

The Passover lamb in the book of Exodus is a unique foreshadowing of Christ's sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Jesus is our Passover lamb—our perfect sacrifice cleansing us of our sins, saving us from the wrath of God once and for all. **What similarities did you notice between Jesus and the Passover lamb in the passages you just read?**

The sacrifice of Christ is the ultimate and final Passover. Through his death and resurrection, we are free from the power of sin and shame. The first Passover released the

Hebrew people from slavery, while Christ's sacrifice releases us from the slavery and power of sin.

The Passover lamb reminds us that we don't have to earn God's love or live in fear of constant punishment. He has made a way for us to be forgiven, rescued us from wrath, and brings us into a relationship with him. Reflect on how knowing Jesus, the Passover lamb, has changed your life.

2. Communion

In Exodus 12:13–20, God commanded Moses and the Israelites to observe the Passover as a festival every year. They were to memorialize and worship God in celebration of what he did for them in Egypt. Christians still observe the Passover through the partaking of Communion.

Every denomination has a particular tradition for Communion, also known as the Eucharist or the Lord's Supper. For some, Communion happens once a month with juice and pre-made wafers while others celebrate it every Sunday with wine and bread. No matter your tradition, Communion is an integral part of Christian worship. **How often does your local church partake in the Lord's Supper? What do you appreciate most about taking Communion?**

Read Luke 22:7–20. In this passage, Jesus and his disciples celebrated Passover in their last supper before Jesus's crucifixion. As they shared wine from the same cup and ate bread together, Jesus commanded that they partake in these two things as a way to remember his sacrifice. The last supper—a Passover meal—was the first observation of Communion. **What thought have you given—if at all—to the connection between Passover, the last supper, and the ritual of Communion?**

Communion is a celebration of the sacrifice of Jesus. During Communion, we praise God for delivering us from the oppression of sin, just as he rescued his people from slavery in Egypt.

3. Lectio Divina: Israel's Song of Praise

In Exodus 15, Israel celebrated their escape across the Red Sea and out of Egypt by singing a song of praise to God. They watched him perform miracles through Moses

and Aaron and were witnesses to the mighty works of God.

God regularly works in our lives, but because of our tendency to live distracted lives, many of us don't recognize what God is doing around us, much less take the time to sit and thank God for all he has done.

Below are the four steps of Lectio Divina, an ancient method of biblical prayer, which will help you pray and think deeply about Moses's song in Exodus 15. Carve out some time this week to go through this exercise. This method isn't something to rush through, so make sure you have plenty of time before you start. Take your time with each step.

Lectio (Read): Remove all distractions and quiet your mind before God. Now read Exodus 15:1–19, three times slowly. If you can, read it out loud to yourself. Let the message hit you. After reading it three times, find something in the text that stands out to you. Re-read the passage a couple more times and place emphasis on different words as you read.

Meditatio (Meditate): Think about the phrase that stood out to you the most. What does it mean? What does it say about God? The human condition? How does it contribute to the main idea in the story of Exodus?

Oratio (Pray): Pray through your favorite verse or phrase. Ask God to show you what he's saying through this verse. Take the verse and turn it into a prayer. For example, you could pray, "Thank you, Jesus, that you have shed your blood for me," or, "Teach me, Holy Spirit, to find joy in celebrating God's achievements in my life."

Contemplatio (Contemplate): Now that you've read, thought, and prayed through Moses's song, finish your time in silence. Ask God to speak to you. Pray he'd show you one practical thing you could apply to your life from this passage. Then listen. Write down what he says and then do it.

4. Weekly Reading Plan

Exodus is a long book, and we won't be able to study every verse of it during each of these sessions. This reading plan will help you familiarize yourself with the entirety of the book so that you can dig more deeply into

God's Word. Some weeks will have more reading than others, so feel free to complete the daily readings at a pace that makes the most sense to your group.

Day 1: Exodus 5:1–6:27

Day 2: Exodus 6:28–10:29

Day 3: Exodus 11:1–12:51

Day 4: Exodus 13

Day 5: Exodus 14–15