

Exodus Leader's Guide

What is our goal for those you are leading? Most simply I would say that we want them to follow Jesus, to be His disciples for life. Our 2 Timothy study showed us the value of the Scriptures to teach, reprove, correct and train us. To follow Jesus we need to interact with Him through His word, and the Gospel of Mark gave us an eyewitness account of Jesus' life and teaching. Exodus will take us back to the foundational events of the Old Testament.

The packet your group will receive will help them to spend time in the passage over the week and give them a few questions to think about. Our hope is that it would serve as training wheels that prepare them to study other books on their own. We would like for the material to give a basic framework and a place to record ideas as the student reads Exodus.

As the leader you will need to use your group time well. There is so much to this book that you will not be able to discuss it all. As with the Essentials of Spiritual Multiplication study, it would be helpful to use the process of Connect, Hear, Apply, and Tell.

Before the study:

Everyone in the group needs to work through the section for that week. Their participation in the discussion will be much more profitable that way.

During the study: (if 1:15 for this part of the small group time)

Connect: (around 10 minutes)

You want to connect the group to each other and to the topic for the week. It would be a good time to review what you've covered so far. Maybe ask a question or introduce an idea that relates to the week's topic.

Hear: (around 50 minutes)

Now you want to 'hear' what the Bible has to say through observation (what does it say?) and interpretation (what does it mean?). It may be helpful to read through the passage out loud together and then walk through it from beginning to end asking what was observed and what questions they had. With some of the longer passages you may need to focus on a portion of it. After you've moved through the passage, it's a good time to pull it together by asking, "What do you think is the main idea of the section?" or "What is Moses' point here?"

Apply: (around 10 minutes)

We don't want to end the semester just smarter. We want the Word to change our lives. You can't force those in your small group to take this step, but you can make sure you take the step yourself. And you can create an environment that assists your group in applying the scriptures to their lives. You want everyone to think about how they should live in light of what they've just learned or been reminded of. This needs to be practical and specific. Such as: 'I'm going to serve my roommate by keeping my part of the room clean and asking how I can pray for him' verses 'I'm going to be a better roommate.'

Tell: (around 5 minutes)

This is one more step in application and it's huge. If you tell someone what you've learned from reading the Bible it's much easier to continue engaging in spiritual things with that person and it may lead to an opportunity to share the Gospel. It also helps us to see that Bible study isn't just for us to know more and it's not just that *we* would live differently, but that we would share with others what has been given to us from the Lord. We must pass on what we've been given. This is an essential step in the process of spiritual multiplication.

First Week

So what will you do this week? This first week you need to give the material to those in your group and explain how it works (i.e. doing the work before hand). This means you need to be familiar with the format of the study to orient those in your group. Also, it would be good for you to read through the book. Spend a few minutes of your time discussing God's big picture and where Exodus fits into it.

The next week covers **Exodus' introduction, chapters 1-2**. Show them how to work through those first 2 chapters. Remind them how to observe, interpret, and apply.

Each week the front side of the material gives them space to write, and then the back asks them 3 to 5 **questions** to help them process the section. Also, there are **boxes for tracking themes**. The Most important thing to get out of Exodus is who is God. The first box gives a space to record what is learned about Him. The second theme is what they learn about Moses and his interaction with God and his leadership. The third theme is the response that people have to God and Moses. As you read you will see people responding with faith, anger, grumbling, and misunderstanding. This box gives a place to note these responses. The last 2 boxes give a space to record personal application and who they can tell about what they have learned of God. Please help your group get to these last boxes and encourage one another to live them out.

Also there is a page for **chapter titles**. Please show them this so they can start to fill in their titles as they go. I hope this gives them a sense of the big picture and helps them dig into the rich soil of Exodus.

Thanks for leading! Please feel free to ask any questions you have along the way. I will be teaching it too. Brian.white@uscm.org 979-574-6933

Exodus Student's Guide

This is going to be a great semester!

