

A dramatic landscape featuring a path of cracked, dry earth leading through a mountain range. The scene is framed by large, curling green waves that appear to be part of a tunnel or a protective barrier. The sky is dark blue with numerous stars, suggesting a night scene. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and divine protection.

EXODUS

SAVED FOR GOD'S GLORY

GUIDE BOOK 1

EXODUS

SAVED FOR GOD'S GLORY

EXODUS

SAVED FOR GOD'S GLORY

There is no more epic story in the bible than the book of Exodus. A people enslaved to a monstrously evil king. A child left to the waters of the Nile who would eventually become a great leader. A burning bush from which God speaks. The contest between pagan magicians and the power of the Lord. The supernatural wonder of great plagues. The parting of the Red Sea for an incredible deliverance. The miraculous provision of water and food in the wilderness. The ten commandments on stone tablets. The glory of the Lord who appears on a mountain. The idol worship of a golden calf. The construction of God's holy place to be amongst His people

Exodus is truly epic and it's no wonder this story has been the source material for Hollywood movies. But at the heart of it, Exodus is so much more than an adventure story.

IT'S A BOOK ABOUT GOD

The Exodus is the defining salvation experience for the creation of Israel, and this nation comes back to this event again and again. Many of the Psalms retell the story of Exodus, but it's never about giving focus to 'hero Moses'. It's always about God the great deliverer -

*When our ancestors were in Egypt,
they gave no thought to your miracles;
they did not remember your many kindnesses,
and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.
Yet he saved them for his name's sake,
to make his mighty power known. **Psalm 106:6-8***

IT'S A BOOK ABOUT CHRIST

The story of the bible is the story of the coming of God's own Son, Jesus the one who would 'crush the serpent's head' and lead his delivered people to the promised land. The resurrected Lord Jesus himself said that Exodus is about Him and notice how the New Testament speaks of the Exodus events -

*Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." **Luke 24:44***

*Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. **Jude 5***

IT'S A BOOK FOR US

The story of Exodus is incredibly helpful for us. Notice how the New Testament treats Exodus as highly practical for our lives -

*They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed.... Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction....**1 Corinthians 10:2-10***

So as we get to know the true God, His reality addresses our fears, anxieties, our struggles in marriage and work, and what it means to be a church community together. Exodus is divine truth for practical change.

EXODUS & GOD'S GLORY

Exodus has been described as 'the gospel of the Old Testament' and we will soon see why. But always throughout this good news – God's own glory is the very purpose of all things. See Psalm 106:6-8 (earlier), but have a look at these verses too -

*'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: "Let my people go, so that they may worship me." **Exodus 9:1***

*The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." **Exodus 14:18***

*While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. **Exodus 16:10***

*Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. **Exodus 40:34***

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (a Question and Answer tool for teaching children, families and new converts) was written in 1646, has this as its first Question and Answer:

Q: What is the chief end of man?

A: To glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Indeed as we will see in Exodus, it is also the chief end of God Himself as He brings a gracious, miraculous and promise-keeping salvation to His people. This nation of Israel is saved so they might obey, serve and worship Him and rejoice in His holy presence. This is what is made possible for us through Jesus Christ's death and His resurrection to life and Lordship.

EXODUS & MISSION



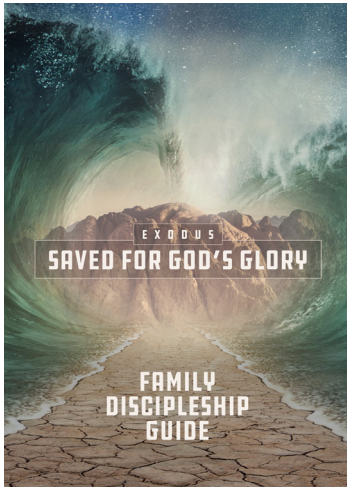
We won't quite cover all of Exodus in consecutive weeks because towards the end of the term we're going to have our next Big Questions series. Big Questions is for our friends, family and work colleagues who don't yet know Jesus.

