



# Narrabeen

ST. FAITH'S

*Anglican Church*





# THE BOOK OF EXODUS

## Part 1 | Exodus 1-15

Exodus is a marvellous part of the Old Testament. It is full of richness about God, who he is, and what he is like. Ultimately, Exodus is about a **God working sovereignly to save a special people for his own glory**. He did back then, and he still does today. That is what he is doing in the church!

*“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 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, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:4-6)*

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Note: At the end of each study, you will see the following box:

**Faith • Hope • Love**

This is to remind us that as we pray for each other to grow in spiritual maturity, we should pray that we will grow in these ways:

- **Faith:** That we will learn to trust God in every situation and in all things.
- **Hope:** That we will grow to set our hearts on the treasure that we have in Jesus.
- **Love:** That we will grow in self-giving love - that puts others before ourselves.

# Study One

## Exodus 1:1-2:10

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*Using the cards provided, try to place the events of the Old Testament in the correct order.*

*Read Genesis 12:1-3*

1. What promises does God make to Abram/Abraham?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. By the end of Genesis, how do these promises seem to be going?

*Read Exodus 1:1-2:10*

3. Compare Exodus 1:7 with Genesis 1:28 & 9:1, 7. List the similarities between these passages.\*
  - a. Along with Genesis 12:1-3, what does the similarity between these passages lead you to expect about: God's plans in creation; God's promises to Abraham; and the future of Israel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Do these expectations seem to be on track? Why/why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why does Pharaoh become concerned about the Israelites?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does he do to try to stop the Israelites from increasing?

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\* Note: "earth/land" are the same word in each of these passages.

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6. What prevents Pharaoh from succeeding in these plans (specifically in chapter 1)?
  - a. In what ways are the midwives a good example for us?
  - b. As Christians, why do we need to be careful in emulating their civil disobedience?
7. After Pharaoh's edict in 1:22, what tension or expectation do we feel with the birth of the baby boy in 2:1-2?
8. How are Pharaoh's plans prevented from succeeding here (in 2:1-10)?
  - a. Given what we know about Moses' future, what is striking about Pharaoh's daughter rescuing Moses in 2:1-10 (see 1:10)?
9. From Israel's point of view, how would it look like things were going at the moment?

⇒ *What does this passage teach us about God's promises?*

⇒ *What do we learn about how God works in our world?*

⇒ *What difference should understanding these things make to 1) our actions; and 2) our reflections on what is happening in the world around us?*

*Pray: for the courage and conviction to live with confidence in God and his promises.*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Two

## Exodus 2:11-25

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*It has been a turbulent few years. What significant rescues have you seen on tv, newspapers etc? What are some of the challenges that these types of rescues involve?*

*Read Exodus 2:11-25*

1. How would you describe Israel's situation at this point?
  
2. What expectations might we have of Moses at this stage of the narrative?
  
3. How does the incident with the Egyptian beating the Hebrew further contribute to our expectations about Moses (vs11-12)?\*
  
4. How is Moses' attempt to rescue his fellow Israelites received by them?
  
5. What does Moses end up doing after this brush with heroism?
  
6. How would you describe Moses' attempts to be a rescuer so far?
  
7. How is Moses' encounter with the daughters of Reuel described (see vs17, 19)?
  - a. How does this compare to what we have seen of Moses so far?

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\* Note: "Hebrews" is another name for the Israelites.

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- b. What response might we have to this incident as we reflect on his actions?
8. By the end of vs22, where does the story leave Israel and their hope for a rescuer?
9. Given the expectations we have of Moses, what impression does this passage leave us with regarding Moses' role in rescuing Israel from slavery in Egypt?
10. Read vs23-25 again:
- a. What factors are mentioned as the reasons for God's (forthcoming) action?
- b. Up until this point, God has been something of a "behind the scenes" character in the story. What effect does the more explicit introduction of God into the story at this point have on us as we read?

