

Episode 4: God Rescues

Exodus

Key Verse:

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them..." Exodus 3:7-8

Lisa Scheffler, author

After walking his congregation through the different covenants we find in the Bible from the Old Testament to the New, Dr. Derwin Gray imagines that his audience might be wondering.

“You’re like, ‘Derwin why did you take time to explain that? It wasn’t very inspirational.’ Here’s why. If you don’t know God’s story, you’re going to try and put God in your story, and God doesn’t fit in your story.”

Pastor Gray is getting to the heart of why this series is so important. We all have a tendency to approach God’s Word for what we can get out of it. We often expect God to conform to our expectations. But the god we create in our own hearts and minds, the one who would fit into our stories, is not the God we need. Our stories are too small, too limited, too restrictive for God. What he has done, is doing, and will do is so much bigger than anything we would think to ask or imagine. What’s best for us is that his kingdom comes and his will is done. This is why we need to know God’s story, and conform our story to his.

We’re in episode 4 of our story, and this is an exciting one. So far we’ve seen God as the loving Creator, the faithful One, and the trustworthy Promise-keeper. This week, we’ll see God as the rescuer. We’re focusing on the Old Testament book of Exodus where we will witness God’s dramatic rescue of his people from captivity in Egypt and see his determination to bring these people home.

Day 1

This week, we'll pick up the story of Abraham's family down in Egypt where they are oppressed and enslaved by Pharaoh. How did they end up in this foreign land? Well, it's a long story that we'll need to summarize. (But it's a great read. Start in Genesis 37 and go to the end of the book.) In short, a famine sent Abraham's grandson Jacob (who God had renamed Israel) and his sons and all their families fleeing the land God had promised. Because Jacob's son, Joseph had found favor with Egypt's ruler and had risen to a prominent position, Jacob's family was able to make a home there.

For approximately 400 years, the people prospered. In a call back to the language of creation, the author of Exodus describes the situation this way, "the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them" (Exodus 1:7). God's people were multiplying and filling the land, and this worried the new Pharaoh who was determined to protect his power. He said to his people "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country" (Exodus 1:9).

So the Israelites became slaves to the Egyptians. Though they were treated harshly and worked to the bone, the people still multiplied. So Pharaoh decrees that all of Israel's new born boys would be thrown into the Nile. But Moses is spared and rescued from the water by Pharaoh's daughter. He is raised in his household before eventually having to flee Egypt. There in the wilderness, he encounters the living God and is sent to demand the Israelites' release from captivity. You see, God had not been unaware of his people's misery and he had a plan to set his people free. He would be their rescuer.

Moses goes to confront Pharaoh. The Pharaohs considered themselves gods, so Pharaoh treats this as a contest between equals. Pharaoh has already shown that he believed that he had a god-like power over his subjects. He got to decide who lived and who died. He sees Moses as the representative of another god who had come to take what belonged to him. Pharaoh's pride, stubbornness, and hardness of heart would be his undoing. He is of course no match for Yahweh, the one, true God.

After a series of devastating blows, Pharaoh finally relents and lets the Israelites go. But the story isn't over yet. As we'll see, Pharaoh changes his mind.

Read the Word

Exodus 14:5–31 (NIV)

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we

done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!”⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him.⁷ He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them.⁸ The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.⁹ The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord.¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?¹² Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

¹³ Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen.¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them,²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea.²⁴ During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion.²⁵ He jammed the wheels of their

chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.”

²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. ²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

²⁹ But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. ³⁰ That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. ³¹ And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

- List all that God did to free the people? What did the people have to do?

Reflect

With Pharaoh’s army behind them and the sea in front of them, the people were trapped. Their faith wavers and they begin to grumble and doubt. They even rewrite history. Having cried out to God to rescue them from captivity, they suddenly decide that slavery was a better option. They don’t believe that the God who brought them this far will see them all the way to freedom.

Moses assures them in verse 14 that they have nothing to fear. They aren’t being called on to defeat Pharaoh’s army, God will do it. Once and for all he will defeat Pharaoh and all the gods of Egypt and gain the glory for himself. All the nations will hear what Yahweh accomplished.

Given power from the Lord, Moses parts the water. The people’s path to freedom is laid out in front of them. They only need enough faith to step onto the dry land and cross over. God did what he promised. He redeemed his people. The miraculous crossing at the Red Sea would be one of the defining stories for the Israelites. For generations, it would be looked back on as a reminder of God’s faithfulness and power.

Redemption is the act of being set free — of being brought out of slavery, even at great cost to the redeemer, and given a new life. Our redemption was accomplished at the cross. That’s our defining story. There our rescuer defeated the powers of sin and death and we are free in Christ. We contribute nothing to our salvation. Our path to freedom, life, and peace is laid out in front of us if we will accept it and walk in faith.