In fact, throughout this coming term, we don't want to lose sight of God's mission to see the lost won to Christ, because even in this part of the bible which is centred on

Israel, it was always God's plan to bring salvation and hope to people beyond that one nation. That's how the gospel has come to us and that's why we want others to come to Christ as well.

Throughout these studies, look out for the **311 Prayer Challenge** where we will be praying for those who don't yet know Jesus.

EXODUS & THE FAMILY



While we long to come together as a church, in some ways the lockdown of COVID-19 has brought been helpful – it's brought home some realities about home! For parents and kids, family is the central place for disciple-making and throughout Exodus we're offering a **Family Discipleship Guide**. We're providing different ideas and resources that parents can use each week. We'd love to see you give it a go! Perhaps some new habits might form that would just be so spiritually healthy for you and your family! The Exodus Family Discipleship Guide can be found online at christcentral.org.au/exodus

EXODUS OVERVIEW

Exodus is such a rich and full part of the bible, we could easily spend 6 months on this single book of the bible. But instead our plan will be more overview. We'll cover all of Exodus in 11 sections over 12 weeks (with a week to do Big Questions). As our approach is more 'flying over the top' than down on the ground in all the detail, it's worth keeping a sense of how the book ties together. Check out this Exodus Overview on the next page.

EXODUS OVERVIEW

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1-18

REDEMPTION : GOD REDEEMS HIS PEOPLE



1

Israel oppressed as slaves in Egypt

2

The birth of Moses: God raises a deliverer

3

The burning bush: God appears to Moses

4

Moses returns to Egypt with signs for Pharaoh

5

Pharaoh works Israel harder

6

God promises deliverance

7

God VS Pharaoh: the ten plagues

8



Moses flees to Midian



11

The plague on the firstborn

12

The Passover and Exodus from Egypt

13

The Israelites consecrate their firstborn

14

Crossing the Red Sea and Pharaoh defeated

15

A song of praise to God

16

God provides food and water for Israel

17

God gives Israel victory over the Amalekites

18

Jethro instructs Moses

19-24

COVENANT : GOD MAKES A COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE



19
20
21
22
23
24

Israel gathered as God's people at Mt Sinai
God's covenant with Israel: 'the ten words'
God's laws for Israel
God confirms his covenant with the elders of Israel



25-40 **TABERNACLE : GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE**



25
26
27
28
29
30
31

God gives instructions for the tabernacle and its furnishings
God gives instructions for the priests



32
33
34
35
36
37
38

Rebellion: Israel worships the golden calf
God's glory appears to Moses
God reaffirms his covenant with the elders of Israel
The tabernacle and its furnishings are made

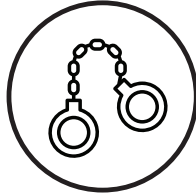
Moses intercedes for Israel



39
40

The priestly garments are made
God's glory fills the tabernacle

EXODUS 1-2



By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

Hebrews 11:23-25

Take it in turns and read all of Exodus 1-2 as a group. Before you read, take note of the Exodus Themes (see back cover of this guide book). We will discuss these later.

CONTEXT

1. How should we fit the beginning of Exodus in the bible's story so far?

- You could draw on your knowledge of our 'Joseph' series last year
- You could look at the below passages to give some important background.

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

Genesis 12:1

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him... ⁶ Abram travelled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land."

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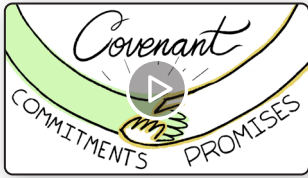
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Before Sunday, take some time for yourself to google the Bible Project Video – COVENANTS

THE STORY

2. Where is the 'drama and action' as you read this story, and what's your reaction/questions to it?

3. How should we view the actions of Pharaoh in the light the Genesis context?

4. How successful is Pharaoh in his plans? What does this reveal?

5. Using the Exodus Themes (see back cover) to help you, what do you notice about this part of the Exodus story? Talk it out as group together.

GOD, JESUS CHRIST & US

6. What do we learn about God from this passage?

7. How does this passage relate to Jesus and the gospel?

You might like to check out these verses & discuss:

2 Corinthians 1:20-22, Romans 6:16-18

8. What can we take away as examples, positive and negative, for God's people today? And in answering this, you can speak generally, but try to make it personal too.