⇒ *How should this passage both encourage and warn us in our desire to do great things for God? (What will it look like for us to remember Jesus in this desire?)*

⇒ *What response should we have when we see other people doing great things in God's name?*

⇒ *What does this passage teach us about God's character?*

**Pray:** *in thanks for God's faithfulness and compassion; for the salvation we have in Jesus; and that we will keep this as the focus of our work for him.*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Three

## Exodus 3:1-22

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*Based on what you see in the media/social media and speaking with friends, what do you think the "average Australian" thinks about God?*

1. What has the story so far led us to expect about:
  - a. Moses
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. God

*Read Exodus 3:1-22*

2. What impression of God do you get from vs1-6?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How does God identify himself to Moses in vs6? Why is this significant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In vs7, what 3 words/phrases does God use to describe his reason for acting?
  - a. What does this tell us about God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What further things does God say he *has done* or *will do* in vs8-10?



6. What might be the significance of God identifying himself the way he does in vs14?
  
7. In vs18-22, God tells Moses how the Israelites and Egyptians will respond to him. How does this compare with the reaction Moses received from the Israelites and Egyptians in 2:14-15?
  
8. What overall impression does this passage leave you with regarding God and the future of Israel?

⇒ *What does this passage tell us about God's promises?*

⇒ *What does this passage tell us about God's disposition towards his people?*

⇒ *How will/should knowing these things about God affect your trust in him, and his promises in Jesus?*

⇒ *In what situations do you find it difficult to exercise such trust? Why?*

⇒ *How can we encourage each other in this area?*

**Pray:** *That we will have a right understanding of God and trust in him as we live as his people.*

**Faith • Hope • Love**

# Study Four

# Exodus 4:1-31

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Have you ever been in a situation where you feel like you are “not cut out” for what you are meant to be doing? Have you ever had this feeling as you strive to live for God?

Read Exodus 4:1-31

1. In 3:11-4:17, Moses gives a number of excuses/objections to what God is asking him to do. In the following table, list the objections and God’s responses:

	<i>Moses’ Objection</i>	<i>God’s Response</i>
3:11-12		
3:13-22		
4:1-9		
4:10-12		
4:13-22		

2. How might Moses’ history with both Israel (2:13-14) and Pharaoh (2:15) have influenced some of his responses to God’s instructions?

a. Does this history justify Moses’ objections? Why/why not?

3. What factor/s *should* influence Moses’ response to God’s instructions?

4. What impression do you get of Moses from these verses?
5. In vs24-25, it seems that God is angry with Moses because his son is not circumcised.\* Given that circumcision was a sign of God's covenant with Abraham, why do you think God might be angry that Moses' son isn't circumcised?

- ⇒ *What impression of God do you get from these verses?*
- ⇒ *Do you have confidence in the power of God that you see demonstrated in this passage? How is this confidence seen (or not seen) in your life?*
- ⇒ *What do we learn about God's anger in this passage? What might it look like for us to take this anger seriously, while remaining confident of his mercy and love?*
- ⇒ *Do we have promises/encouragements from God like Moses did when it comes to the things God calls us to do? If so, what are they?*
- ⇒ *What sorts of excuses do you make for not doing what God wants you to do? How does this passage challenge your excuses?*

**Pray:** *That we will have confidence in God's power to work in, through and in spite of us and that this will lead us to faithfulness to his commands.*

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\* Note: It's difficult to work out exactly who is being spoken about in this incident (see the footnote in your bibles) – but we can still get a good idea of what is going on.

