



HE IS NOT HERE

HE HAS RISEN, JUST AS HE SAID.

LENTEN COMPANION GUIDE

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A TALE OF REDEMPTION

COMPARING THE EXODUS STORY TO EASTER

The Exodus story and the story of Easter are both profound narratives of deliverance and redemption, pointing to God's power to save His people.

In Exodus, God rescues the Israelites from slavery in Egypt through Moses, culminating in the Passover. The blood of the lamb on the doorposts protects the Israelites from death, foreshadowing the ultimate Lamb of God. God parts the Red Sea, leading His people to freedom and a covenant at Mount Sinai.

Easter fulfills this story on a cosmic scale. Jesus, the Lamb of God, offers Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all humanity. His death and resurrection bring liberation not from physical slavery, but from the bondage of sin and death. Just as God led the Israelites to a promised land, Jesus promises eternal life to all who believe in Him.

Both stories reveal God's unchanging character: **a Redeemer who delivers His people and invites them into a covenant relationship with Him.**

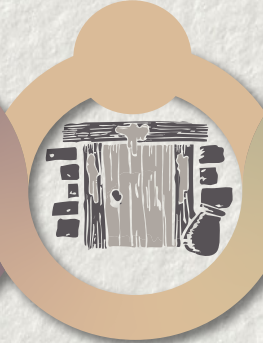
God's people were enslaved in Egypt.
[Exodus 1]



God reveals Himself through the burning bush.
[Exodus 3]



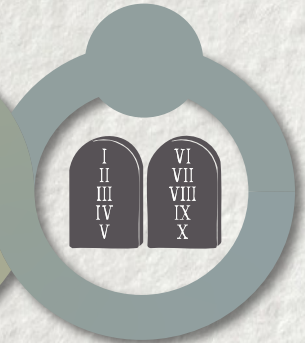
God saves His people through sacrifice.
[Exodus 12]



The Israelites wander in the desert, waiting for God to bring them to the Promised Land.
[Exodus 16]



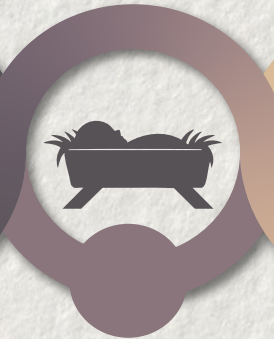
The Israelites are given the 10 Commandments.
[Exodus 20]



We are slaves to sin.
[Romans 6:20]



God reveals His love for His people by sending Jesus.
[1 John 4:9]



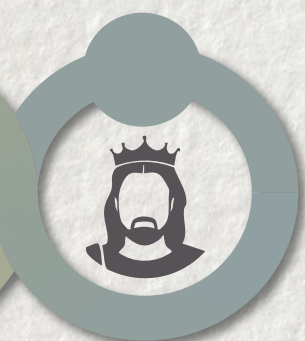
Jesus gave His disciples a new command.
[John 13:34]



God saves His people through the sacrifice of His only son.
[John 3:16]



As God's people, we reverently await Jesus' return to redeem all things.
[Hebrews 9]



ENSLAVEMENT WEEK ONE

Before we can talk about the saving events of God, we first have to establish the truth that God's people need saving. The Old Testament Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians. All people are enslaved by sin. Just like the Egyptian slaves, we cry out to God for deliverance too.



Exodus 1:1-14

These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," 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."

So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

Romans 6:15-23

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? **But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.**

I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

SERMON REFLECTIONS



ADDITIONAL READINGS

Psalms 105



ROWS CHALLENGE

Learn the names of a few people that sit in your row on Sunday. If you're feeling ambitious, learn the names of the people in the row in front of and behind you.

What aspects of the Israelites' faith, culture, or experiences may have helped them endure suffering and slavery?

What are some things we're enslaved by today? (i.e. money, sports, self-image, etc.) How does the gospel offer freedom from these enslavements?



DID YOU KNOW?

There were different levels of slavery in Egypt. Some slaves worked long hours in mud pits while others were skilled carpenters, jewelers, and craftsman. Regardless of their skill level, all slaves were watched closely by brutal slave masters whose job it was to make sure the slaves worked as fast as possible.