Remember, our goal in Bible Study is not merely to know more information, but it is to learn from the Lord and be transformed by Him to be more like Jesus. Paul's goal was to present every man complete in Christ. To accomplish this he emphasized the value of the Scriptures as he exhorted Timothy that they are profitable to teach, reprove, correct and train us that we may be adequate, prepared for every good work.

This packet is designed to help you dig into the book of Exodus **and** be prepared to study other books on your own in the future. We have not packed it full of questions or our opinions, but have packed it full of space for you to record and reflect on God. Who is He? What has He said and done? How do I respond to Him?... Our hope is that you would spend lots of time in the book and that time would not be driven by the need to fill in answers to our questions, but will be driven by your personal hunger to know the Lord.

Like most things in life: **You will get out of it what you put into it.**

If you just show up to your Bible study time you will be living off of others (would you let them chew your food for you?). Also, if you spend one day a week on Exodus (would you eat once a week?), you will be missing out on what you could gain by soaking in it. Here is a suggested way to use your week if you were in Exodus 5 days:

- Day 1 pray and **read** through the passage for the week.
- Day 2 pray and **read** through the passage for the week.
- Day 3 pray and read through the passage making **observations** and asking questions in the work space provided
- Day 4 review the passage, **consider** the questions we have asked, **consult** outside resources as needed (ie. Netbible, soniclight.com), add to your **chapter titles** page.
- Day 5 focus on how to **apply the passage** to your life.

Then as you come together with others you will be able to discuss the passage and learn from each other. Given the length of the book, you may not get to every question that is raised. However, your group's goal is to help you all grow in Christ likeness.

As with any book it is helpful to read it through as often as you can. It may be helpful to listen to it or read it in a few different versions over the semester as well. Like our study of Mark, Exodus is a narrative, it tells a story. We will be taking 2-3 chapters most weeks. It may be helpful to think of the paragraphs as different scenes in a movie. Look for the relationships between the characters in the scene and look for connections from one scene to the next.

Observation: What does it say?

Start by looking for the basics:

Who – Who is performing or receiving the action?

What – What is occurring?

When – When is it occurring? Is there a sequence of events?

Where – Where is the action occurring? Does the location change within the paragraph?

Why – What is the goal or purpose for the action? Who benefits?

How – What is the means or manner for accomplishing the action?

Key Words (especially theologically important terms)

Important Connectives - Indicate relationships within and between paragraphs; such as...

after, then, as, until, before, when, now, while, because, for, since, so, therefore, thus, in order that, but.

Grammatical Construction - How does each word function in the sentence?

Verbs - What are the actions? Note the tense of the verb (when is the action performed)

Is there a list of commands?

Noun - name of a person, place, thing or quality

Adjective & Adverb - modifies or describes something

Figures of speech - Non-literal language (e.g. “I am the bread of life”)

Comparison: points out the similarities between two or more related ideas, or simply joining like ideas.

“...he will be **like** a tree firmly planted ...”(Ps.1:2-3)

Contrast: points out dissimilarities between thoughts or ideas. This indicator is often easily identified by the use of the word “but.”

“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident... **But** the fruit of the Spirit is...” (Galatians 5:19-23)

Questions: structure is built around questions posed and answered by the author (or a hypothetical opponent created by the author).

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?” (Rom.6:1)

Repetition: reiteration of the same word or phrase (when a similar but not exact word, phrase or idea is repeated it is known as continuity)

Progression of Ideas: the movement of ideas from general to particular (Matt. 6:1-18) or particular to gen. (Jas 2).

Cause to Effect: the passage first states the cause and then directly correlates the effects. Romans 1:18-31 demonstrates the cause (rejection of God) and the effect (God gave them over). See also Romans 6:23.

Effect to Cause: opposite of cause to effect, the author states the effect and then substantiates it by stating the cause. In Romans 8:18-27 Paul describes the effect of longing, and in 8:28-30 he describes the cause, which is our certain future glorification.

Summarization: the author gathers the main ideas he has been trying to communicate and restates them in a summary. For examples see Hebrews 8:1-2 and Joshua 12.