9. Talk about how each of us should respond to this passage, whether it be -worship and praise, repentance, thankfulness, petition...



311 refers to praying for **three** people who are not saved, who don't know Jesus - for **one** minute - **once** a week. Since the start of the year we've been seeking to do the 311 prayer challenge together in our groups, but now that we're meeting together in a physical way we're keen to keep this going and especially as we approach our Big Questions series at the end of the term.

We'll be starting this next week in our growth groups



We've just started meeting at the Hub on Sundays. 50 people isn't exactly huge but it's something! It's an opportunity to break out of those homebound habits and be with your church family, meet newcomers and encourage others.

WWW.CHRISTCENTRAL.ORG.AU/HUB

Using this registration page, you can book your place at the Hub for one of the upcoming Sundays, or as another option you can also indicate that you'd like to watch the livestream with others – either going to someone's house or to be the host for others. As a church, let start gathering together. It's what God wants for his people!

STARTUP

We invite you to our 2-week course called 'Startup' which will be on Sundays 26 July and 2 August. At Startup you'll hear about our vision and the things that Christ Central is passionate about. Startup is fun too! We get to build connections as we enjoy a lunch together. Whether you've recently come to Christ Central or been part of our church for a while, we think Startup is good for everyone.

To register, go to **www.christcentral.org.au/startup** or talk to Matt Fong for more information, **matt@christcentral.org.au** , or **0413 067 702**.



BIG QUESTIONS SERIES

HOW WOULD YOU FIX THE WORLD?

Before we get into Exodus we will spend 15 mins or so thinking about the Big Questions campaign for this term.

WATCH INTRO VIDEO

Over the next month or so we as a Church are going to be asking the community **How would you fix the world?** Right now it's obvious that our world is broken, but can humanity fix it? What do your friends think is the solution to the problem? We hope that it will then open up the doors for us to meet a whole bunch of new people, but perhaps more importantly open up new conversations with the people we already know. We will then take the top 2 responses from this survey and use turn them into a 2 week Series in September, which will give us a chance to invite back our friends and also ensure that we engage in questions that the north Edge of Brisbane are caring about.

Take a moment to think through your different spheres for who we know that don't yet trust in Jesus. List as many names as you can, or perhaps you might not even know their name (lady in coffee shop, man who gets the same train as me, my neighbour who I see mowing the lawn but forget his name, person I game with).

This isn't a competition- God has placed everyone uniquely in a different stage of life and networks. Some of us will have lots of blank space, others will need more paper and that's ok!

PEOPLE I KNOW WHO AREN'T TRUSTING JESUS....

Neighbours

Family

Colleagues (current or past)

Sport/Community Activities (including kids)

School/Uni/Tafe (current or former)

People you do business with (barristas, tradies, hairdressers, shopkeepers...)

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Other family friends

People you interact with online

Other

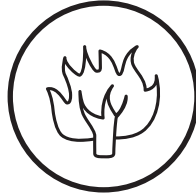
Now of all those names, choose 3 people that you could perhaps ask this question over the next month and pray for them.

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EXODUS 3-4



After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush. When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight. As he was approaching to look at it, the voice of the Lord came: I am the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob.

Acts 7:30-32

Take it in turns and read all of Exodus 3-4 as a group. Before you read, take note of the Exodus Themes (see back cover of this guide book). We will discuss these later.

CONTEXT

1. Going back to Exodus 1-2, find the times that God is actually mentioned. At a surface level, how 'involved' did God look in that first part of the Exodus story?

THE STORY

2. Where is the 'drama and action' as you read this story, and what's your reaction/questions to it?

3. What do you make of the way God describes himself in Exodus 3:14?



Before Sunday, take sometime for yourself to google the Bible Project Video – YHWEH – “LORD”

4. Identify the number of times Moses makes an excuse and the how God responds.

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5. Using the Exodus Themes (see back cover) to help you, what do you notice about this part of the Exodus story? Talk it out as group together.

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GOD, JESUS CHRIST & US

6. What do we learn about God from this passage?

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7. How does this passage relate to Jesus and the gospel?

