

/ E X O D U S /

D R A W N C L O S E R T O G O D

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your time together praying for the following:

- *For the Lord to increase your desire to read God's Word.*
- *For the Lord to give you understanding as you read and study his Word as a Life Group.*
- *Thank the Lord for giving his Word and to know the story of Exodus.*
- *For God to open your eyes to the ways he draws us closer to Him.*

OVERVIEW

The first two chapters of Exodus set the stage for the rest of the book. As Israel expands into a great nation, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham (Gen 12:2), Pharaoh oppresses them and seeks to curtail their growth. The birth of Moses is presented as the climactic, ironic reversal of Pharaoh's oppressive attempts, hinting that Moses will be a key means by which God will rescue his people. The notice at the end of chapter 2, that "God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob" (Ex. 2:24), prepares us to see God act further on his promises to his people and bring Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land.¹

STUDY AND APPLY

Read: Exodus, Chapter 1

1. In Genesis, God created humanity in his "image", which means (in part) that God designed humans to serve as his representatives on earth. Then, he commanded humanity to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Genesis 1:22). The wording from Exodus 1:7 is strikingly similar to the wording from Genesis 1. What does this imply about Israel's purpose? What does it indicate about God's faithfulness?
2. How does the failure of Pharaoh's plans to extinguish Israel encourage you as you look past what is happening in the world today?
3. From the time Jacob arrived in Egypt with his family to the time of the Exodus from Egypt, 400 years had passed. What do you think the Israelites thought regarding God's promises? God's Character?
4. Having to wait is part of being human, but waiting through trial and hardship is particularly difficult. Have someone read Hebrews 10:35-39. How does it relate to Israel's situation in the opening lines of Exodus? How is it relevant to your current circumstances?
5. The sermon addresses 3 qualities of faith: A faith that trusts, expects, is patient. Was there a quality of faith that particularly struck you? How does this change the way you pray, think, or act this week?

PRAY

¹ Newkir, Matthew R.. Exodus (Knowing the Bible) (p. 16). Crossway. Kindle Edition.