

Tim Chester

Exodus

Liberating Love



 8-Session Bible Study

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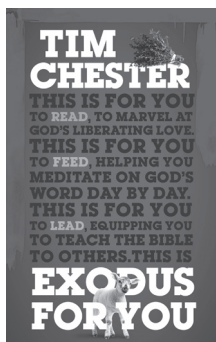
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✔ **8-Session Bible Study**



Exodus For You

These studies are adapted from *Exodus For You*. If you are reading *Exodus For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Exodus For You*:

Study One > Ch 1	Study Five > Ch 7-8
Study Two > Ch 2-3	Study Six > Ch 8-10
Study Three > Ch 4-5	Study Five > Ch 13-14
Study Four > Ch 6	Study Six > Ch 11-12, 15

Find out more about *Exodus For You* at:
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The Good Book Guide to Exodus

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Contents

Introduction	4
Why Study Exodus?	5
1. People with a Promise <i>Exodus 1 – 2</i>	7
2. When God Gets Involved <i>Exodus 3 – 6</i>	13
3. God v. Pharaoh <i>Exodus 7 – 13</i>	21
4. Through the Sea <i>Exodus 13:17 – 15:21</i>	29
5. Trouble on the Road <i>Exodus 15:22 – 18:27</i>	35
6. You Shall... <i>Exodus 19 – 24</i>	43
7. The Golden Calf: Tragedy and Mercy <i>Exodus 32 – 34</i>	51
8. At Home with God <i>Exodus 25 – 31; 35 – 40</i>	59
Leader's Guide	67



Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God’s word as “a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we’ve discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They’re perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let’s take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you’re invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you’ve seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven’t got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you’ll find a **Leader’s Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God’s light-giving word.

Why Study Exodus?

A princess goes to bathe in the river and has her heart won by the cries of an abandoned baby.

A bush on fire never burns up, and from it speaks a voice that will change history.

An unarmed shepherd walks out of the wilderness to do battle with the most powerful man on earth.

The lone cry of a bereaved mother is joined by another, and then another, and then another, until a loud wailing echoes across the land.

A whole nation walks through a sea, with walls of water on either side, to liberation on the far shore.

Amid thunder, lightning, thick cloud and an earthquake, the voice of God booms across a plain.

In the wilderness, a man argues with God about the future of a people, and God relents.

The glory of God so fills a tent that everyone must evacuate.

There is no shortage of dramatic moments in the book of Exodus. It is a story that has repeatedly captured the public imagination and which has been a favourite of film-makers. But in truth, its message is more dramatic than these dramatic moments and more revolutionary than these revolutionary movements.

The book of Exodus is not simply an inspiring tale from the past. It is our story. The Old Testament prophets promised a new exodus: a repeat of the Exodus that would be more dramatic and more revolutionary. The Exodus sets God's story on a trajectory that comes to a climax with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The book of Exodus is absolutely key to understanding the person and work of Jesus, and appreciating the liberating love that brought him into this world and took him to the cross.

These eight studies will take you through Exodus, showing you God, thrilling you about being a member of his people, and challenging you to live in joyful awe of him. Exodus is an exciting story. It is a historical story. And, as it points us to and inspires us to worship Christ, it is our story.

Creation

Fall

Noah

Abraham

Joseph

Exodus from Egypt

Israel reaches promised land

c. 1500 BC | Moses is born
c. 1440 BC | The Red Sea crossed

King David

Kingdom divided (Judah/Israel)

Israel exiled

Judah exiled

Judah returns

Jesus Christ

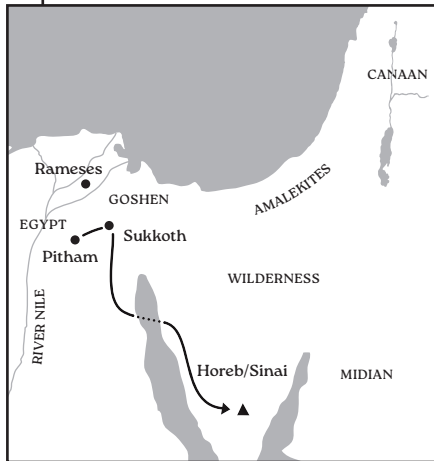
Revelation written

Now

Jesus' return
New creation



Exodus



1

People with a Promise

Exodus 1 - 2

Talkabout

1. Have you ever relied on someone's promise to you? What was it about them that made you trust them? Did you ever worry that they might not keep it?

