

Study guide to
Exodus: Our Story, Too!

An 18-week Study

Our journeys in the Holy Spirit, into a deep relationship with God are personal to each of us, but best done in a community. There we are held and taught and nurtured and inspired. For that is the nature of the kingdom of God—it is a true community of equals, all standing in the presence of God.

Take the opportunity to address these questions as if your relationship with God depended on your answers, which it does. You don't have to answer them all, only the ones that call you. In a discussion group hold all sharing in confidence, as sacred. Do not relate anyone else's story to anyone and only speak of it if the person who told it brings it up.

These questions are to reflect on, to journal about, and to discuss. You will find them cycling through your life, going deeper and deeper each time, inviting you into an ever-deepening relationship with God.

1st Week: Introduction pp. 7-20

Do you feel enslaved to your culture? How does it limit you and how you think? What is toxic about your culture?

Is God calling you out of slavery? To a new way of thinking? To a new and fuller life? What is your experience of following His lead?

Are you still in charge of your life? Or are you letting God lead you where He will? Are you willing—100%--to go all the way with God, wherever He would take you?

2nd Week: Part I: Awakening, Chapter 1: Introduction pp. 21-28

How does God call you out of slavery? How difficult would it be to leave your own “slave” status behind? Could you walk away from the known, but problematic world into the unknown? Does slavery seem normal to you?

Do you believe in God’s love and forgiveness for you? Or is God more apt to be a punishing God? Do you know God from your own experience of God or only from what others have told you?

How do you see yourself? What is your self-image? What do you lack, what do you have to make up for? Is your self-image stuck in the past? Can you own all that you are? All that you’ve said and done? All that was done to you?

What in your life is more important than God to you? Can you name the “gods” that you bow down to, that you put before God?

3rd Week: Part I: Awakening, Chapter 2: God, Egypt and the Israelites pp. 29-39

What is your covenant with God? Did you ever think that the Promised Land is the kingdom on Earth? How is God showing you the way out of slavery?

What ties you to this world and thereby keeps you out of the kingdom? Have you been “dumped” into another life, by death of a loved one or loss of possessions or natural disaster? What do you think of when you contemplate the wilderness?

Can you imagine what a “greater life” in God would be like? Describe God fully as you see Him.

4th Week: Part I: Awakening, Chapter 3: Leaving Slavery, Plagues pp. 41-50

What outer influences keep you tied to “Egypt?” What inner voices keep you enslaved? Can you identify the source(s) of your own inner fears and anxieties about leaving the world?

What is the “still, small voice” of the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is the invitation? And how do you respond? To whom will you be true? To God or to your own ego? What will it cost you to surrender your will to God’s?

Will you follow your own inner “Moses,” your soul’s calling? To your own true self, your soul? To God? Who is it to be who governs you?

5th Week: Part I: Awakening, Chapter 4: Cast of Characters, Freedom, Suffering pp. 51-58

What does Moses represent in this story? And Pharaoh? What does freedom mean to you? Freedom to? Freedom from?

Can you face and own your own resistance to leaving Egypt? What do I have to die to? What is the new life God calls you to?

How do you deal with suffering in your life? Deny the pain? Do you look for God in the suffering, in being present for you? Do you seek to learn what you need to learn from the suffering? Do you add to your own suffering by resisting it? Are you living in the present? Or the past? Or the future?

6th Week: Part I: Awakening, Chapter 5: Conclusions pp. 59-64

What do you think now of “Egypt?” Of what you left behind? Are you still clinging to worldly things, people, ways of being? The past?

Are you aware of God’s presence? Was it difficult for you to leave? To surrender to God’s call? What do you think of the various voices entrenched in you? In our culture?

What does your inner “pharaoh” represent? Have you disengaged from the past? Are you willing to be in limbo for a long time? What are you anticipating now in your story?

7th Week: Part II: The Wilderness, Chapter 1: Introduction to the Wilderness pp. 65-79

What needs to be purged in you? What stands between you and God?

How would you describe the wilderness? What is being in limbo like for you? Did you say “Yes!” to God? Or were you propelled into the wilderness by forces beyond your control?

How has God provided for you in the wildernesses of your life? What are you longing for now? Do you wish you could go right back to “Egypt?” Or have you found your real identity in God? What have you had to let go of in the wilderness?

8th Week: Part II: The Wilderness, Chapter 2: God, Laws, Moses pp. 81-96

When you’ve been in the wilderness, how has God been present to you? How did He meet your needs, bring comfort to you? How aware of God are you in your daily life? Do you hear his “still, small voice?” His offers of comfort? His challenging you to give up

this or that story or suffering to Him? How aware are you of God? Do you live in the mind of Christ?

Do you live the 10 Commandments? Is God first in your life? Do you love God with all of yourself? All of your life? How do you treat all other people? Do you live the Spirit of the Law? What attitudes or history or suffering do you hang onto that come between you and your ability to love?