FAMILY ACTIVITY

BRICK WITHOUT STRAW CHALLENGE

Experience a small taste of the frustration and challenges the Israelites faced when Pharaoh forced them to make bricks without straw. This serves as a practical and reflective way to connect with their struggles and God's deliverance.

Phase 1: Build a tower or structure using all available materials, simulating normal working conditions.

Phase 2: Limit available resources but still try to build a tall structure still.

Phase 3: Add a time limit to Phase 2 to simulate the increased workload and stress the Israelites would have experienced.

Discuss how the Israelites were forced to make bricks without straw and how it might have felt to work under such harsh conditions. Talk about how God hears and responds to cries for help in difficult times.



PRAAYER PROMPT

Take a moment to reflect on the lyrics of “Egypt” by Bethel Music and Cory Asbury. As you listen or read through the words, ask yourself:

- What is the “Egypt” in your life—the places of bondage, struggle, or fear that God is leading you out of?
- How has God shown His faithfulness, perhaps holding back the “waters” in your life to make a way forward?
- Are there moments of “cloud by day” and “fire by night” where God’s presence has guided and sustained you?

Spend time in prayer, thanking God for being the one who fights for you and leads you through the deep. Ask Him to help you trust in His power to deliver you into His promises. End your prayer by praising Him for His love and for the victories He has already won in your life.

If you feel led, write your prayer below or write a reflection of how God is leading you today.



EGYPT

BETHEL MUSIC AND CORY ASBURY

I won't forget
The wonder of how You brought
Deliverance
The exodus of my heart

You found me
You freed me
Held back the waters for my release
Oh Yahweh

You're the God who fights for me
Lord of every victory
Hallelujah, hallelujah
You have torn apart the sea
You have led me through the deep
Hallelujah, hallelujah

A cloud by day
A sign that You are with me
The fire by night
A guiding light to my feet

You stepped into my Egypt
You took me by the hand
You marched me out in freedom
Into the promised land
Now I will not forget You
I'll sing of all You've done
Death is swallowed up forever
By the fury of Your love



MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

No Longer Slaves
Bethel Music

LSB 487
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Chain Breaker
Zach Williams

I Am Not Alone
Kari Jobe

THE BURNING BUSH

WEEK TWO

Yahweh heard His people's cry for deliverance and answered, but He used an unexpected deliverer - Moses. A man raised in Pharaoh's courts, a man with a speech problem, a murderer. Yahweh sent His deliverer for all creation, also someone unexpected - Jesus, a baby who would one day cause the falling and rising of many in Israel.



Exodus 3:1-12

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Luke 2:25-35

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

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 from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

SERMON REFLECTIONS



ADDITIONAL READINGS

Genesis 3
Psalm 106

Do you feel like God does or does not hear your cries? What does this lead you to think about God and about yourself?

The New Testament authors viewed Jesus as God's promised deliverance from the sin and death that entered in Genesis 3. How does Jesus shape your perceptions about God's promises?



CIRCLES CHALLENGE

In your small group, your family dinner table, with a friend, or another community you are a part of, pose this week's reflection questions and discuss them together.

the·oph·a·ny *[NOUN]*

A visible manifestation of God to humankind.



A FEW THEOPHANIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 16:7 // Genesis 18:1-11 // Genesis 22:11-12 // Exodus 3:2 // Exodus 14:19



DID YOU KNOW?

Most English Bibles use "LORD" in ALL CAPS when the original Hebrew has "Yahweh" [God's name revealed to Moses]. Today, rather than use the name "Yahweh", Jews call God "Hashem", which means "The name".

HEBREW

יהוה



FAMILY GAME

DON'T LET IT BURN

The aim of this game is to build pretend flames to engulf the shrub. In preparation you'll need to cut out of paper, tissue paper, or crepe paper, enough flames for the challenge to be completed. If you are blessed to have a hardy real plant, use it, if not then a pile of twigs or a photograph of a bush would work. Have your group or groups race against the clock to cover the shrub with flames. For older groups, make it a relay race.