You might like to check out these verses & discuss:

John 1:18, John 8:24, 54-57, Matthew 2:13-15; Galatians 4:4

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8. What can we take away as examples, positive and negative, for God's people today? And in answering this, you can speak generally, but try to make it personal too.

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9. Talk about how each of us should respond to this passage, whether it be -worship and praise, repentance, thankfulness, petition...

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EXODUS 5-10



Moses regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Hebrews 11:26

Take it in turns and read all of Exodus 5-7 as a group. Before you read, take note of the Exodus themes will be discussing later.

THE STORY

1. Where is the 'drama and action' as you read this story, and what's your reaction/questions to it?

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2. In these early moments of Moses' confrontation with Pharaoh, what do we learn about this ruler of Egypt?

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3. What do we learn about the Israelites from these chapters in Exodus?

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4. See Exodus 6:1; 6:6-8 & 7:3-5. According to the LORD, what are His purposes in His dealing with Pharaoh and the Israelites?

Note - Exodus 6:6 is the first time that we encounter the important biblical word, 'redeem'. Later on, the Israelites will sing to the LORD who redeemed them (Exodus 15:13).

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5. It's worth noting something about the words "work" and "worship" in these chapters. The words translated "work/working" in 5:9 and 11, and "servant" in 5:15-16 have the same root word as "worship" in Exodus 4:23. It's like we might say "church service" ie. to serve is to work. This word for Israel's service of God as they worship him at the tabernacle will appear many times later in the book of Exodus. What's at stake in this contest between Pharaoh or the LORD?

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Now take it in turns to read Exodus 8-10.

6. What do you notice about the power of Pharaoh's magicians as the various plagues come to Egypt?

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7. What do you notice about Pharaoh's willingness to let the Israelites go as the various plagues come to Egypt?

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8. What do you notice about how God continues to speak of His purposes in sending these various plagues to Egypt?

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GOD, JESUS CHRIST & US

9. How do these verses relate to Jesus and the gospel?

You might like to check out any of these verses & discuss:

Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 9:14-24

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10. What can we take away as examples, positive and negative, for God's people today? And in answering this, you can speak generally, but try to make it personal too.

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11. Talk about how each of us should respond to this passage, whether it be -worship and praise, repentance, thankfulness, petition...

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311 refers to praying for **three** people who are not saved, who don't know Jesus - for **one** minute - **once** a week. Since the start of the year we've been seeking to do the 311 prayer challenge together in our groups, but now that we're meeting together in a physical way we're keen to keep this going and especially as we approach our Big Questions series at the end of the term.

Write down 3 friends that you will be praying for and spend 1 minutes praying for them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



We'd love to see you at the Hub on a Sunday morning soon. To book your place or to let us know you'd like to host or be hosted at someone's house to watch the livestream with others, go to...

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Our next Church Picnic is on Sunday 9 August. It's a great time to get together as a church family. We'd love to see you there!

WWW.CHRISTCENTRAL.ORG.AU/PICNICS



BIG QUESTIONS SERIES

HOW WOULD YOU FIX THE WORLD?

WATCH VIDEO 2

In pairs, think about 1 person that you could ask the question HOW WOULD YOU FIX THE WORLD? this week. Describe that person very briefly to your partner and role play how you would approach asking this question. Pull out your phone and go to christcentral.org.au/survey. Ask a follow up question like "can I ask why you chose that question?" Remember the goal is not to preach at them just to start a conversation and listen to them.

Write down when and where you would like to ask that person this week

When?

Where?

In pairs share how you are feeling about asking this person(s) and pray for each other for boldness and the opportunity that you would be able to ask this question this week.

Obviously ask as many as possible, but again we are all at different places! for some of us we might be daunted at the idea of asking 1 whereas others will ask 5 people without batting an eye lid. In the next couple of weeks we will be sharing how we went asking people.

EXODUS 11-13



By faith Moses kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn might not touch the Israelites.

Hebrews 11:28

Take it in turns and read all of Exodus 5-7 as a group. Before you read, take note of the Exodus themes will be discussing later.

