

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Exodus 5:1-6:13. What questions immediately come to you as you read the text? What do you find most challenging/encouraging?
2. By what authority does Moses ask Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to go to worship their God? By what authority does Pharaoh make his decrees? What does Pharaoh's response to Moses reveal about Pharaoh's character? How do you see that reflected in today's world? Please be as specific as you can with your answers.
3. What critical question does Pharaoh ask? How does that question permeate today's world? How do you answer it?
4. The Israelites began to grumble after Pharaoh refused to let them leave **AND** made their forced labor even harder. How does "grumbling" help a situation? If it does not, what's a better response to worsening conditions? How well do you reflect that in your life?
5. What does this show us about the potential results of "faithful obedience" to God in a sinful world?
6. Many times to this point, the reason given for Pharaoh to release God's people is so they may go do "what" in the wilderness? What might this imply about the goal of our deliverance in Christ? (see also Rom. 12:1)
7. Count how many times the word "I" appears in verses 6:1-8. Why is this important as we go forward? Who is this narrative **really** about? Why is that important?
8. God links His plan to rescue Israel with His promise to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. Why is that crucial to the narrative? What hope do we find in verse 5 that we can trust this sovereign God?
9. Why does the repeated use of God's Name here signify? Note also, Pharaoh has made the Israelites' burden harder, but in 6:6 what does God say he will do with their burden? That too becomes a recurring theme throughout the Exodus: God upends every work of Pharaoh & Egypt's gods. Why would that matter to the Israelites or to you?
10. Despite God's reassurances, Israel still does not believe (6:9). How is 6:9 a fitting verse for you at times? Despite that, what is God's determination for Moses, Aaron, & his people? How is that an encouragement for you?
11. In 6:12, it seems as if Moses has retreated to where he was in Midian. But then in 6:13 what do we find? How is the repeated command to get on with what God has called Moses to do an indication of how God addresses **OUR** fears & resistance to doing what he has called **US** to do?
12. Remember: this narrative really isn't about Moses, but about how God is going to be faithful to his promise to rescue & redeem his people from every earthly bondage. How does that reminder point you to your redemption as well as to your call?
13. Which of God's promises do you need most to trust at this time in your life? What prevents you from fully relying on God?

Living Water Fellowship

4th Sunday after Pentecost – 25th June 2023

Thanking God for Living Water's 10 Years

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

REJOICE (MODERN POST) – CCL Licence 384660

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG:

VIDEO – GOODNESS OF GOD (Maranatha Music) – CCL Licence 384660

LIVING WATER MOMENT:

BIBLE READING:

Exodus 5:1-23

¹“After this presentation to Israel's leaders, Moses & Aaron went & spoke to Pharaoh. They told him, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Let my people go so they may hold a festival in my honour in the wilderness.” ²“Is that so?” retorted Pharaoh. “Who is the Lord? Why should I listen to him & let Israel go? I don't know the Lord, & I will not let Israel go.”

³But Aaron & Moses persisted. “The God of the Hebrews has met with us,” they declared. “So let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness so we can offer sacrifices to the Lord our God. If we don't, he will kill us with a plague or with the sword.” ⁴Pharaoh replied, “Moses & Aaron, why are you distracting the people from their tasks? Get back to work! ⁵Look, there are many of your people in the land; you are stopping them from their work.”

⁶That same day Pharaoh sent this order to the Egyptian slave drivers & the Israelite foremen: ⁷“Do not supply any more straw for making bricks. Make the people get it themselves! ⁸But still require them to make the same number of bricks as before. Don't reduce the quota. They are lazy. That's why they are crying out, ‘Let us go offer sacrifices to our God.’ ⁹Load them down with more work. Make them sweat! That will teach them to listen to lies!” ¹⁰So the slave drivers & foremen went out & told the people: “This is what Pharaoh says: I will not provide any more straw for you. ¹¹Go & get it yourselves. Find it wherever you can. But you must produce just as many bricks as before!” ¹²So the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt in search of stubble to use as straw.

¹³Meanwhile, the Egyptian slave drivers continued to push hard. “Meet your daily quota of bricks, just as you did when we provided you with straw!” they demanded. ¹⁴Then they whipped the Israelite foremen they had put in charge of the work crews. “Why haven't you met your quotas either yesterday or today?” they demanded. ¹⁵So the Israelite foremen went to Pharaoh & pleaded with him. “Please don't treat your servants like this,” they

begged. ¹⁶“We are given no straw, but the slave drivers still demand, ‘Make bricks!’ We are being beaten, but it isn’t our fault! Your own people are to blame!”

¹⁷ But Pharaoh shouted, “You’re just lazy! Lazy! That’s why you’re saying, ‘Let us go & offer sacrifices to the Lord.’” ¹⁸ Now get back to work! No straw will be given to you, but you must still produce the full quota of bricks.” ¹⁹ The Israelite foremen could see that they were in serious trouble when they were told, “You must not reduce the number of bricks you make each day.” ²⁰ As they left Pharaoh’s court, they confronted Moses & Aaron, who were waiting outside for them. ²¹ The foremen said to them, “May the Lord judge & punish you for making us stink before Pharaoh & his officials. You have put a sword into their hands, an excuse to kill us!”

²² Then Moses went back to the Lord & protested, “Why have you brought all this trouble on your own people, Lord? Why did you send me?” ²³ Ever since I came to Pharaoh as your spokesman, he has been even more brutal to your people. And you have done nothing to rescue them!”

FAITH CHAT:

What do you think is the biggest obstacle to people coming to faith in Jesus?

SONG: VIDEO – *ROCK OF AGES* – CCL Licence 384660

LIVING WATER MOMENT:

BIBLE READING: Exodus 6:1-13

¹ Then the Lord told Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. When he feels the force of my strong hand, he will let the people go. In fact, he will force them to leave his land!” ² And God said to Moses, “I am Yahweh—‘the Lord.’” ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, & to Jacob as El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty’—but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them. ⁴ I reaffirmed my covenant with them. Under its terms, I promised to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as foreigners. ⁵ You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. I am well aware of my covenant with them.

⁶ “Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am Yahweh. I will free you from your oppression & will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm & great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will claim you as my own people, & I will be your God. Then you will know that I am Yahweh your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. ⁸ I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the Lord!’”

⁹ So Moses told the people of Israel what the Lord had said, but they refused to listen anymore. They had become too discouraged by the brutality of their slavery.

¹⁰ Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹¹ “Go back to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, & tell him to let the people of Israel leave his country.” ¹² “But Lord!” Moses objected. “My own people won’t listen to me anymore. How can I expect Pharaoh to listen? I’m such a clumsy

speaker!” ¹³ But the Lord spoke to Moses & Aaron & gave them orders for the Israelites & for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. The Lord commanded Moses & Aaron to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt.

FAITH CHAT:

How do you try to overcome the “obstacles” people have between themselves & Jesus?

OFFERING SONG: VIDEO – *JESUS STRONG & KIND* (CityAlight/Colin Buchanan) - CCLI 384660

THE MESSAGE: *A JOURNEY OF PROMISE: OBSTACLES TO THE PROMISE*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – *SO GOOD TO ME* (Zach Williams)- CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
The Father leads you in his promise
until the day it is fulfilled forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: VIDEO – *THE NIGHT SONG* (CityAlight/Colin Buchanan) - CCLI 384660

LUNCH TOGETHER!!!

SHOW HIS LOVE