

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**The Lord of Redemption**

EXODUS 7:8-13:22

OVERVIEW

God's chosen people are in Egypt. Not only that, they are enslaved. Against the backdrop of God's promises in Genesis—that God's people would be in God's place—the current situation seems dire. Has the Lord forgotten his promises? The story of Exodus reveals God's faithfulness in redeeming his people from bondage into his presence. The way out? Not by human might. By faith in God's promise to deliver through a blood sacrifice. The Lord does all of this so that all people might know he is the Lord and his people might rightly fear him, worshipping him in all things. The Greek title for the book (or shall we say, this chapter of the Pentateuch) is *Exodus*, a word meaning "exit, departure or going out."

APPLY // EXODUS 5-6

Main Idea: The Lord's ways are not our ways, and he delivers his people in an unexpected way.

1. Read Exodus 5.
2. How does Pharaoh remind us of the dangers and deceit of sin? Why does sin result in bondage?
3. Why are we tempted to respond like the Israelites and Moses? Why can help us when we respond this way?
4. Read Exodus 6:1-9.
5. How can we use the Lord's answer to Moses to help us in times of discouragement?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // EXODUS 7-13

Main Idea: The Lord wants everyone to know he is the Lord and there is no other, so he delivers his people by his might and grace, as they take shelter under the blood of a substitute.

1. Read Exodus 7:8-13.
2. What happened when Moses and Aaron gave the sign that was intended to prove their authority from God? What is the meaning of these signs? How does this prepare us for and foreshadow what's getting ready to take place?
3. Read Exodus 7:14-13:22.
 - a. This will take about 15-20 minutes.
 - b. You can also ask your group to read this in full before CG.
4. What is the main point of the plagues?
 - a. See 7:5, 17; 8:10; 9:14, 16; 10:1-2
 - b. NOTE: It's common to read/hear that each plague was a direct attack against one of Egypt's gods. That may be historically true. But the text of Scripture doesn't tell us.

Be careful when discussing the main point to let the inspired text of Scripture be your guide.

5. See chart for summary of plagues.

	Passage	Warning	Origin	Egyptian court	Distinction for Israel?	Pharaoh's heart
1. Blood	7:14-24	Yes		Replicate sign		Became hard
2. Frogs	7:25 – 8:15	Yes	Water	Replicate sign		Hardened by Pharaoh
3. Gnats	8:16-19	None	Land	Fail to replicate sign		Was hard
4. Flies	8:20-32	Yes			Yes	Hardened by Pharaoh
5. Livestock	9:1-7	Yes			Yes	Was unyielding
6. Boils	9:8-12	None	Soot	Can't stand before Moses		Hardened by the LORD
7. Hail	9:13-35	Yes	Sky	Harden their hearts	Yes	Hardened by Pharaoh
8. Locusts	10:1-20	Yes	Wind	Ask Pharaoh to submit		Hardened by the LORD
9. Darkness	10:21-29	None	Sky		Yes	Hardened by the LORD
10. Death	11:1-10	Yes		Regard Moses highly	Yes	Hardened by the LORD

- Over the course of the plagues, what repeated phrases/themes do you observe? What is the significance of these repetitions?
- What main truths do the plagues teach us about the Lord?
- Notice that for 5 plagues, a distinction is made for Israel. What does this tell us about the Lord?
- What do you notice about Pharaoh's responses to each of the plagues as they progress?
- What are the final two plagues? What is the significance of darkness and death? Compare this with Genesis 1.
- Why do you think God systematically worked through 10 plagues instead of just a few, or even one?
- Discuss the details of the Passover in chapter 12.
 - When was it to be observed? (12:2-3, 6)
 - What was to be eaten? (12:3-8)
 - How to prepare the meal (12:8-10)
 - What ingredient to exclude (12:14-20)
 - How to dress (12:11)
 - Where to place the blood of the lamb (12:22)
 - The purpose of the observance (12:12-13, 23)
- How does the Exodus teach us about God's judgment? How does the Passover teach us about God's grace?
- The story of Passover is filled with shadows that find their fulfillment in Christ. As a group, discuss as many as you can find. Bonus points for citing New Testament references.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How is your attitude toward the Lord?