

# 5

## Group Guide

# God's People in Egypt

*February 4, 2024*

**Main Passage: Exodus 1:8-17; 3:1-15**

## Theological Theme

God had a plan to rescue His people from their slavery, which included sending Moses to lead them to the promised land. We have also been enslaved to sin and need a Savior, so God sent Jesus to rescue and deliver us.

## Introduction

- ? There was a shift over the time recorded between the end of Genesis and the beginning of Exodus. Why did the Egyptians begin to view the Israelites as a threat? What are other examples of this type of tension rising between groups in the world?
- ? When evil happens, how does it encourage you to know God sees and cares?

## 1. The Suffering of God's People (Exodus 1:8-17)

After Joseph was sold into slavery, God used him to provide for the world during a famine that he predicted in Pharaoh's dream. Because of the famine, the rest of Joseph's family also migrated to Egypt (Genesis 37-50). The twelve sons of Israel, who became the twelve tribes of Israel, settled and thrived in the foreign land of Egypt. Years passed and leaders changed until no one was still around who remembered what Joseph had done to protect and save the land of Egypt. Instead of looking with favor on the Israelites, the new king over Egypt looked at the growing number of foreigners and felt threatened.

- ? Why do you think Pharaoh was so threatened by the Israelites? Why do we often feel threatened by outsiders today?
- ? When was a time your circumstances seemed dire, but God was still working in your life?
- ? Application: What is a decision you are faced with where you must choose between honoring God or obeying man? What makes these decisions difficult?

## 2. The Mediator of God's People (Exodus 3:1-6)

Because the midwives feared and respected God more than man, a Jewish baby named Moses was spared and raised in the palace of Pharaoh as chapter 2 describes in detail. Because of his own actions, Moses ended up tending his father-in-law's sheep in the desert, far removed from palace life. After forty years of living in obscurity, Moses suddenly found himself in the spotlight of the Lord's plans.



How do you make yourself available to be used by the Lord on a regular basis?



How has the Lord invited you to join in on what He is doing?



Application: How do you respond when you recognize God is speaking to you or your community? In what sense is this always true?

### 3. The Deliverance of God's People (Exodus 3:7-15)

God explained His plan of deliverance to Moses, His chosen leader. The Israelites had cried out to the Lord in their distress, and God had heard their cries and cared about them. To fulfill a promise made to the patriarchs several hundred years earlier, God made it clear that this was the time for His people to take possession of Canaan.



Why do you think God uses humans to bring about His plans instead of just doing it all on His own? How have you seen God use ordinary people to fulfill His plans?



Why is it empowering to focus more on who God is than on our own abilities?



Application: How is God calling you to step out in faith and trust Him right now?

### Conclusion

God is always aware of what is happening, and He cares deeply about His people. The children of Israel had been flourishing in Egypt until Pharaoh enslaved them, seeking to keep them in line. He made their lives miserable, and they cried out to the Lord for deliverance. All people have been enslaved by sin and evil and our best recourse is to cry out to the Lord as the Israelites did.



How have you experienced the enslaving power of sin?



How is it comforting to know God is aware of all things and He cares about you?



Where do you need to trust in the power of the Lord instead of your own strength? How can this group support one another in that?