# Study Five

## Exodus 5:1-6:1

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*Is it ever right to complain to God when things are going badly? Why/why not?*

*Read Exodus 5:1-6:1*

1. What was the Israelites' reaction to Moses' message in 4:31?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  2. How would you describe Moses' tone in his first meeting statement to Pharaoh (5:1)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  3. What is Pharaoh's response to Moses' demands?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  4. How would you describe Pharaoh's attitude to God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  5. What result does this encounter produce for:
    - a. The Israelites?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. Moses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  6. How does the Israelites' initial enthusiasm compare with what they say to Moses in 5:19-21?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  7. How does Moses' initial confidence before Pharaoh compare with what he says to God in vs22-23?
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8. What is the overall affect of this first attempt to free the Israelites? Who seems to be in control?
9. What does 3:19 & 6:1 contribute to our understanding of this encounter?
10. What do we learn about Pharaoh and the seriousness of Israel's problem in this passage? How does this affect our understanding of the rescue that God will eventually provide?
- a. How might this help us to think about the rescue God has provided in Jesus?

⇒ *Do you ever feel like the things that you expect (or hope for) from God are impossible? Why?*

⇒ *In what ways have you been like Israel and/or Moses in your reaction to these difficulties?*

⇒ *What does this passage teach us about God and the way he works that should help us in these situations?*

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# Study Six

## Exodus 6:2-7:7

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*Do you think people see selfishness, greed and lust as things they are enslaved to and need to be freed from? Why/why not?*

*Read Exodus 6:2-7:7*

1. From 6:2-12, what reasons does God give about why he is about to act to free the Israelites?
  - a. What do you think is the significance of God mentioning his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?
  
2. What does God tell Moses to say to the Israelites?
  - a. What does God want the Israelites to know?
  
3. How would you expect the Israelites to respond to this news?
  - a. How do they respond to Moses' message this time? Why?

*The NT tells us that Jesus rescues people from slavery to sin (e.g. Rom 6):*

*⇒ In what ways might people have a similar attitude to that of the Israelites with regard to Jesus' rescue? How can being aware of this help us as we seek to speak to people about Jesus?*

⇒ *As people who have received this rescue, when might we still have a similar attitude ourselves? How can we help each other and ourselves to embrace rather than resist the new life that God has given us?*

4. What does God tell Moses to say to Pharaoh?
  - a. What reasons does Moses give for his reluctance?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Do you think Moses' concerns are justified? Why/why not?

⇒ *As messengers of God's rescue, how might we have an attitude like that of Moses? How does this passage challenge that attitude?*

*Further Discussion if you have time:*

5. For what purpose does God say that he will harden Pharaoh's heart? What does God want the Egyptians to know (see 5:2)?
  - a. How does this compare with What God wants for Israel? What does this add to your understanding of what it means to know God?

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5. What is different about this plague from the preceding ones?
  
6. What does the competition between Moses and the magicians tell us about God?
  - a. What does Pharaoh do with the magicians' advice?
  
7. How would you summarise this showdown between Pharaoh and God?
  
8. Pharaoh began in 5:2 by saying that he "did not know the LORD". What has changed since then – and what hasn't changed?
  
9. What might the progression of this contest between God and Pharaoh suggest about God and how he brings judgment?

⇒ *Do you believe that nothing can stand against or prevent God's judgment? How do you feel about this? What difference does knowing this make?*

⇒ *What can we learn from this passage about hardness of heart against God?*

⇒ *What are some reasons that people harden their hearts against God?*

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# Study Eight

## Exodus 8:20-10:29

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*"We should avoid talking about God's judgment and just focus on his love and forgiveness." Do you agree? Why/why not?*

1. From Exodus 5:2, why is Pharaoh so dismissive of Moses' demand to let God's people go?
2. In groups, read the following verses and report back what they tell us about God's purpose in the plagues: 7:5, 17; 8:10, 22; 9:13-16; 10:1-2.
3. From Exodus 1:6-11, In what way can we see this as Pharaoh opposing God's purposes in creation (see Genesis 1:28)?
4. From 9:29, what is Pharaoh's attitude to "the earth" because he doesn't know the LORD?
5. Make a list of the plagues and their consequences. In what ways can we see God's judgment in the plagues as an "undoing" of his blessing in creation (see Genesis 1)?

