

# #My Jubilee Bible

## Reflection/Discussion Guide: Genesis 43 – Exodus 12; Psalm 15-21

This guide is broken into three parts:

1. A brief overview of the Scriptures you are reading this week
2. Questions for personal reflection
3. Questions for group discussion and application

Feel free to answer the questions for personal reflection at your own pace. They are designed to help consider a section of Scripture: the people, relationships and events described in the section.

### Overview of Exodus

The last few chapters of Genesis demonstrate God's Sovereign hand to work through people that he chooses. Jacob and his family are being restored because of a great famine that threatens to destroy the Israelites and the whole region including Egypt.

We will continue to see God's mighty, sovereign hand working in and through very flawed men to carry out His purposes in the earth.

God had given Abraham a peak into the future in Genesis 15:13. His family will end up in Egypt and things will not go well for them. They will be afflicted for 400-years.

But keep reading. Exodus will not disappoint. It is one of the greatest Epics in literary history. It follows so much of the story arc of our own lives: suffering, salvation, deliverance and formation. God's pursuit of a people who will be for His glory continues through the best and hardest that life has to offer.

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## Questions for Personal Reflection

### Genesis chapters 43-46 Jacob's family restored

- The great famine threatens extinction for Jacob's family. How does God use this bad thing to bring about good? (45:4-8)
- What would you have done if you were in Joseph's situation?
- Delays and detours in our lives can be really frustrating. Jacob is experiencing a detour late in life. How does God encourage him to go forward in faith? How does God help you through the detours and delays of life? (Genesis 46:2-4)

### Genesis chapters 47-50 Blessings in the Land of Egypt

- How does Jacob describe his life? (Genesis 47:9)
- Even though Jacob's life has been hard the bulk of the next two chapters are filled with him blessing his descendents. How do you relate to Jacob's situation?
  - How easy is it for you to bless others when things are going your way?
  - What about when they are not going your way?
- What are some ways that you can bless others around you with your words?

### Exodus chapters 1-3 God's People are Afflicted

- What does the Bible point to as the motivation for Egypt's ruthless treatment of Israel? (Exodus 1:12)
  - How do you respond when others around you are prospering and you are not?
  - What part do your fears play in the way you treat others?
- The midwives fear God (Exodus 1:21). How did their fear of God determine how they treated others?
  - How did God demonstrate love toward these midwives?
  - What are some ways you can identify with the midwives?
- How does God respond to the suffering and oppression of His people?
  - What are some ways you can relate to Moses?
  - How are you responding to God's call?

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## Exodus chapters 4-6 It Gets Worse before it Gets Better

- God's plan is that there will be opposition (Exodus 4:21). How does God use opposition in your life to accomplish his will?
- Moses cries out to God in Exodus 5:22.
  - What are some situations in your life that seem harder than they need to be?
  - How is crying out to God as Moses did an act of faith?
- Read Exodus 6:2-9.
  - Who is taking responsibility for delivering Israel from Egypt?
  - How do the people of Israel respond to God? (Exodus 6:9)
  - What ways has discouragement and brokenness kept you from hearing God's promise?

## Exodus chapters 7-12 The Plagues

- Each plague grows in intensity and takes aim at the god's of Egypt.
  - What is God trying to accomplish through these plagues?
  - How does God distinguish between the Egyptians and Israelites?
- The 10<sup>th</sup> plague was not limited to the Egyptians even the slaves would be effected (Exodus 11:5).
  - What will distinguish those who live and those who will die by this plague? (Exodus 12:7-13)
  - How could an Israelite be sure that their firstborn would not die? (Exodus 12:13)
  - What was the result of obeying this command?
- Read 1 Peter 1:17-21.
  - What is the redemption price that Jesus paid for us?
  - Just as Israel applied the blood of the lamb to their houses by faith, we receive the sacrifice of Jesus as payment of our lives by faith. He paid our redemption price.
    - Have you received Jesus as your redemption?
    - What is the impact on your life?

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## CG Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: How has engagement in Lent helped you in past years?

Read Genesis 50:15-21

- Why were Joseph's brothers afraid?
  - How had Joseph's behavior up to now given them a reason to think he would seek revenge?
  - How would you have responded in Joseph's situation?
- How did Joseph's brothers accept responsibility for their actions?
  - Is it easier to forgive someone who takes responsibility for their actions? Why/Why not?
- Do you make it easy for people to ask you for forgiveness?
  - How did Joseph help his brothers know they were forgiven?
- Joseph asks a rhetorical question: "...am I in the place of God?"
  - How is withholding forgiveness a way of taking God's place?
- How does Joseph reconcile the evil done to him with God's goodness?
- Joseph not only forgave his brothers, but made arrangements to provide for them.
  - How has forgiveness worked in your life to not only forgive those who've wronged you, but to even do good for them?
  - What keeps you from doing good for people who have done you wrong?

Read Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

- Is there someone that you need to forgive?
- What is a step you can take to go from forgiving to doing good toward those who have offended you?

Pray for one another:

- Pray that God will help us uproot any unforgiveness toward others
- Pray for boldness to move from unforgiveness to forgiveness and from forgiveness to doing good for those who have offended us.

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Notes: