

Open Bible Stories - The Exodus

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of the exodus teaches us about God's deliverance of his people from slavery.

Core Belief Verse

"By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned." - Hebrews 11:29

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham.

He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

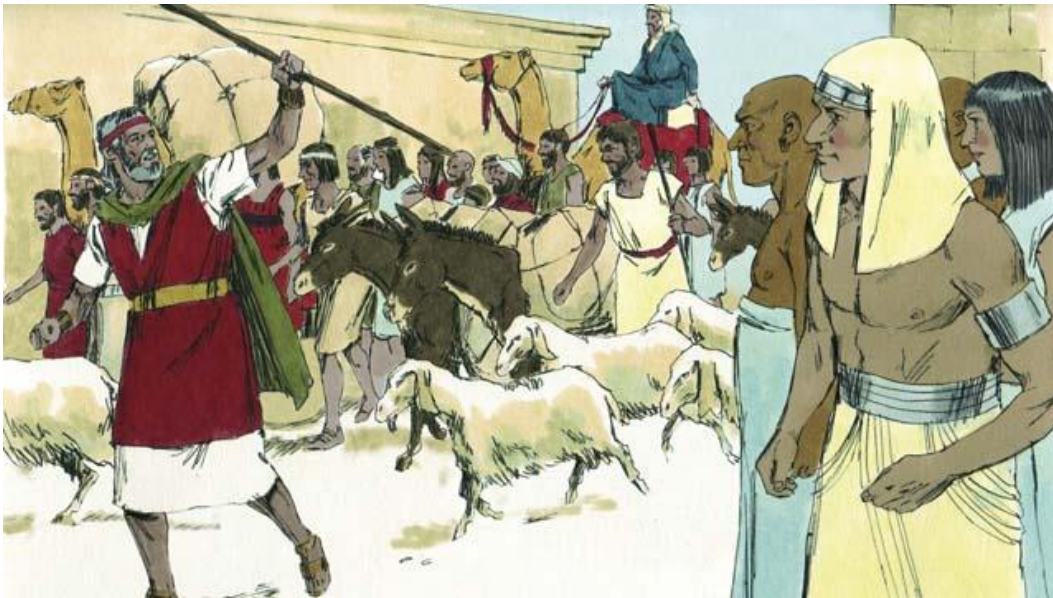
But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God sent judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

The Story: The Exodus

12-01



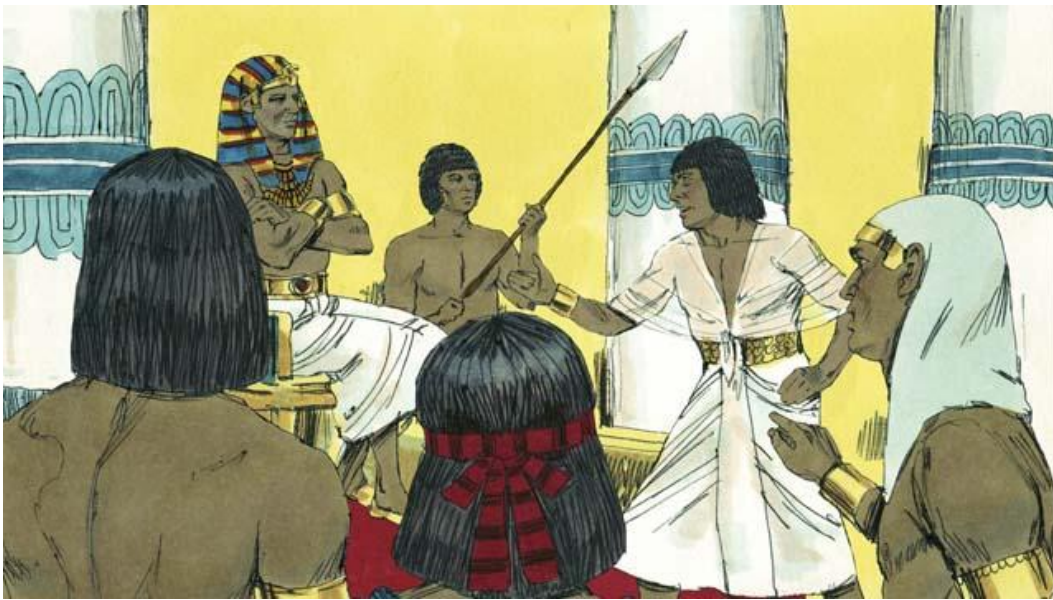
The Israelites were very happy to leave Egypt. They were no longer slaves, and they were going to the Promised Land! The Egyptians gave the Israelites whatever they asked for, even gold and silver and other valuable things. Some people from other nations believed in God and went along with the Israelites as they left Egypt.