GUIDED PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We come before You in awe, just as Moses stood in awe of Your holy presence at the burning bush. You are the great I AM—unchanging, eternal, and full of power and love.

We thank You for revealing Yourself to us in ways that call us closer to You. Just as You called Moses by name, You know each of us intimately and invite us into Your purpose. Help us to listen for Your voice and respond with faith, even when we feel unworthy or unsure of the path ahead. Teach us to trust in Your plans, Lord. Remind us that You are with us, equipping us for the work You have prepared for us. Fill us with courage to step out in obedience, knowing that You are faithful and Your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Holy God, as Moses removed his sandals in reverence, help us to approach You with humble hearts, recognizing that we are on sacred ground when we stand in Your presence. May we be attentive to the ways You are revealing Yourself in our lives—through Your Word, Your creation, and the still, small voice of Your Spirit. Guide us, Lord, to be vessels of Your love and deliverance, just as You used Moses to lead Your people to freedom. Let our lives reflect Your glory, pointing others to the hope and salvation found in You alone.

We pray all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.



HERE I AM LORD

DAN SCHUTTE

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

THE PLAGUES

WEEK THREE

Yahweh is not simply a god of an enslaved people, He is the Almighty. There are no other gods that can stand before Him. Yahweh displays His power over all of creation: the waters, the human body, and even darkness. That same authority is revealed in the person and work of Jesus - who showed His power over water, the human body, and even darkness.



Exodus 9:13-17

The Plague of Hail

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. You still set yourself against my people and will not let them go."

Matthew 8:1-4

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."



ADDITIONAL READINGS

Exodus 7-11

Psalms 83

Luke 23:44-45

Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Romans 9:14-18

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses,

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.



DOTS CHALLENGE

The wilderness added to Jesus' spiritual experience as a man, but solitude shapes us by taking things away rather than adding. Practice taking 3 minutes with no phone, no reading material, no background noise. Limit all possible distractions and just sit for 3 minutes and ask God to shape you into a person who looks more like Him.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

How did Jesus confront the plagues of sin, destruction, and death in His own life?

What is plaguing you this week? How might God redeem these situations in your life, to bring about life and glory from pain and struggle?



GUIDED PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We come before You in awe of Your mighty power and unfailing love. Just as You sent the plagues upon Egypt to show Your authority over all false gods and to deliver Your people from bondage, we recognize Your sovereignty in every trial we face. Through the devastation of the plagues, You revealed Your justice and mercy, working not only to free the Israelites but to declare Your greatness to all generations.

Lord, we thank You for using trials in our lives to break the chains of oppression and sin. When we face hardships, help us to see Your hand at work, refining us, teaching us, and drawing us closer to You. Just as You provided a way of deliverance through the Passover lamb, we thank You for the ultimate Lamb, Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice frees us from the bondage of sin and offers us eternal salvation. May we trust in Your plans, even when the path seems hard, knowing that Your purpose is always to save, redeem, and restore. Strengthen our faith, Lord, and help us walk in obedience, trusting in Your strong hand to lead us to freedom.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



FAMILY CHALLENGE

Some people may feel plagued by loneliness, chronic pain, or discouragement. As a family, make 10 cards of encouragement. Be sure to include a Bible verse about God's power. Bring your encouragement cards to a nursing home to share with the residents. Take time to talk, play a game, listen, connect, and make new friends while you are there.



DID YOU KNOW?

The number ten is a significant number in the Bible. It represents a fullness of quantity. Just as the Ten Commandments became symbolic of the fullness of the moral law of God, the ten plagues represent the fullness of God's expression of justice and judgments upon those who refuse to repent. Each of the ten plagues shows Yahweh's direct power over a specific god or goddess of Egypt.

EGYPTIAN GOD OR GODDESS

Hapi - Egyptian god of the Nile

This Egyptian god was a water bearer.

Heket - Egyptian goddess of Fertility, Water, Renewal

This god had the head of a frog.

Geb - Egyptian god of the Earth

This god was over the dust of the earth.

Khepri - Egyptian god of creation

This god had the head of a fly.

Hathor - Egyptian goddess of Love and Protection

This Egyptian goddess was depicted with the head of a cow.