Pray

If it's helpful, use the following to begin your own prayer time with God.

Almighty God, you are good, and faithful. Thank you that through Jesus you have provided the path to life and freedom for me. Thank you for saving me. Remind me always that I am free from the power of sin and death.

Day 2

It's amazing if you really think about it — the Creator of the universe has bound himself to his creation. Over and over in the Bible we see God making covenants that he will faithfully uphold because he loves us. Humanity consistently defies God and rejects him, but he is consistently true to his word.

So far we've seen his covenant with Noah. Noah and his family are brought through the flood waters and into a new world where God promises they will thrive. Then we see his covenant with Abraham where God promises a multitude of descendants who will prosper and bless the whole earth. Today we'll consider the covenant he made with Israel after he brought them out of Egypt and through the parted waters. We'll once again see the incomprehensible grace and mercy of God.

The Israelites did nothing to earn God's favor. In fact, they did a lot of things that should have disqualified them. From the moment they left Egypt, the Israelites grumbled and doubted. God performed a miracle that we're still talking about today, but the people aren't sure that they can trust him. They worry that they'll die of thirst, and God provides water. They're afraid they'll starve to death, and God provides Manna, food from heaven. They get tired of Manna, and God sends quail.

As he had done since he first formed man from the dust, God offers his care and guidance. And just like people have done since Adam and Eve, the Israelites doubt his goodness and love.

Yet, as they stood at the base of Mount Sinai with the blinding presence of God shaking the earth, they were given a choice. God offers them everything, they have to decide if they will take it.

Read the Word

Exodus 19:1–8 (NIV)

***19** On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ²After they set out from*

Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

³ Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. ⁸ The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.

- According to verse 4, what has God done?
- According to verses 5-6, what does God promise?
- Do the Israelites agree to God’s terms?

After the people agree to God’s terms, he gives them what we call the ten commandments. In ancient Hebrew, they are called the ten “words.”

Exodus 20:1–17 (NIV)

20 *And God spoke all these words:*

² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your

God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

- God prefaces the ten words with a reminder, what is it? Why do you think he starts with this?

Reflect

God’s covenant promises come from a heart of love and the desire for relationship. He describes his actions as carrying the people “on eagles wings” so that he could bring them to himself (19:4). He has chosen these people to be his special treasure. Yet this privilege is not at the expense of the other nations, but is intended to bless them.

Israel’s calling is to be a holy nation. God is holy, and his people should come to resemble his character. They are to be a royal priesthood, revealing to the world the righteousness of God’s kingdom. If they are good and just, they will display the goodness and justice of God. Israel has been chosen to show the world how being in a relationship with God transforms a people.

As part of this covenant, God teaches them how they should live, and starts with ten words that reveal God’s character as well as guide his people. These are the core principles from which the other commands and regulations flow.

The first five show how to relate to God and the final five guide our actions toward one another. But first, the ten words begin with a reminder of who God is. He is the God who rescued the Israelites from slavery and oppression with a jaw-dropping, awe-inspiring miracle. Once again God reminds his people that he is good and trustworthy. He

redeemed them from Pharaoh's captivity and now they belong with him. They must learn to act like it!

The first commandment sets the terms for all the others. It is the one that Israel will break over and over. God demands complete loyalty. These are his people. He has committed himself fully to them, and insists that they do the same. The commandments that follow show how someone in a relationship with God and treasured by him thinks and behaves.

The first commandment is one that we are tempted to break all the time too. We can put all kinds of things in God's place and treat them as our god. These false gods promise satisfaction, pleasure, success, happiness, and freedom, but they are cruel masters. They require sacrifice, but give nothing in return.

Our loyalty lies with God alone because he loves us and knows what's best for us. It's our relationship with him that we want to guide our thoughts and actions. Let's not doubt his goodness and love.

Pray

If it's helpful, use the following to begin your own prayer time with God.

Father, thank you for your great love. Teach me to accept your guidance and not defy your word. Forgive me when my arrogance or fear cause me to doubt your goodness.

Day 3

On the way to the Promised Land, God had much to teach his people. He desired that they know, trust, and obey him. Yahweh had set his affection on this group of people because he loved them. Come what may, he would keep the oath he swore to their forefathers. His love for them was about to be tested.

God gave Moses the commandments and regulations that would guide the people and allow them to represent God to the surrounding nations. But in his covenant with them, God had offered Israel something else – something immensely precious and beyond compare – God's presence. On Mount Sinai, God would give Moses instructions for the tabernacle, an earthly space that was a shadow of heaven and a sanctuary where God could dwell. But before construction could even begin, the Israelites would override God's plan with their own.