12-02



A tall pillar of cloud went ahead of them during the day. It became a tall pillar of fire at night. God, who was in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, was always with them and guided them as they traveled. All they had to do was follow him.

12-03



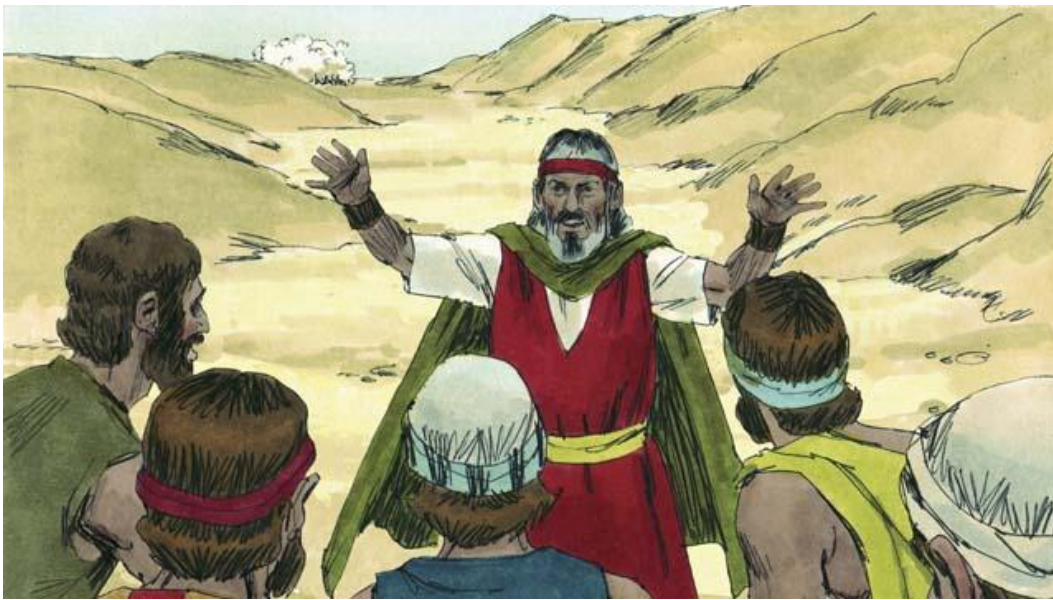
After a short time, Pharaoh and his people changed their minds. They wanted to make the Israelites their slaves again. So they chased after the Israelites. It was God who made them change their minds. He did this because he wanted everyone to know that he, Yahweh, is more powerful than Pharaoh and all the gods of the Egyptians.

12-04



When the Israelites saw the Egyptian army coming, they realized they were trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. They were very afraid and cried out, "Why did we leave Egypt? We are going to die!"

12-05



Moses told the Israelites, "Stop being afraid! God will fight for you today and save you." Then God told Moses, "Tell the people to move toward the Red Sea."

12-06



Then the pillar of cloud moved between the Israelites and the Egyptians and became a pillar of fire at night. The Egyptians were not able to come near the Israelites all night.