THE CONTEXT

1. With the first nine plagues, what have we seen in terms of Pharaohs' character and purposes, and also God's character and purposes? (you could go back to Exodus 9:13-17 to jog your memory).

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THE STORY

Take it in turns and read all of Exodus 11-13:16 as a group. Before you read, take note of the Exodus themes will be discussing later.

2. As a group, test yourself and see if you can go off by memory to list all the elements of what the Israelites was called to do on the night of the Passover? Try to be as detailed as you can.

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3. In can't be that blood was daubed on the houses of Israel because God needed a mark to tell who was on the inside! What do you think this means?

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4. Following the night of the Passover, how would you characterise Israel's departure out of Egypt?

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Even as far back as the LORD's appearance to Abram, this time was spoken about (Genesis 15:13-14). Pharaoh has been the promised 'detour' (a 430 year detour into slavery followed by an incredible deliverance) along the way to God fulfilling his covenant promise to bring great blessing to the nation of Israel and ultimately to all the world.

5. This section of Exodus is not only the gripping story of the Passover, it's also interspersed with rules for commemorations in the future. What does this tell us about this moment in Israel's history?

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6. Why do you think it's important for foreigners to become Jews in order to share in the celebration of the Exodus (v43-49)?

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7. As you were reading, did you pick up references to children and sons (12v26 & 13v14). What does this say about the purpose of these commemoration moments?

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GOD, JESUS CHRIST & US

8. What do we learn about God from these verses?

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9. How do these verses relate to Jesus and the gospel?

You might like to check out any of these verses & discuss:

Luke 22:1-19; John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:13-19, Revelation 5.

10. What can we take away as examples, positive and negative, for God's people today? And in answering this, you can speak generally, but try to make it personal too.

11. Talk about how each of us should respond to this passage, whether it be -worship and praise, repentance, thankfulness, petition...



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

If you're a parent of young kids, have you tried our new Family Discipleship Guide yet? You can start doing it any week and you can find it at christcentral.org.au/exodus Christian parents have a great responsibility to help our children know and remember what Jesus our Passover Lamb did for us.



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BIG QUESTIONS SERIES

HOW WOULD YOU FIX THE WORLD?

WATCH VIDEO 3

In pairs (same as last time if possible) share how you have gone asking the question. Share with the rest of the group how the conversations have been going and also how you have found it personally. Was it hard to find people to ask, to start the conversation, or once they had answered to follow up the conversation? Pray in pairs for each other and for your friends.

Share any stories of encouragement, or hardship with the group.

EXODUS 13-15



By faith they crossed the Red Sea as though they were on dry land. When the Egyptians attempted to do this, they were drowned.

Hebrews 11:29

Take it in turns and read all of Exodus 13:17-14:31 as a group. Before you read, take note of the Exodus Themes (see back cover of this guide book). We will discuss these later.

THE STORY

1. Where is the 'drama and action' as you read this story, and what's your reaction/questions to it?

2. According to the words of the LORD, why will He deliver the Israelites through the incredible event of the Red Sea crossing (14v3-4 & v17-18)?

3. What is it about the Israelites in this moment that shows that the LORD is not saving them because they somehow deserve it?

4. Using the Exodus Themes (see back cover) to help you, what do you notice about this part of the Exodus story? Talk it out as a group together.

5. Spend some time discussing Moses' words to the people in 14:13-14. In particular discuss the meaning of:

a) 'Do not be afraid'

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b) 'Stand firm'

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b) '...be still'

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After the LORD's stunning victory, Israel sings a jubilant song, complete with a special women's tamborine and dancing ensemble! **Read Exodus 15**, while taking note of what it says about what God has done and what He will do.

GOD, JESUS CHRIST & US

6. How does this incredible rescue event relate to Jesus and the gospel?

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7. What can we take away as important for God's people today? If you can, relate it to those three instructions of Exodus 14:13-14.

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8. Talk about how each of us should respond to this passage, whether it be – worship and praise, repentance, thankfulness, petition.