Isis - Egyptian goddess of Medicine and Peace

Nut - Egyptian goddess of the Sky

Seth - Egyptian god of Storms and Disorder

Ra - The Sun god

Pharaoh - The Ultimate Power of Egypt

EGYPTIAN PLAGUE

Water Turned to Blood

Seven days the water throughout all the land of Egypt remained in this state, unsuitable for drinking, the perfect length of time to demonstrate that the Lord was superior to all the other gods of Egypt.

Frogs coming from the Nile River

The frogs came up from the river and were in their houses, in their food, in their clothing, in every place possible. Pharaoh's magicians were able to bring more frogs in their attempt to imitate the power of God, but only Moses was able to make the frogs go away.

Gnats from the dust of the earth

Dust became gnats throughout all the land, on both people and beasts. Finally, the magicians of Pharaoh are humiliated, being unable to compete with this power that was so much greater than themselves and the powers that they had from their Egyptian gods and goddesses, and they profess, "this is the finger of God."

Swarms of Flies

Only the Egyptians are affected by this plague. This wonder also moves the Egyptian plagues to a different level, adding destruction as well as discomfort to the consequence of their decisions.

Death of Cattle and Livestock

This plague was given with an advanced warning, allowing a period of repentance to occur, which goes unheeded. Disease and pestilence fell upon their livestock with so severe a consequence as to cause them to die.

Ashes turned to Boils and Sores

Being instructed by the Lord, Moses took ashes from the furnace of affliction, and threw them into the air. As the dust from the ashes blew all over Egypt, it settled on man and beast alike in the form of boils and sores. Cleanliness being paramount in the Egyptian society, this plague pronounces the people "unclean."

Hail rained down in the form of fire

Hail of unspeakable size and ability to destroy, rained down from the sky and turned to fire as it hit the ground. The Lord, in showing Pharaoh that "there is none like Him in the Earth", allows those who are willing to hear His Word, and do as He commands, to be saved.

Locusts sent from the sky

The eighth plague, a swarm of locusts, was sent to demonstrate the Lord's power, teaching Pharaoh and future generations of His might over Egypt's gods. Following the hail, the locusts destroyed whatever crops remained, completing the devastation.

Three Days of Complete Darkness

Three days of palpable darkness, that was so immense it could be physically felt, covered the land of Egypt. The sun, the most worshiped god in Egypt other than Pharaoh himself, gave no light. The Lord showed that he had control over the sun as a witness that the God of Israel had ultimate power over life and death.

Death of the Firstborn

Pharaoh, worshiped as the son of Ra, defied the Lord and declared the final plague, warning Moses never to return. In response, Moses announced the Lord's judgment: the death of all firstborns of all the Egyptians, from Pharaoh's son to the lowliest servant.

PASSOVER

WEEK FOUR

Yahweh sends the final plague of the death of the firstborn on Egypt to show His ultimate authority over even death itself. But His people use the blood of the lamb to cover their homes, so that when the Lord sees the blood He will pass over their homes. In the same way, Jesus is our Passover Lamb whose blood covers over our sin.



Exodus 12:1-22

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door frames of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, **“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**

1 Corinthians 5:7

Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. **For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.**

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.

“Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.”

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. 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 door frame. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning.”**

Revelation 5:6, 12

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

SERMON REFLECTIONS



ADDITIONAL READINGS

Deuteronomy 16:1-8

Numbers 9:1-14

Matthew 26:17-30

How is Jesus like the “young lamb, without blemish” of the first Passover?

What sins, struggles, or burdens has God forgiven and freed you from through the blood of Jesus?



MUSICAL REFLECTION

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION LSB 478

Take a minute to read over the lyrics of this hymn. What can you learn about the sacrifice of God from it?



ARROWS CHALLENGE

God calls us to sacrifice in order to follow Him. What can you do today to sacrifice your comfort in order to further the kingdom of God?

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,
△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,

The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light
Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.
All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,
And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne

Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own “All hail!” and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!
And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!



DID YOU KNOW?