12-07



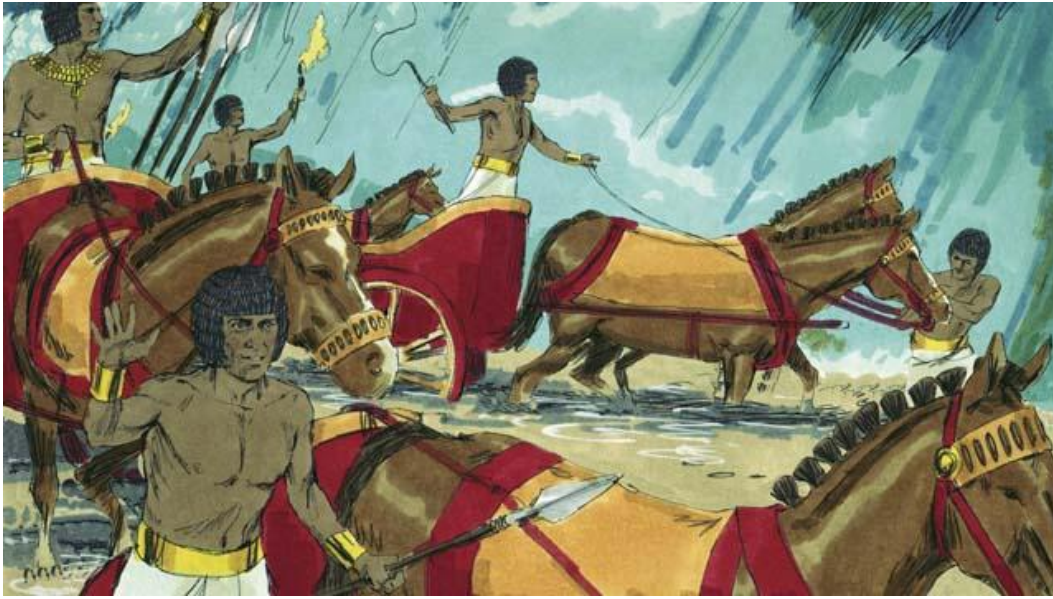
God told Moses to raise his hand over the sea. Then God caused the wind to push the water in the sea to the left and the right, so that there was a path through the sea.

12-08



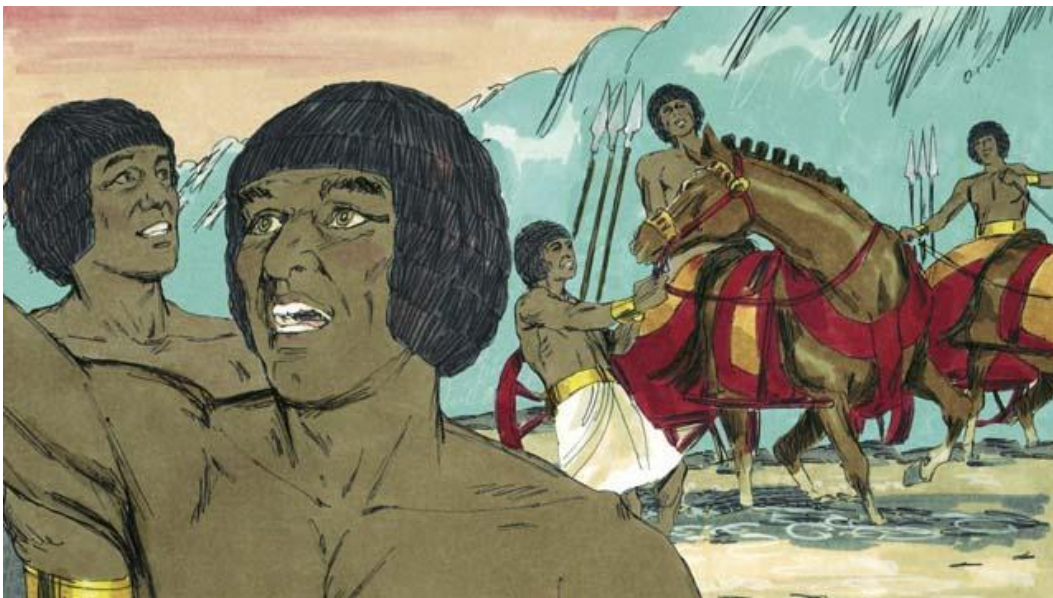
The Israelites marched through the sea on dry ground with a wall of water on either side of them.

12-09



Then the Egyptians saw that the Israelites were escaping. The Egyptians started chasing after them again.

12-10



So they followed the Israelites onto the path through the sea, but God caused the Egyptians to panic and caused their chariots to get stuck. They shouted, "Run away! God is fighting for the Israelites!"

12-11



The Israelites all arrived at the other side of the sea. Then God told Moses to stretch out his hand again over the water. When Moses did that, the water fell on the Egyptian army and returned to its normal place. The whole Egyptian army drowned.