Read the Word

Exodus 32:1–8 (NIV)

32 *When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”*

² *Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.”* ³ *So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.* ⁴ *He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”*

⁵ *When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.”* ⁶ *So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.*

⁷ *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’*

- What do you think motivated the people’s actions? Why do you think they turned on God?

Reflect

What caused the people to turn from Yahweh? Perhaps they felt abandoned and afraid out in the wilderness. They had already demonstrated that in spite of everything God had done, their faith easily withered when tested. Perhaps they were impatient. In the pagan cultures around them, it was thought that the gods could be summoned with the right ritual or sacrifice. With Moses gone, maybe they were afraid they had lost their connection with God and wanted desperately to get it back.

Perhaps it was sheer rebellion, an outright rejection of Yahweh for other gods who they hoped would do more for them. Even though God had defeated the gods of Egypt, maybe they thought it was worth one more try. Regardless, they created an idol against God’s direct command and held a festival in its honor.

God is hurt and angry. He loved them and had made them his people. He'd guided and protected them and gave them his presence. Generations after the garden, and God was experiencing the same rejection. This time, has God had enough? The narrator of Exodus makes it clear that it is only Moses' intervention that saves them from complete destruction (Exodus 32:10–14). But although Yahweh displays anger, he is also the God of faithfulness and mercy.

Unfortunately, this will not be the last time the Israelites violate the terms of their covenant with God. Time and time again they will show their lack of trust through their failure to obey.

After their worship of the golden calf, God informs them that he will send the angel out in front of them to defeat their enemies and lead them to the Promised Land; but he will not go with them (Exodus 33:2–3). The Israelites would appear to have it all, safety and security in the wilderness, and freedom and prosperity in the new land. But they would not have the presence of God. He would not dwell with them as he had intended to do. How many of us would settle for that? Would we be content with the promise of a prosperous, happy life without the presence of God?

Moses pleads with him to go with them, and Yahweh relents. Perhaps because he needs reassurance, Moses asks to see God. God says that no one can see God and live, but he agrees to pass before Moses. As he does so he proclaims, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished...” (Exodus 35:6–7a) Think about how grateful we should be that this is who God is. Righteous and just, faithful and loving.

While this generation will wander in the desert for 40 years, the next generation will finally take possession of the Promised land. They will grow into a great nation, but they will still struggle to trust and obey their covenant God. It's a good thing God has a plan for that.

Pray

If it's helpful, use the following to begin your own prayer time with God.

God almighty, I am so grateful that you have gifted us with your presence through your Holy Spirit. I want to desire you more than anything else in my life. I don't want to have any gods before you. Remind me of your love and guide me. I want to be faithful to love and trust you.

Day 4

On Thursdays we look for Jesus in the pages of our story. We know that he is the trajectory toward which the whole story is heading, and his presence can be felt along the way.

Today we're going backwards in our episode to when the Israelites were in Egypt and Pharaoh was challenging Yahweh for control of God's people. God hit the Egyptians hard with ten blows. These ten plagues not only showed God's power over creation, but showed up the worthless gods of Egypt including Pharaoh.

The final plague was the worst. In it, God allowed judgment to fall on all the people in the form of death. It's something that all humans deserve because of sin. As we saw in Genesis 3, it's the consequence for humanity's ancient rebellion. But it's also something that we were never meant to experience. As we saw yesterday in Exodus 34:6–7, the Lord is compassionate and loving, but he cannot leave the guilty unpunished. If he did, he wouldn't be just.

In the midst of this terrible plague, we can catch a glimpse of how God will provide our escape from the judgment of death. As you read, see if you can see Jesus.

Read the Word

Exodus 12:21–28 (NIV)

²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³ When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

²⁴ "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵ When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶ And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' ²⁷ then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.' "
²⁸ The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

Reflect

Those who sheltered under the blood of the lamb were saved from the death that all people, Egyptian and Hebrew alike, deserve. Death passed over them.

In the New Testament Gospel of John, John the Baptist sees Jesus and proclaims, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” Those who shelter under a blood soaked cross are spared judgment, because judgment fell on Jesus instead. He experienced the death and separation from God that our sins deserve. He is the sacrificial lamb who took our sins on himself.

It’s because of Jesus that we are spared the judgement of God and can cross over from slavery to sin to freedom in Christ. He is our great redeemer and rescuer who paid for our release with his life. We are no longer slaves to sin and death, but sons and daughters of the most high God. And this is all because of Jesus.

