

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (FACILITATOR)

EXODUS CHAPTERS 5-7

Discussion Starter

- What is something that you have hoped for that actually came to be?
- What is something that you have hoped for and/or are hoping for that didn't happen or hasn't yet happened?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Exodus 5:1-23, 6:1-13, 7:1-25)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Exodus 5:1-23

- How would you describe the type of resistance that Pharaoh gives to Moses and Aaron when they come to him and tell him that God says to "Let His people go."

- This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Consider how you respond to God when He tells you things that you don't want to hear, don't like to hear, and/or don't want to do. Are your responses at all similar to Pharaoh's? Why or why not?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Reread Exodus 4:30-31 and then contrast these verses with what the foremen of the Israelites say and do in 5:15-20.
 - Do you think that the Israelites expected any resistance and opposition when God promised them deliverance?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - As men and women of God today, do you think that we should expect resistance and opposition when talking about God transforming us and the people around us?
 - As uncomfortable as it is and may be, the reality is that as men and women of God, we should absolutely expect resistance and opposition when talking about God transforming us and the people around us. God never promised that transformation and deliverance would be easy. In fact, throughout the pages of Scripture, we consistently read about transformations being incredibly messy.
- Who did the foremen blame in verses 20-21 and what does this situation indicate about spiritual leadership?
 - The foremen blamed Moses and Aaron, the very individuals that God appointed to lead the deliverance of the Israelites. This lets us know that spiritual leadership isn't popular and can frequently be lonely when making decisions that people don't like or understand.

- How would you characterize Moses' response to God in verses 22-23?

- Moses was very quick to wither at the first hint of opposition and resistance and as a result began to blame God for both. He lost his focus and was easily distracted by his circumstances rather than being focused on God's promises.

□ Exodus 6:1-13

- Notice the certainty with which God speaks in this passage versus the uncertainty with which Moses speaks in 5:22-23. When God speaks about Himself as the Lord and references His name, this has the meaning behind it of a master who has ownership. Why is this important to understand?

- The Israelites had masters over them who were absolutely brutal to them. God is about to show His people that He is indeed a completely different master who always has their best interests at heart and who will always love completely and abundantly.

- Notice the Israelites' response in 6:9 and how God responds to them in 6:10-13. What should be encouraging about this to us?

- There are going to be times in life when we are so beaten down and discouraged that we can't see the hope that God has placed in us and in front of us. This doesn't make us bad people but people who are human and who may be crushed in spirit. God still intervened and moved on behalf of His people even in the midst of their unbelief and God does the same for you and me today.

□ Exodus 7:1-25

- What do you think it means to know the Lord? Does God desire all people to know Him? If so, how do we explain God hardening Pharaoh's heart?

- Knowing the Lord involves many different things but two of the basic ones include coming to a knowledge of God's truth and having a willingness to live that truth. God most definitely desires

all people to know Him. We see this all throughout Scripture but the phrase “will know” isn’t only extended to God’s people in the book of Exodus but it is also extended to those who don’t know God. See Exodus 7:5. On the surface, God hardening Pharaoh’s heart definitely seems like God is setting him up for failure, but this would be inconsistent and incompatible with the nature of God that is revealed throughout the rest of Scripture. God gives people over to what they choose to give themselves up to. In other words, God gives each of us free will decisions to make. This was also true of Pharaoh.

- Before getting to the first of the ten plagues, consider the following quote from Victor Hamilton.
 - “The emphasis of knowing the Lord lifts the plagues beyond the function of chastisement. The plagues are not God’s revenge on Pharaoh. The Lord’s intention is not to leave behind in Egypt a bruised and bloodied Pharaoh, nor is the Lord interested in leaving the Egyptian king breathless via an exhibition of miracles. The divine purpose is that Pharaoh and his people will indeed acquire a knowledge of the true God.”
 - In other words, God wants Pharaoh and the Egyptians to know him just like He wants the Israelites to know Him.
- Why is the Nile turning to blood the very first plague?
 - The Nile was key to the economic wellness and development of Egypt. God is striking at the heart of who they are, what they take pride in, and their resources.
- In light of Exodus 7:22-23 and the magicians being able to do the same thing that God did through Moses and Aaron, was God failing?
 - God was in no way failing. He knew from the very beginning that it would take a great deal for Pharaoh to relent and He communicated this to Moses. However, it is also important to remember that the plagues weren’t just for Egypt. Israel was also struggling with their belief in God’s promised deliverance, so these plagues were also for God’s people.

□ Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

□ Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Exodus 8-9)

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (STUDENT)

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