12-12



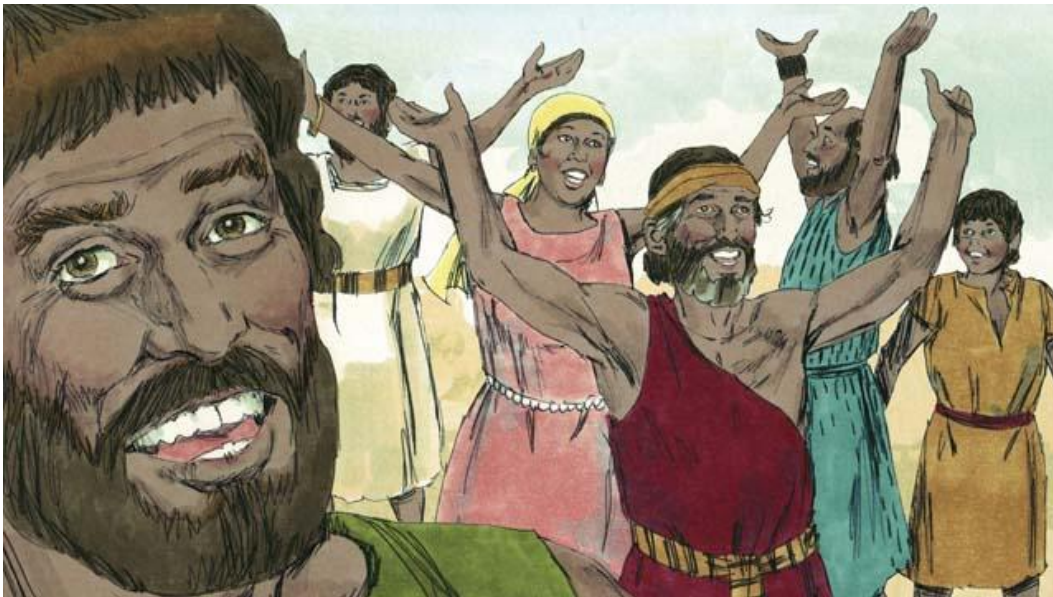
When the Israelites saw that the Egyptians were dead, they trusted in God. They believed that Moses was a prophet of God.

12-13



The Israelites also rejoiced very much because God had saved them from dying and from being slaves. Now they were free to worship God and obey him. The Israelites sang many songs to celebrate their new freedom and to praise God because he saved them from the Egyptian army.

12-14



God commanded the Israelites to celebrate a festival every year in order to remember how God had defeated the Egyptians and freed them from being slaves. This festival was called the Passover. In it, they had to celebrate by killing a healthy lamb, roasting it, and eating it with bread made without yeast.

Bearing Godly Fruit - Making Progress in the Faith

- **Key Idea:** Growing in godly characteristics
- **Key Passage:** 2 Peter 1:5-9
- **Main Session:** OBS 12 (The Exodus)

Recite the Core Belief Verse (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

"It was by faith that they passed through the Sea of Reeds as if over dry land. When the Egyptians tried to do this, they were swallowed up. Hebrews 11:29"

Read the Passage (5 minutes)

God wants us to grow in our faith. As we grow, we develop different character traits that make us mature and godly. These character traits help the whole community to be strong and healthy. In order to learn about growing in godliness, read the passage below.

"5 For this reason, do your best to add goodness to your faith; and to goodness add knowledge; 6 to knowledge add self-control; to self-control add endurance; to endurance add godliness; 7 to godliness add brotherly affection; and to brotherly affection add love. 8 If these things are in you and grow in you, you will not be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever lacks these things is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten he has been cleansed from his past sins. - 2 Peter 1:5-9"

Explore the Idea (10–15 minutes)

As Christians grow in their faith, they will develop the character traits in the passage above. Use the following questions to discuss the godly attributes of mature Christians.

1. What kinds of characteristics will develop in Christians and churches as they grow in the faith?
2. How can Christians grow in these character traits?

3. How do these character traits help Christians relate to one another in godly and mature ways?
4. Which of these specific areas of these character traits would you want to grow and develop?

Think about Your Growth (5–10 minutes)

Think about one area/trait in the passage you want to develop. Imagine the impact in your personal life and community if you were to grow in that specific area/trait. See the examples below. If I grew in [self-control], this is how things would change in my life... If I grew in [self-control], this is how I could encourage and strengthen this community...

Pray to God (5 minutes)

Use the list of character traits above as a guide for prayer. Assign one character trait for different members of the group. Have each of them take turns praying that the whole community would grow in these areas.

Sing a Song (3–5 minutes)

Choose a song to sing to praise God and encourage one another.