Investigate

Read Exodus 1:1-7

In the original Hebrew, the book of Exodus actually begins with the word "and". It immediately alerts us to the fact that this story is part of a bigger story...

2. Read Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-21; 17:15-22. What did God promise, and to whom?

Abraham's son was Isaac, and his son was Jacob, which brings us to Exodus 1:1.

3. How is God keeping his promise in Exodus 1:1-7?

 **Read Exodus 1:8-21**

DICTIONARY

Shrewdly (v 10): craftily.

Nile (v 22): a major river.

Hebrew (v 15): Israelite.

4. How is God's promise-keeping threatened in these verses?

- In what ways is Pharaoh's plan thwarted?

 **Read Exodus 1:22 – 2:10**

DICTIONARY

Tar and pitch (2:3): a waterproof coating.

5. How does Pharaoh raise the stakes (1:22)?

- What is ironic about the way in which his plans are thwarted (2:1-10)?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Israel's fruitfulness here shows God is keeping his promise to Abraham.

Read Genesis 1:26-29

- How is it also a mark of Israel keeping God's command to all humanity?

Read Genesis 3:8-15

- What had God promised would be the relationship between the snake and the woman (v 15)?
- How are Pharaoh's actions in Exodus 1 a fulfilment of the promise of Genesis 3:15?

So Egypt will be the site of the ongoing battle between those who belong to the snake and those who belong to the promise.

- What significance does this add to the coming showdown between God and Pharaoh?

Apply

6. What does Exodus 1 teach us about the promise-keeping of God?

- And the plans of powerful regimes?

- How should this encourage us as God's people today?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Do you trust more in God to keep to his plans... or, deep down, do you think that the plans of those who oppose him or his people are more likely to succeed? When are you most likely to act as though God will not come through for you?

Jesus promises, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18). When do you most need to remember this verse?

Investigate

This baby, Moses, now being raised as a Hebrew but with all the privileges of Egypt, will be the Hebrews' great liberator.

 **Read Exodus 2:11-25**

DICTIONARY

Midian (v 15): see below.

Covenant (v 24): binding agreement.

7. How are Moses' actions in verses 11-12 more "Egyptian" than godly?

- How do they undermine his ability to lead Israel (v 13-15)?

Moses ends up living as a Midianite. The Midianites were nomads, but they wandered all over the Sinai peninsula and the land of Canaan—all areas of land promised to Abraham. And in Midian, in contrast to Egypt, the Lord was worshipped freely. (The reference to a "priest" in verse 16 raises this possibility; 18:9-12 confirms it.)

8. So in what sense has Moses left home, and in what sense has he come home?

9. By the end of Exodus 2, to what extent has God kept his promises? What remains to be fulfilled?

- How do verses 23-25 suggest that God is about to intervene in Israelite history?

10. Read Hebrews 11:24-27. Why did Moses choose to live as an Israelite rather than an Egyptian? What did he give up in order to do so?

11. Reread Exodus 1:15-18. Why did Shiphrah and Puah not obey Pharaoh?

- What were they risking in order to disobey him?

Apply

12. How do you face similar choices to Moses, and to Shiphrah and Puah? What would it look like for you to choose to fear God and live by faith, as they did?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Are there ways in which you fear people more than God? What would change if you trusted in his promises rather than being swayed by human plans? How will you remember to fear and trust God?

Pray

Thank God that he is both a promise-making and a promise-keeping God. Thank him for the confidence and assurance which that can give you as you walk through life.

Pray together about the times when you must choose between fearing God or fearing man, based on your answers to question 12.