

/ E X O D U S /

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

OPEN

Have a group member (or 2) read **Exodus 4:18-31**

STUDY AND APPLY

1. What further information do we get about God's plan in **4:18-23**?
2. God is teaching Moses an important lesson in his divine providence. The Westminster Confession of Faith defines God's providence as *"God's holy, wise, and powerful preserving, sustaining, and governing all his creation, and their actions—according to his good purposes and glory."* How does this passage demonstrate the divine providence of God?
3. *What biblical truths about God's nature, character, or relationship to his people are revealed in 4:18-23?*

Why was God going to kill Moses in 4:24-26? (Read the following paragraph aloud)

It would appear that God's anger and judgment is on Moses in this scene and God is going to kill Moses. Zipporah, his wife, is somehow able to discern this and also able to discern that his problem is spiritual in nature and related to his failure to circumcise his son as God's covenant with Abraham commanded. The cutting away of unneeded flesh was a sign of God's cutting away of sin, through the shedding of blood. It also had another significance—a warning—that if anyone would break God's covenant, they would be "cut off" from God and his blessings. God requires us to obey him in public matters and in private ones and Moses' unrepentant sin made him unfit to be God's human rescuer for his people. Indeed, as soon as Zipporah performed the act, the Lord "let him alone". We may be casual about sin but God is not. God takes sin so seriously that the only way to forgive sin is through a sacrifice—the shedding of blood. In the midst of this strange and bizarre episode we have an important theological point—If we are to be recipients of God's affection and love we must somehow be made right with him. And as Hebrews 9:22 tells us, "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

4. This ritual in blood from 4:24-26, like most blood rituals in the Bible, point to the cross of Jesus. Discuss all/ any correlations from our Exodus passage to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross that you can think of. How is Jesus' blood sacrifice better?
5. How do the people respond to Aaron and Moses' message? What does it look like for us to believe this way in our lives? In our day-to-day?

PRAY