6. What happens each time Pharaoh agrees to comply with Moses' demand?
  
7. What are some of Pharaoh's officials beginning to realise that Pharaoh does not (9:20-21; 10:7)?
  
8. Despite Pharaoh's culpability for hardening his own heart, what does 10:1-2 tell us about the bigger plan of God in this? How does this fit into God's bigger plan for the world?

⇒ *How is Pharaoh's attitude to God reflected in all of humanity?*

⇒ *From this passage, why is it important that people "know the LORD"?*

⇒ *How can these plagues help us to understand the nature of God's judgment?*

⇒ *"The reason we balk at God's judgment is because we take God and his blessing for granted."  
Do you agree?*

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# Study Nine

## Exodus 11-12

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*Have there been any events in your life that you look back on as being particularly significant? In what way do they affect your life still?*

*Read Exodus 11*

1. What is the final plague that God is going to bring on Egypt?
2. What does God promise will be the result of this plague?
3. How is this plague different to the previous ones?
4. Imagine yourself in Israel's position, living in slavery and oppression. What would this event mean for you?

*Read Exodus 12*

5. Why do you think God wants the Passover to be at the start of each year (vs1-2)?
6. How will the Israelites avoid the judgment that comes on Egypt?

Read Matt 26:17-30

7. What similarities and differences are there between the Passover and the Lord's Supper?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Why do you think Jesus used God's rescue from Egypt as the model for what he is using in his death?

⇒ *How can we make sure that we are just as serious about remembering Jesus' death for us as Israel were about remembering their rescue from slavery in Egypt?*

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# Study Ten

## Exodus 13-14

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*What significant event has just happened before these chapters? Try to summarise "the story so far".*

*Read Exodus 13:17-14:13*

1. How is Joseph (13:19) a good example for us?

2. How is Israel a bad example for us?

⇒ *In what areas/situations do you tend to be more like the Israelites than Joseph?*

⇒ *What might it look like for us to be more like Joseph and less like the Israelites?*

*Read 14:14-31*

3. What is God aiming to achieve through the events of these chapters?

4. What was the Israelites' involvement in these events?

5. What was the Israelites' response to these events?

*The New Testament tells us that the events of the exodus are fulfilled in Jesus. Discuss the following similarities between the exodus and their fulfillment in Jesus:*

⇒ *Do you ever consider the fact that part of God's purpose in sending Jesus was to glorify himself? What difference will it make if we believe that this is both true and good?*

⇒ *For Israel, the enemy was Egypt. For us, it is sin: What do the words of 14:13-14 mean (and not mean)? ("Do not be afraid." "Stand firm." "You need only be still")?*

*When do you need to be reminded of these words?*

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# Study Eleven

## Exodus 15:1-21

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*What songs do you/we have that celebrate your/our cultural heritage?*

*Read Exodus 15:1-21*

1. These verses are “theological” and “poetic” reflection of the story we have been reading in Exodus. The two main characters are “the LORD” and “Pharaoh/Egypt”. From vs3-10, list some of the things this song says about each of them.
2. How is this song a fitting conclusion to Exodus 5:1-2?
3. What part does Israel play in all this?
4. Compare v8 & vs10 with the description of these events in 14:21-22, 27. What can we learn from this comparison?
5. How is God described in vs11?

⇒ *Discuss what might it look like if we sincerely believe these attributes of God?*



6. What do the nations described in vs14-15 have in common?

7. What role does God's salvation from the Egyptians have with respect to these nations?

⇒ *Our great "exodus" is our salvation from sin and judgment through Jesus. How does "looking back" & "looking forward" help us in the Christian life?*

⇒ *How is this song a fitting conclusion to the story of the exodus so far?*

*You might like to finish by listening to a song about the victory of Jesus for us on the cross e.g. "The Power of the Cross", Stuart Townend (or some other favourite) – and then pray together praising God for this victory.*

**Pray:** *Give thanks for all that we've learned through our time in Exodus, and pray that God might continue to teach us as we reflect on what we've learned & been challenged by.*

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