What happens in you when your soul is resting in God, when your inner Moses is spending time with the Lord? Are you at peace, waiting, or anxious to get on with things. Do you allow time to commune with the Lord?

9th Week: Part II: The Wilderness, Chapter Three: Israelites, Conclusions pp. 97-103

Do you grumble about what is in your life? Hang onto your own way of doing things? Are you “stiff-necked” and inconstant like the Israelites? Without your inner “Moses” are you lost and drifting away from God? What attitudes or circumstances or decisions do you need to eat/to own?

Will you listen to God? Will you heed what He says? Will you conform to His ways? Will you absolutely trust in the Lord?

10th Week: Part III: From Egypt to Freedom, Chapter 1: Introduction, The Law pp. 105-115

Are you willing to dig deep into your unconscious attitudes and ways of thinking and to let go of what stands between you and God? Are you willing to own up to all that you are, all that you’ve said and done, all that was done to you?

Will you forgive yourself and others? Will you love God with all that you are? Is God's law written on your heart? What would that mean? Will you be holy? And what does that mean to you? Will you let God lead you through this whole process to holiness?

11th Week: Part III: From Egypt to Freedom, Chapter 2: Israelites and Rebellion pp. 117-132

Is what you present to the world the same as your own inner state of being? Are you living in truth? Do you have integrity in all that you do? Are you humble, knowing that you are the same as everyone else and that Christ alone stands above you?

Do you give God the credit for the good in you? And take responsibility for the rest? Have you given up all your rebellion? Will you align yourself with His will in everything and in His timing? Will you serve God and all His people?

12th Week: Part III: From Egypt to Freedom, Chapter 3: Purging, Holiness, Purpose, Illumination pp. 133-148

Are you resting in Christ, living in the mind of Christ? Have you given up your self-centeredness, turned it over to God to heal? Are you moving towards purity and holiness? Is His word in your mouth and in your heart?

What has your conversion been like? Or do you have yet to experience it?

13th Week: Part III: From Egypt to Freedom, Chapter 4: Purpose pp. 149-179

Have you experienced God's step by step plan for your life? What is He calling you to do? Have you said, "Yes!"? Do you praise

God for what He is about to do in your life and in others'? Are you partnering with God in using your gifts and talents? How is God using your weaknesses or areas of challenge? Are you a "wounded-healer?" Do you know your purpose as God has revealed it to you? How are you called to advance God's kingdom on this Earth?

Do you follow God's lead in all things? Have you experienced how your choices bring you blessings or curses? Are you choosing life? Are God and His actions in your life highly visible to you? Can you see yourself and God clearly? Has all rebellion died in you? Has even your inner Moses who brought you thus far now died? And your inner Joshua stepped into the breach?

**14th Week: Part III: From Egypt to Freedom, Chapter 5:
Conclusions pp. 181-285**

As you stand on the banks of the River Jordan, do you feel free of the world's influence and all that it has meant to you? Has God revealed your purpose and are you living that purpose?

Has all rebellion died in you? Have all of your own expectations, assumptions about life and personal preferences been healed and transformed? Are you ready to receive the Holy Spirit? And to live in total partnership with God?

**15th Week: Part IV: The Promised Land, Chapter 1:
Introduction, The Israelites pp. 187-198**

Do you see the faithfulness of the Israelites as they ready to cross the Jordan River? Can you imagine what union with God will be like? Are you aware of the process of purgation and illumination that has prepared them for union with God? Can you imagine the challenges of conquering the kingdoms that the Israelites will face?

What is the process for crossing the River Jordan, for entering Canaan/the kingdom? What is the symbolism of following the Ark of the Covenant, being circumcised and celebrating Passover?

What is God doing with and for the Israelites and Joshua? What sin is revealed in the defeat of the Israelites at Ai? How does God provide for each of the tribes?

16th Week: Part IV: The Promised Land, Chapter 2: Union with God, Characters, etc. pp.199-216

How would you describe union with God? What longing would union with God satisfy in you? How do the stories about John G. Paton, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Fr. Walter Cizek affect how you see yourself? What responsibility do you carry for promoting the kingdom of God?

17th Week: Part IV: The Promised Land, Chapter 3: Lessons from the book of Joshua pp. 217-221

How would you describe the kingdom of God? What do you yearn for? If God is the answer to all our questions, what is God to you?

The message to be “strong and courageous” bookends the Book of Joshua. How does it apply to you? In what areas of your life? With what issues, which people?

How do you hold fast to the Lord your God?

18th Week: Part V: Conclusions pp. 223-231

Can you describe the four stage of the classical spiritual journey: awakening, purgation, illumination, and union? Where do you stand with God right now?

What is God calling you to right now? Can you hear his “still, small voice” more clearly now? What kind of relationship is God calling you to? What is He asking of you?

What is the covenant with God that you have signed onto? Are you giving 100% of yourself to that covenant?