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EXODUS PLAYLIST

🔍 CHRIST CENTRAL EXODUS

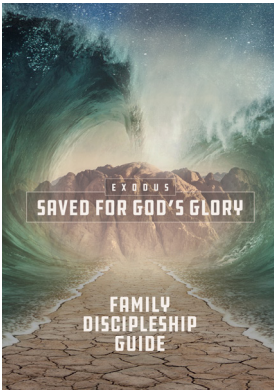


Moses and Israel sung a song in praise of God (Exodus 15). They sung of the Lord who is all powerful and mighty - the Warrior who overthrows His enemies. Disciples of Jesus sing songs of praise too. At your place this week, take time to play our Exodus **Spotify**, **Apple Music** or **YouTube Music** Playlist. Just search for "*Christ Central Exodus*"



MEN'S CAMPOUT

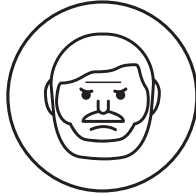
This coming Friday, get away with other guys for a night around the fire at a property in Moorina (just west of Burpengary). For more info, contact Dan Vreeling, **0458 601 474**.



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

If you're a parent of young kids, have you tried our new Family Discipleship Guide yet? You can start doing it any week and you can find it at christcentral.org.au/exodus Christian parents have a great responsibility to help our children know Jesus but we can be assured it's only God who changes hearts.

EXODUS 16-18



"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion during the time of testing in the wilderness."

Hebrews 3:7-8

THE CONTEXT

1. How do you think the Israelites are feeling from last week's chapters? In particular, how do you think they are feeling towards God?

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THE STORY

Take it in turns and read all of Exodus 15:22-18:27 as a group. Before you read, take note of the Exodus Themes (see back cover of this guide book). We will discuss these later.

Make a list of the Israelite responses – positive and negative, throughout these chapters.

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2. Do you find the Israelite response surprising? What do you think is behind the attitude of grumbling?

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3. How would you describe God's dealings with Israel during these episodes?

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4. What is Jethro's response to hearing of news of the Exodus? How is this moment a fulfilment of God's purposes?

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GOD, JESUS CHRIST & US

5. What do we learn about God from these verses?

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Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 where Paul uses the events of these chapters as examples and warnings for us who live in light of Christ's salvation.

6. How might you be tempted to grumbling or unfaithfulness to God?

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7. What practices might be helpful to implement to ensure diligence in our relationship with God?

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Talk about how each of us should respond to this passage, whether it be -worship and praise, repentance, thankfulness, petition...



This year we have been thinking about 3 friends that don't yet know Jesus and trying to pray for them at least once a week.

Write their names down again and pray to commit them to the LORD

1.

2.

3.



Women of Faith

An afternoon of stories of faith

Saturday 29 August @ the Hub
2:30-4:30pm

A high tea afternoon with stories of faith from the women of Christ Central for the women of Christ Central.

Register at christcentral.org/faith

WOMEN OF FAITH

Join other women for an afternoon of high tea and hearing real stories of God at work. Saturday afternoon 29 August. Book your place using the registration page - christcentral.org/faith

EXODUS 19



But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

Hebrews 12:22-23

Take it in turns and read all of Exodus 19 & Exodus 20:18-21 as a group.

Before you read, take note of the Exodus Themes (see back cover of this guide book). We will discuss these later.

CONTEXT



Before growth group - take some time for yourself to google the Bible Project Video - "The Book of Exodus Part 1 of 2"

In the light of Exodus 3:11-12 how should we view the moment of Israel coming to this mountain?

THE STORY

1. Where is the 'drama and action' as you read this story, and what's your reaction/questions to it?

2. Because God is utterly holy, there are limits to how the people can approach Him. How does this play out in this moment with Moses and the Israelites at the mountain?

3. How many different times can you find that Moses goes up or down the mountain? Moses isn't even a young man, perhaps 80 years old at this point! What does this tell us about his role?

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It's worth noting that this moment can be called 'the day of the church/gathering'. In Deuteronomy 9:10, the greek word for assembly/gathering/church is all the same thing. As Israel came together to hear the voice of God and worship Him - they 'churched'. Let's keep remembering - church is not a building, institution or denomination. Rather, church is the gathered people who come to their holy LORD to hear Him and worship Him.

