9-WEEK STUDY ON THRIVING IN EXILE

WEEK 3

Exile: Homesick

Moses

WEEK 3

WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Exodus 1-16

Secondary text from this week: John 17:15-18, Matthew 5:13-16

Read ahead for next week: Jeremiah 28-29

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better navigate the tension between participation (blending in) and separation (removing ourselves).

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: If you could go back to any season of your life to relive it, what would it be?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. What was one thing that stood out to you from Pastor Doug's message?
- 2. Pastor Doug described the horrible conditions that the Israelites experienced as slaves in Egypt, and their repeated request (read **Exodus 14:11-12, 16:2-3, 17:3, and Numbers 14:4**) to "go back" to Egypt. What is surprising about this? Do you ever find yourself longing for the past? Share an example.
- 3. Pastor Doug talked about the famous scene in Exodus 32 when the Israelites fashioned a golden calf and began to worship it, which was probably reminiscent of the idol worship they experienced in Egypt. What idols do you think are worshipped in American culture today?
 - Have any of those idols slipped into the church? In other words, which of those idols seem to be worshipped by followers of Jesus right alongside the rest of our culture?
- 4. Read Jesus prayer in **John 17:14-18.** Have you read that before? What makes sense about Jesus' words, and what feels confusing?
- 5. As you think about the tension between participation and separation (in the world but not of the world), which side do you typically land on? Do you find yourself blending in too much, or removing yourself too far? Explain.
- 6. Read Jesus' words in **Matthew 5:13-16**. Do you think that most Christians live in a way that fulfills that mandate? Why or why not?





WEEK 3

PRAY

Pray for each other: Have the group leader or a volunteer pray for each group member to navigate the tension between participation and separation.

Pray on your own: Ask God to show you one area of your life where you have blended in with the culture you're surrounded by.

ACTION STEPS

Ask yourself the two questions Pastor Doug encouraged us to ask this week:

Are your beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors based on your allegiance to Jesus or your allegiance to the world around you? Identify one area of your life that you need to align your allegiance with Jesus.

What kind of influence are you having on the world around you? What is one way you could be a light this week?

NOTES	

ALIENS