Every year, at the beginning of Passover, Jewish families around the world gather for a special event called the Seder, which means “order” in Hebrew. This ritual meal combines food, song, and storytelling to recount the miraculous Exodus, when God rescued His people from bondage in Egypt. The Seder is a time of remembrance, re-imagining, and celebration of God’s deliverance.

When Christians observe a Seder, it serves as a way to connect with the Jewish roots of the faith, particularly in relation to Passover and its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the ultimate Passover Lamb. Many traditional elements are observed, but the focus is on how each part symbolizes Jesus. Just as the Israelites were spared from death by the blood of a spotless lamb placed on their doorposts, Christ’s innocent blood was shed to save believers from eternal death. The Passover Lamb was a sacrifice, a substitute, foreshadowing Jesus—the Lamb of God—who gave His life for our sins. Christians also reflect on how Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, instituting the Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion) through the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the cup, signifying His sacrifice and the new covenant of grace through His very body and blood.

A Seder plate usually includes:



A roasted shank bone to represent the Pesach lamb (The Pesach lamb is a lamb that was sacrificed during Passover. The lamb was a symbol of the sins of the people, and its sacrifice foreshadowed the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.)



An egg representing spring and the circle of life



Bitter herbs representing slavery in Egypt



Charoset (mixture of wine, nuts, and apples crushed together) to represent the mortar used by the Jews in Egypt when they labored for Pharaoh



Parsley to dip into salt water to represent the tears and hardship of slavery



Three pieces of matzah (unleavened bread) representing the bread the Israelites took with them when they fled on the night of Passover.



FAMILY ACTIVITY

Host your own Seder meal of sorts. You can use traditional food or substitute a recipe that has been passed down and is traditional in your family. Make sure everyone has a role to play in preparing and serving the meal. During the meal, go around the table and share one way that God has protected and provided for you. Offer prayers or songs of thanksgiving to God during or after your meal!

LACK OF FAITH

WEEK FIVE

Yahweh demonstrated His power to Egypt, the greatest nation of its time, by delivering His people from slavery and death. Yet, despite His miraculous rescue, the Israelites quickly began to grumble—complaining about food, water, and even the land He had promised them. But this struggle wasn't unique to them. As God's people today, saved through Jesus, we too are often quick to complain, forgetting His faithfulness and provision in our own lives.



Exodus 14:10-14

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 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? 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!"

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. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."**

Exodus 15:22-26

Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."

SERMON REFLECTIONS

Exodus 16:1-8

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, **"You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord."**

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

James 5:9

Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!



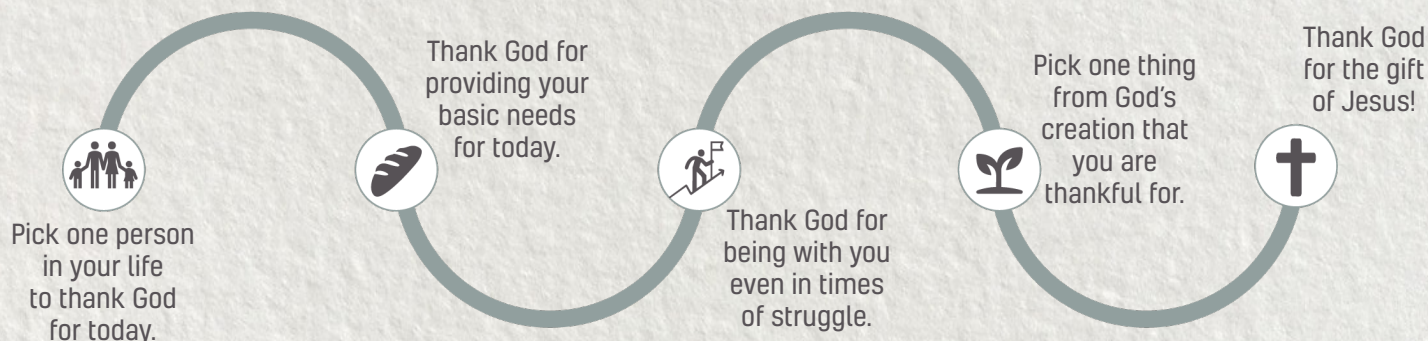
ADDITIONAL READINGS

Numbers 11
Isaiah 41:1-29



FAMILY ACTIVITY GRATITUDE MAP

God uses gratitude to guide us through life's trials. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we can easily focus on what's wrong and grumble about our circumstances, forgetting to thank Him for His blessings. Take time as a family to journey through this gratitude map, reflecting on God's goodness and sharing the things you're thankful for today!