Jesus will love and trust the Father with all his heart. He will be loyal to God and obey his will. He will keep the covenant that Israel never could.

Pray

If it’s helpful, use the following to begin your own prayer time with God.

Praise you Lord Jesus for your great sacrifice. Though sinless, you took on my sin. You bore the sin and shame of the cross so that I could be free. Thank you for my life! Lord, I want to live for you.

Day 5

And here we are at the end of another week. It’s Friday, our day to reflect and worship. Let’s first put the pieces of this week’s part of story together and reflect on our key verse. Then we’ll review our other key verses, so we can continue to build our knowledge. We’ll also think about our place in God’s story and check ourselves so we can avoid trying to fit God into our stories.

The Story

Episode 1: God Creates

- **Key Verse: So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)**

- **Key Passages: Genesis 1–2**
- **Key Figures: Adam and Eve**

Episode 2: God is rejected

- **Key Verse: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)**
- **Key Passages: Genesis 3–11**
- **Key Figures: Adam, Eve, Noah**

Episode 3: God creates a family

- **Key Verse: “He took him outside and said, ‘Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’” (Genesis 15:5)**
- **Key Passages: Genesis 12–21**
- **Key Figures: Abraham and Sarah**

Episode 4: God rescues his people.

Last week we met Abraham and Sarah, an elderly couple who were given some very big promises. Abraham’s family was central to God’s grand plan to rescue humanity from sin and death and bring them home to him, but that didn’t mean being in this family would be easy.

Abraham’s grandson, and great grandson had some serious struggles. Like us, some of these struggles came from their own jealousy, greed, and selfishness, but others came from circumstances beyond their control — such as the famine that sent them to Egypt where they lived for over 400 years. During that time the Israelite population grew until Egypt’s new Pharaoh worried that they were a threat to his power.

The Pharaohs of Egypt were considered gods, and thought they could do whatever they wanted. This Pharaoh brutally enslaved God’s people. But God heard their cries and saw their oppression and sent Moses to demand that the Lord’s people be set free.

In a showdown he could never win, Pharaoh defied God time and time again. After a series of devastating blows, Pharaoh finally relented and allowed Moses to lead the people out of Egypt, so they could go home to the land God had promised. But they don’t make it very far before Pharaoh changed his mind and went after them.

Trapped with Pharaoh’s mighty army behind them and the deep sea in front of them, it looked like there was no escape. The Bible tells us that not only were the people terrified, but they quickly turned on Moses, “was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die?”

But God still rescued his people. In a stunning miracle that we're still talking about today, God parted the sea. With massive walls of water on either side and dry land under their feet, the people crossed the sea and arrived safely on the other side, while Pharaoh's army was destroyed.

The Israelites headed for a new life in the promised land and God offers to make a covenant with them. If they agree to worship him alone and obey his word, his presence will go with them and they will prosper. He would teach them how to relate to him and to one another. They would become a nation of justice and goodness and represent God to the world, and through them all the nations would be blessed. The people wholeheartedly agree. Or at least they appear to.

Throughout this journey, the peoples' hearts were often as hard and defiant as Pharaoh's had been. They doubted and grumbled. They betrayed the God who rescued them by creating an idol out of gold and worshipping at its feet.

While no one would blame God for giving up on these people, he never does. This generation will wander the desert for 40 years, but the next generation will be allowed to enter the promised land. Yet, they'll also struggle to trust and obey God. And so will the next generation, and the one after that.

But hope was on the way! One day someone would come who wholeheartedly loved and trusted God so much that he joyfully obeyed. Unlike Adam or Israel, he would fulfill the terms of the covenant. He would be the true Passover Lamb who would take away the sins of the world. His name is Jesus. And it's his story that we're building to.

Key Verse

Meditate on our key verse for the week. Read each phrase slowly and prayerfully. Allow the Spirit to speak to you through God's Word.

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them..."
Exodus 3:7-8

Finding your place in God's story

Ask the Spirit to guide you, then consider these questions:

- As you reflect on what you've read this week, what's your biggest takeaway? For example, what did you learn about God as Rescuer? What about Jesus as the Redeemer and Passover Lamb? How about the way God relates to humanity? For example, why did God give commandments?

- How did you see yourself reflected in the stories we read this week? For example, how is God your rescuer? Do you value God's presence? Why or why not? Why does it matter if you follow God's commands? Seek his forgiveness and ask for his power to change.
- For what do you want to praise and thank God?
- What requests do you want to bring to your loving Redeemer?

Tune in Next Week:

The Israelites are the covenant people of God, but we've already seen them struggle to trust and obey. As they grow as a nation, they will face new challenges. Next week we'll see what they are.