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

12-01

Why were the Israelites happy to leave Egypt?

The Israelites were happy to leave Egypt. They were no longer slaves and were going to the Promised Land.

What did the Egyptians give the Israelites as they left Egypt?

The Egyptians gave the Israelites whatever they asked for, even gold and silver and other valuable things.

Who else left Egypt with the Israelites?

Some people from other nations who believed in God left with them.

12-02

How did God lead the Israelites?

God led them in a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night.

How did the Israelites follow God?

All the Israelites had to do was follow the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire.

12-03

What happened after the Egyptians changed their minds about letting the Israelites go free?

After only a short time, Pharaoh and the Egyptians changed their minds and wanted to make the Israelites slaves again. They chased after the Israelites.

Who changed the minds of the Egyptians?

God changed the minds of the Egyptians.

Why did God cause Pharaoh to be stubborn and chase the Israelites?

God did this to show that he is the One True God who is more powerful than Pharaoh and his gods.

12-04

Between what two things were the Israelis trapped?

The Israelites were trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea.

How did the Israelites react when they were trapped between the sea and Pharaoh's army?

They were afraid and said, "Why did we leave Egypt? We are going to die!"

12-05

What did Moses say to the Israelites to calm their fear?

Moses told them to stop being afraid! God would fight for them that day and save them.

What did God tell Moses to tell the people?

God told Moses to tell the people to move toward the Red Sea.

12-06

How did God prevent the Egyptians from coming near the Israelites as they started to escape?

God placed the pillar of cloud between them.

12-07

What did God tell Moses to do in order to make a path of escape for the Israelites?

God told Moses to raise his hand over the sea so that the waters would divide.

What did God do to the waters of the Red Sea?

God caused a wind to push the water to the right and left so that there was a path for the Israelites to cross the Red Sea.

12-08

How were the Israelites able to cross the sea?

They walked through it on dry ground with a wall of water on either side of them.

12-09

What did the Egyptians do when they saw the Israelites escaping?

The Egyptians started chasing after the Israelites.

12-10

Where did the Egyptians chase the Israelites?

The Egyptians followed the Israelites onto the path through the sea.

What happened to the Egyptians as they chased the Israelites through the sea?

God caused the Egyptians to panic and their chariots to get stuck.

What did the Egyptians do when their chariots got stuck?

They ran away because God was fighting for the Israelites.

12-11

What did God tell Moses to do after the Israelites reached the other side of the sea?

God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the water.

What happened to the walls of water?

The water returned back to its normal place. The water fell on the Egyptian army.

How did God destroy the Egyptian army?

The water covered the Egyptian army so that they drowned.

12-12

How did the Israelites react when they saw that the Egyptians were dead?

The Israelites trusted in God and believed that Moses was a prophet of God.

12-13

Why did the Israelites sing and praise God?

They praised him because he had saved them from the Egyptians. They were free to worship and obey God.

How did the Israelites praise God?

They sang songs to celebrate their new freedom. They sang to praise God for saving them from the Egyptian army.

12-14

What did God tell the Israelites to do in order to remember his victory over the Egyptians?

God commanded them to celebrate the Passover every year.

How were the Israelites supposed to celebrate the Passover?

The Israelites celebrated the Passover by killing a healthy lamb, roasting it, and eating it with unleavened bread.

Movement 2: Theological Questions

What Does This Story Teach Us?

1. How does God save his people? How can this story teach us about how God saves and frees his people?
2. What does it mean to trust God? How does the story of the Exodus teach us about what faith/trust looks like?
3. How should followers of God practice their faith? What can we learn about living a life of freedom from the story of the Exodus?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. When have you ever felt trapped or afraid like the Israelites did when they were caught between the Egyptians and the Red Sea?
2. How has God worked on your behalf to bring you salvation and freedom?
3. What would it look like to trust in God to save/free you?

4. Think about this week. Where does "The Exodus" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of the exodus teaches us about God's deliverance of his people from slavery.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "The Exodus" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. What setting, audience, or approach would you use? Record your ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching or lead a discussion. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. What went well? What would you do differently? Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

1. Who is one specific person you will share "The Exodus" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?

3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Mission Engagement

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. What context, relationship, or opportunity will you use? Record your ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a natural conversation or teaching. Record your plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. What did they respond to? What questions did they ask? Reflect on your experience below.