Consider a time when you, like the Israelites, felt hard pressed from all sides. How was God at work in that circumstance?

What is something you've grumbled about recently? Take a moment today to give thanks to God for His good gifts and provision, even in the midst of your complaints.



In your small group, your family dinner table, with a friend, or another community you are a part of, pose this week's reflection questions and discuss them together.



I come to You today feeling the weight of my own “wilderness” moments, where I feel uncertain, discouraged, or weary. Like the Israelites, I sometimes focus on my struggles and lose sight of Your faithfulness. Lord, help me to see Your hand at work, even when the path ahead seems unclear.

Thank You for being my refuge, my provider,
and my deliverer. I place my trust in You,
knowing You will lead me through every trial
and into Your perfect plans.



Honey in the Rock

There's honey in the rock, water in the stone
Manna on the ground, no matter where I go
I don't need to worry now that I know
Everything I need You've got
There's honey in the rock

Praying for a miracle
Thirsty for the living well
Only You can satisfy
Sweetness at the mercy seat
Now I've tasted, it's not hard to see
Only You can satisfy

There's honey in the rock, water in the stone
Manna on the ground, no matter where I go
I don't need to worry now that I know
Everything I need You've got

There's honey in the rock, purpose in Your plan
Power in the blood, healing in Your hands
Started flowing when You said it is done
Everything You did's enough

I keep looking, I keep finding
You keep giving, keep providing
I have all that I need, You are all that I need
I keep praying, You keep moving
I keep praising, You keep proving
I have all that I need, You are all that I need

There's honey in the rock, water in the stone
Manna on the ground, no matter where I go
I don't need to worry now that I know [I know]
Everything I need You've got

There's honey in the rock, purpose in Your plan
Power in the blood, healing in Your hands
Started flowing when You said it is done
Jesus, who You are is enough
There's honey in the rock
There's honey in the rock

Oh, how sweet, how sweet it is
To trust in You, Jesus
Oh, how sweet, how sweet it is
To trust in You, Jesus
Oh, how sweet, how sweet it is
To trust in You, Jesus

THE WAITING

WEEK SIX

Yahweh delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He promised them a land flowing with milk and honey. Yet, the Israelites, who have that guaranteed promise, still wander in the wilderness for 40 years. We, too, have God's promise of eternity, but we are still awaiting its great fulfillment.



Exodus 14:21-31

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, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 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. 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."

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." 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. 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.

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 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.

Romans 8:15

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:23

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



ADDITIONAL READINGS

Psalms 66

Hebrews 11:23-31

LUTHER'S FLOOD PRAYER

Luther has a beautiful prayer in the baptism service that points to the flood and to the crossing of the Red Sea, connecting it with the drowning and rebirth in baptism.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

What are you waiting for? What miraculous rescue or parting of the waters have you been seeking in prayer?

What adjectives would you use to describe what life was like for the Israelites between their rescue from slavery in Egypt and their eventual arrival in the promised land? Compare the Israelites' in-between life to the Christian life today, in between the resurrection of Jesus and our own resurrection.



ROWS CHALLENGE

Lean over to your new friends in the rows around you this Sunday (since you know their names now!) and share why you come to worship. Ask them to share the same.



DID YOU KNOW?

Some scholars say the Israelites did not cross the main body of the Red Sea but one of the shallow lakes or marshes north of it that dry up at certain times of the year, or perhaps a smaller branch of the Red Sea where the water would have been shallow enough to wade across. But the Bible clearly states that the Lord “drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land.” [Ex. 14:21; Joshua 3:15, 16; 2 Kings 2:13-14] Also, the water was deep enough to cover the chariots. The God who created the earth and water performed a mighty miracle at exactly the right time to demonstrate His great power and love for His people.