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Observation is answering ‘what does it say?’ In interpretation you are asking ‘what does this mean?’ Or better ‘what does Moses mean here?’ As you observe, ask lots of questions like

What does this word mean?

Why does he use this analogy?

What does Paul mean when he says we “were dead”?

Answering these questions is interpretation. Remember creativity in interpretation is not a virtue. Start your search for answers within the immediate context. Also, consider what others say now (your small group, pastor...) as well as in the past (commentaries). **Your goal is to discern the author’s intended meaning.**

Application: How does this touch my life?

Once you have discovered the universal principle(s) from the text, then you move to application. How does this truth connect to my life? By putting your application in words you begin to hold yourself accountable for becoming a doer of the Word. Some basic guidelines for application are: 1) focus on the main themes expressed by the author; 2) keep it short; 3) make it practical. An example of an application from Matthew 28:18-20 is “Wherever I am, I should proclaim the gospel to all men in hope of making some disciples.” Consider the following questions for application:

- Is there an example for me to follow or avoid? (Genesis 34; Joshua 1:9)
- Is there a sin or error for me to avoid? (1 Cor. 5:1)
- Is there a promise for me to claim? (Heb. 13:5)
- Is there a prayer for me to repeat? (Eph. 3:14-21)
- Is there a command for me to obey? (2 Timothy 2:22)
- Is there a condition for me to meet? (John 15:5)
- Is there a verse for me to memorize? (Psalm 119:11)
- Is there conviction from the Spirit to which I must respond? (1 Thess. 5:19)

Relate the application to your various relationships. Ask yourself, How should this application affect my attitudes, thoughts or actions:

- In relationship to God
- In relationship to myself
- In relationship to my family
- In relationship to my Christian friends
- In relationship to my non-Christians friends and the world
- In relationship to my adversary

Create a plan of action

So, what will I do today, or this week, or this month to implement this application? Who will I ask to hold me accountable? How and when will I evaluate my progress? A plan of action for our application from Matthew 28 might look something like this:

By the power of the Holy Spirit I commit myself to asking my neighbor to lunch this week. I commit to daily pray for his salvation and for the opportunity to present a verbal witness to him during lunch. I will ask my Bible study leader to hold me accountable to initiate this plan by asking me next week if I have followed through.

Exodus

Chapter Titles	28
As you read through a book, one way to begin to understand the flow is to give each Chapter a title. Keep it to a few words, but let it be descriptive enough to distinguish it's contribution to the book.	29
1	30
2	31
3	32
4	33
5	34
6	35
7	36
8	37
9	38
10	39
11	40
12	
13	
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26	
27	

Exodus

lesson 1
Exodus 1-2

Observations & Questions

(Use this section each week to record your observations and questions from the passage)

Exodus

After you have spent time in the passage, this section will give a few questions to consider.

Describe the setting /situation for the people of Israel.

What is a repeated word in Chapter 1? How does it relate to previous revelation? (Look at Gen. 1:26-28, 9:7, 12:1-3)

What events do these parts of chapter 2 show? How does God begin to work against the oppression of Pharaoh?

2:1-10

2:11-15

2:16-22

2:23-25

What is your situation? What difficulties are you facing?

These boxes are for recording 3 themes and your application

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I've learned of God?

Exodus

This is a key passage in God's revelation of Himself.
What does 3:6-9 show about Him? What is He going to do and why?

In 3:10 God brings Moses into His plan to rescue His people. This sparks the dialogue that follows. What are Moses' objections and God's responses in this dialogue.

- | | |
|------|---------|
| 3:11 | 3:12 |
| 3:13 | 3:14-22 |
| 4:1 | 4:2-9 |
| 4:10 | 4:11-12 |
| 4:13 | 4:14-17 |

Sometimes we think it would be nice if God would just tell us what to do. We see here that it was hard for Moses to follow even when God spoke to him directly.

Throughout these 2 chapters, what does God promise about what will happen in the following events?