4. Using the Exodus Themes (see back cover) to help you, what do you notice about this part of the Exodus story? Talk it out as a group together.

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GOD, JESUS CHRIST & US

5. What do we learn about God from this passage?

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6. In the light of Exodus 19:3-6 & 1 Peter 2:9-11, how should we view the church's purpose and mission?

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7. What do you think it means to 'not be afraid and yet fear' (Exodus 20:20) as followers of Jesus today?

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8. Talk about how each of us should respond to this passage, whether it be – worship and praise, repentance, thankfulness, petition.

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PRAYER FOR THE BIRCHLEYS

As we have seen in Exodus God is on about making his glory known to the world, which is why our prayer at Christ Central is to see a flood of lifelong disciples across the north edge of Brisbane and beyond. Spend a few minutes praying for God's mission across the world, in particular our mission partners the Birchleys in PNG.

EXODUS 20-24



*Moses was in the assembly in the wilderness,
with the angel who spoke to him on Mount
Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received
living words to pass on to us.*

Acts 7:38

Take it in turns and read all of Exodus 20-21:1 as a group. Before you read, take note of the Exodus Themes (see back cover of this guide book). We will discuss these later.

CONTEXT

The giving of the law at Mt Sinai is part of **'the Mosaic covenant'** (Exodus 24:7-8). This builds on God's previous promise of blessing to Abraham and his descendants, **'the Abrahamic covenant'** (Genesis 15:17-18, Exodus 2:23-25). It's worth noticing that both times involved sacrifice and blood.

THE STORY

1. Thinking about their previous existence as slaves under their great oppressor of Pharaoh, what makes these laws so right and good for the new nation of Israel?

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2. Why do you think 'the 10 commandments' starts with the words of v1-6?

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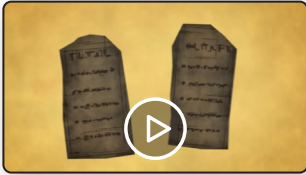
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We won't read all of this section today, but **take it in turns to read Exodus 21:2-22:31.**

3. As a group discuss how in various ways you see laws that either don't make sense to you at all, or in fact convey justice and mercy, or represent moral devotion to the holy LORD.

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Before Sunday, take some time for yourself to Google the Bible Project Video – “The Law”.

GOD, JESUS CHRIST & US

4. Let's delve into the weighty and much discussed subject of how relevant (or not) the law of Israel is to God's people today. You might like to check out some of these verses & discuss:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (the promise of **'a new covenant'**)

Matthew 5:17-20

Mark 12:28-31

Romans 3:20-23

Romans 7:6

Romans 13:8-10

Galatians 5:22-26

5. When it comes to the law, why can we be so thankful for Jesus?

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6. Talk about how each of us should respond to this passage, whether it be – worship and praise, repentance, thankfulness, petition.

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Spend a couple of minutes in pairs praying for your 3-1-1 friends. If you have any stories of encouragement share them with each other.



BIG QUESTIONS SERIES

HOW WOULD YOU FIX THE WORLD?

Next Week is our Big Questions series where we will, give a talk on the top two responses we've received from our community survey. Pray for the visitors who will be with us and pray for boldness that we might extend an invitation ourselves.

EXODUS THEMES

GLORY

God is other. He is holy. He is transcendent. He deserves our worship.

REDEMPTION

God delivers his people from slavery.

POWER

Signs & wonders. The contest of who is more powerful.

COVENANT

Promise & Faithfulness. A binding contract that creates relationship and also means implications for right response.

BIG GOD & THE LITTLE PEOPLE

Everyday people display courage & wisdom, along with doubt and a lack of faith too.

SACRIFICE

The spilling of blood that brings judgement and death, but also rescue and life.

MISSION

God's blessing not only for Israel, but for the world around.

GOD'S PRESENCE

The 'above-ness' of God but also the 'among-ness' of God.

SIN & GRACE

Doubt, Rebellion, Consequence, and yet God's unrelenting commitment.

CREATION

Humanity was expelled from the garden at the fall, but God has New Creation planned for his redeemed people.