FAMILY ACTIVITY

RED SEA CROSSING OBSTACLE COURSE

Set up an obstacle course in your living room or backyard to symbolize the journey through the Red Sea. Use sheets, ropes or streamers to represent the walls of the water and have your family navigate through together.

Share how God made a way when there seemed to be no way for the Israelites and how He still works miracles in our lives today.



GUIDED PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We come to You today, reflecting on how You led the Israelites out of Egypt with Your mighty hand. In the midst of their fear and uncertainty, You provided a way through the impossible—parting the sea and guiding them step by step toward freedom.

Lord, we confess that, like the Israelites, we often struggle to trust You when the path ahead feels unclear or the challenges seem too great. Help us to rely on You with the same faith they needed as they followed Your pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. Teach us to trust in Your timing, knowing You are always working for our good, even when we cannot see it.

Thank You for Your constant provision and faithfulness. You always meet our needs, often in ways far beyond what we could imagine. Fill our hearts with gratitude for the ways You have provided for us in the past, and give us the confidence to walk forward, trusting in Your perfect plan.

We praise You, Lord, for being our guide, our provider, and our deliverer. May we follow You faithfully, knowing that You will always lead us into Your promises in Your perfect timing.

Amen.



MUSICAL REFLECTION

GOD MOVES IN A
MYSTERIOUS WAY
LSB 765

This hymn encourages us to trust in God's grace, even when His plans are not immediately clear, reminding us that "behind a frowning providence, faith sees a smiling face." Take some time to reflect on the lyrics of this hymn. Where do you see the providence of God in it? How can you trust God today in your waiting time?

1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way His
2 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But
3 His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, Un -
4 Blind un - be - lief is sure to err And
5 You fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The

won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps
trust Him for His grace; He - hind a frown - ing
fold - ing ev - 'ry hour; The bud may have a
scan His work in vain; God is His own in -
clouds you so much dread Are big with mer - cy

in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
prov - i - dence Faith sees a smil - ing face.
bit - ter taste, But sweet will be the flow'r.
ter - pret - er, And He will make it plain.
and will break In bless - ings on your head.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

On Mt. Sinai, Yahweh gave His people the Law; 10 Commandments that described what it looks like to be God's people. On the night that Jesus was arrested, He gave his followers a new commandment. This new commandment was to mark what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus, God in the flesh.



Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words:

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

"You shall have no other gods before me."

"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. 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, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

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

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 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. 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."

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

"You shall not murder."

"You shall not commit adultery."

"You shall not steal."

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

"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."



ADDITIONAL READINGS

John 13:31-35

SERMON REFLECTIONS

The 10 Commandments said...

You shall have no other gods before me.
[Exodus 20:3]

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
[Exodus 20:7]

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
[Exodus 20:8]

Honor your father and your mother.
[Exodus 20:12]

You shall not murder.
[Exodus 20:13]

You shall not commit adultery.
[Exodus 20:14]

You shall not steal.
[Exodus 20:15]

You shall not give false testimony.
[Exodus 20:16]

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
[Exodus 20:17]

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
[Exodus 20:17]

Jesus said...

Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.
[Matthew 4:10]

Do not swear at all: either by heaven for it is God's throne...
[Matthew 5:34]

The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.
[Mark 2:27-28]

Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.
[Matthew 10:37]

Anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.
[Matthew 5:22]

Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
[Matthew 5:28]

If someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.
[Matthew 5:40]

Men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.
[Matthew 12:36]

Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.
[Luke 12:15]

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
[Matthew 6:24]

GOOD FRIDAY

While Moses is a type of Christ, he is like us too, yearning to see his God.
This God showed His glory on the cross, revealed in the proclamation of
the centurion, "surely, this was the Son of God."



Exodus 32:7-14

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. 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.'"

"I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. "Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

Exodus 32:30-33

The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

So Moses went back to the Lord and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

The Lord replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book."

SERMON REFLECTIONS



ADDITIONAL READING

Exodus 33:14-23
Psalm 21-22

Mark 15:21-41

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews.

They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Moses interceded for the Israelites, but only Jesus could fully stand in our place, taking the punishment for our sins. As you reflect on the centurion's words, "Surely, this was the Son of God," how does this proclamation shape your understanding of Christ's sacrifice for you?