Note – 4:24-26 can be a confusing passage. It seems that to Zipporah, circumcision was offensive so their second son had not been circumcised. The Lord required males of his people to be circumcised (Gen. 17:9-14). For Moses to take his son to Israel without being circumcised was wrong. God's leader could not be in willful opposition to God's commands for His people. Still, Zipporah was very angry with God over it.

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I've learned of God?

Exodus

This long section details God’s work up through the ninth plague.

From 5:20-23 describe the situation. How has the “rescue” gone so far?

How does God reply to the negative results (6:1-9)?

Throughout the section God mentions His purposes. Why does He work this way?

List the plagues and Pharaoh’s response:

7:20

8:6

8:17

8:24

9:6

9:10

9:23

10:13

10:22

How do these accomplish God’s purposes?

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I’ve learned of God?

Exodus

lesson 4
Exodus 11-13

After you have spent time in the passage, this section will give a few questions to consider.

Describe the 10th plague.

What was celebrated by future generations during the Passover?

“With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.” Why is this an important lesson?

How did God show His care for the people along the way?

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I've learned of God?

Exodus

lesson 5
Exodus 14-15

It had seemed like they were out of danger when they left Egypt, but now new difficulties come. What are they and how do the people respond?

When the people look back to Egypt (14:10-12), what are they remembering? What are they forgetting (1:11,22)?

How are the people described in 14:30?

What is gained through the difficulties? 15:1-18

How do you respond to difficulties? Think of a recent example. When things look bad I _____.

This is a pivotal event in the history of Israel. Why? What should they learn from it?

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I've learned of God?

Exodus

lesson 6
Exodus 16-18

After you have spent time in the passage, this section will give a few questions to consider.

How does God act toward the people when they grumble about food? What is He teaching them through the Manna?

The people seem to be slow to learn. What did they doubt?

How are you slow to learn? What do you doubt about the Lord?

What did Jethro learn from the Exodus?

What did Jethro instruct Moses to do?

How does 18:20 relate to later ideas like 2 Timothy 2:2 and Matthew 28:18-20?

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I've learned of God?

Exodus

In 19:4-6 what is God offering the Israelites? How do they respond?

Describe the setting in 19:16 and following. What impact would you expect this to have?

What did Moses desire for the people (20:20)?

What are the 10 commandments, and how could they be written positively? (ie. Do not murder – value life)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

Examine your life in light of these basic commands. We all fall short and need His grace. Where do you need His grace?

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I've learned of God?

These ordinances can be hard for us to understand. How do these relate to the 10 commandments?

What role does restitution play?

These are applications of the broader 10 commandments to specific situations. What ordinances do you find it hard to understand? Which ones trouble you?

Describe how God will give them the land (23:20-33).

Why are they not to mix with the people who live there?

What oath do the people take?

What do the elders see?

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I've learned of God?

Exodus

lesson 9
Exodus 25-31

This long section detailing the plans for the tabernacle and its articles has several important lessons.

What is the purpose of what they are making?

Several times God refers to a pattern they are to follow. What is this pattern?

Who does God include in this project? What are the different roles?

What are His instructions about the Sabbath?

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I've learned of God?

After you have spent time in the passage, this section will give a few questions to consider.

Why did the people come to Aaron?

Considering the whole book, what had Aaron been told/seen of God up to this point that relates to his actions here?

What does the interaction between Moses and God reveal about prayer and communicating with God?

What does Moses want to know from God? What does He want to see?

What does God show Him? How does His name here relate to what He revealed in chapter 3?

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I've learned of God?

Exodus

After you have spent time in the passage, this section will give a few questions to consider.

Why does Moses give all this detail about these things?

Several times it says that they overlaid things with gold. This must have been a pretty amazing sight. Why might God have had them make all of this?

This section follows the golden calf incident, but at this point they made everything “just as the Lord commanded Moses.” What does this show about the people?

What does 40:12 reveal about God’s grace (32:1)?

What happened when they were all finished?

What does this passage reveal about God?	
What can I learn from Moses here?	
How do the people respond?	
How will I apply this to my life?	Who will I talk with about what I’ve learned of God?

