

Study Series: Seamless

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 Lesson Title: “The Exodus” (pp. 34-46)

Session 3

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The main point of this lesson is: God’s seamless plan for humanity included leading His people out of Egyptian slavery and giving them guidance for living.

Focus on this goal: To help adults identify ways the Exodus and wilderness wanderings relate to their lives

Key Bible Passage: Exodus–Numbers 12

To the Leader: This session calls for quite a bit of summarizing (not teaching) passages you might already know. Familiarize yourself with the events and be prepared to relate briefly without giving lots of details.

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Invite adults to estimate the furthest distance they’ve ever traveled in one day. Request they estimate the most pages they’ve read in one day. Inform the group they are going to cover three books of the Bible and travel hundreds of miles in this session. Assure them they don’t have to grasp all the details; the purpose is to gain an overview of biblical events to see how everything fits together seamlessly.

Read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 44). State: Although the facts we’ll learn are interesting, we never want to read the Bible just for information, but to understand and apply it for transformation. So, as we explore these hundreds of pages and miles today, we will seek to identify ways the Exodus and wilderness wanderings relate to our lives.

Step 2. The Birth of Moses

Note the exodus from Egypt, like many big moments in Scripture, begins with a miraculous birth. Discuss Day One, activity 1A (p. 35). Ask a volunteer to read Luke 18:24-27. State: An important transformational truth relating to our lives is that God makes miraculous birth into His kingdom possible.

Recall where this study left off in Session 2.

Invite a volunteer to read Exodus 1:6-14. Note one way this Exodus story relates to our lives is reminding us that being God’s chosen people doesn’t prevent us from hardships (John 15:18-21; 16:33).

Summarize Exodus 1:15-22. Ask a volunteer to read Exodus 2:1-10. Explain the name Moses sounds like “drawing out” in Hebrew. Instead of being drowned in water, Moses was drawn out of the water.

Summarize Exodus 2:11-22. Read the last paragraph of Day One (p. 36).

Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 36).

Step 3. God’s Plan

Summarize Exodus 3:1-10.

Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 37). Note God will always answer our “Who am I?” questions with “What matters is who I am and the truth that I will be with you.” Read John 8:58-59. Consider why the Jews tried to stone Jesus.

State: After more arguments at the burning bush (which God won) Moses returned to Egypt and was reunited with his brother and spokesman Aaron. Invite a volunteer to read Exodus 5:1-2. Explain God sent the plagues in response to Pharaoh’s hard heart. Invite volunteers to identify the ten plagues from Exodus 7–11. Analyze the significance of the plagues.

Discuss Day Two, activity 2A (p. 38). Ask: What is the ultimate and most important way the Exodus relates to our lives? Assert Jesus is the fulfillment of Passover; the apostle Paul calls Him our Passover lamb in 1 Corinthians 5:7. Read what John the Baptist said about Jesus in John 1:29.

Request a volunteer read the Day Two paragraph (p. 38) beginning with “From early in Scripture . . ..”

Urge adults who want to know more about putting their faith in Christ and being redeemed from their empty way of life to talk with you after the session.

Step 4. Out of Egypt

Read Exodus 13:17-22. Ask volunteers to describe what happened next (Ex. 14).

Briefly guide the group through Exodus 16–19, highlighting God giving them food and water and the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20). Consider reasons God gave the Israelites these commandments, along with all the laws in the book of Leviticus.

Evaluate how those laws relate to our lives today, using the remarks and activity 2 in Day Three (pp. 39-40).

Step 5. The Tabernacle

Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (p. 41). Explain that “dwelt” or “took up residence” in John 1:14 literally means “tabernacled” or “pitched his tent.”

Request adults flip through Exodus 25–30 and 35–39 looking at section headings. Ask: Why do you think God was so specific about these details?

Invite a volunteer to read Hebrews 8:5-6. Declare: All these things were shadows of the real substance—Jesus. That’s how all of these ancient details relate to our lives today.

Step 6. The Wilderness Wandering

Say: Now we get to Numbers, titled for the two times the people took a census of, or numbered, the men of fighting age. Numbers continues the seamless narrative, picking up one month after Moses set up the tabernacle (compare Ex. 40:2 with Num. 1:1), about a year after the miraculous exodus from Egypt.

Read the Day Five Note (p. 43; Session 4 will get into the reason for that wandering).

Discuss Day Five, activities 1 and 2 (p. 43).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Invite adults to share something new they learned in this session about the Exodus and wilderness wanderings.

Remind the group we read Scripture for transformation and not just information. Ask: How can this portion of God’s seamless story relate to our lives today? How can it challenge us and transform how we relate to God?

Close in prayer.