EASTER

WEEK SEVEN

Moses had to wear a veil to hide his face after meeting with Yahweh in the tent. God's glory changed the way Moses looked and appeared. In the same way, the presence of the resurrected Jesus changed the way Mary looked - from tears of grief and sadness to tears of joy and exclamation.



Exodus 34:29-33

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face.

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, **"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"**

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. [They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.] Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON REFLECTIONS



See Him in Jerusalem
Walking where the crowds are
Once these streets had sung to Him
Now they cry for murder

Such a frail and lonely man
Holding up the heavy cross
See Him walking in Jerusalem
On the road to save us

See him there upon the hill
Hear the scorn and laughter
Silent as a lamb he waits
Praying to the father

See the king who made the sun
And the moon and shining stars
Let the soldiers hold and nail him down
So that he could save them

See him there upon the cross
Now no longer breathing
Dust that formed the watching crowds
Takes the blood of Jesus

Feel the earth is shaking now
See the veil is split in two
And he stood before the wrath of God
Shielding sinners with his blood

See the empty tomb today
Death could not contain him
Once the servant of the world
Now in victory reigning

Lift your voices to the one
Who is seated on the throne
See him in the new Jerusalem
Praise the one who saved us

Lift your voices to the one
Who is seated on the throne
See him in the new Jerusalem
Praise the one who saved us
Praise the one who saved us

MUSIC REFLECTION

As you reflect on these lyrics, consider the journey of Jesus through Jerusalem. What does it mean to you personally that the King who created the stars chose to endure scorn, pain, and death for your sake?



DOTS CHALLENGE

Obedience in the way we live our lives doesn't earn us more salvation. It does, however, shape us into more Jesus-like people. As this Lenten journey comes to an end, take time to find ways to continue spending time with the God who so graciously sent His Son to save us from all of our sins!

What is one spiritual practice from this list that you could adopt that could draw you closer to the God who loves you? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Practice an intentional Sabbath time.
- Commit to an ongoing practice of giving something away.
- Commit to a daily practice of prayer and reading the Bible simultaneously.
- Practice a time of fasting from something you'd otherwise indulge in without a thought.
- Commit to meeting with others routinely to talk about spiritual things.
- Commit to serving with your time inside and/or outside the church.
- Commit to asking people what they think about Jesus and listening intently.



GUIDED PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

On this day of celebration and hope, we remember Your mighty acts of deliverance. Just as You heard the cries of the Israelites in Egypt and rescued them from slavery, You have heard our cries and sent Jesus to rescue us from the bondage of sin and death.

We thank You for the power You displayed in parting the Red Sea, making a way where there was no way. In the same way, You made a way for us through the cross and the empty tomb, tearing down the barriers that separated us from Your love.

Lord, we rejoice in the victory of Jesus' resurrection, which declares that death is defeated and life eternal is ours. Help us to live in the freedom You have given, trusting in Your faithfulness as the Israelites trusted You in the wilderness. Fill our hearts with gratitude and awe for the great lengths You have gone through to save us.

May we, like the Israelites, sing songs of deliverance and proclaim Your glory to the world. Thank You for Your unfailing love, for the Lamb who was slain, and for the risen Savior who reigns forever and ever. Amen.

What parallels can we draw between Moses' radiant face and Mary's encounter with Jesus?

How is God using your current circumstances to shape you into His image? Now that God, through the resurrected Jesus, meets us face to face, what new freedoms do we have in Him?

RESURRECTION ROLLS RECIPE



Ingredients

1 (10 ounce) can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
2 tablespoons white sugar
2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
8 large marshmallows
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup melted butter

Directions

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly grease a baking sheet. Separate crescent rolls into individual triangles. Mix sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl. Dip a marshmallow into melted butter, then roll in sugar mixture. Place marshmallow into the center of a dough triangle. Carefully wrap dough around marshmallow. Pinch the seams together tightly to seal in marshmallow. Place roll on a baking sheet; repeat.

Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, about 15 minutes. Open up to see a surprise!

Where do you see the elements of the Easter story in this activity?



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