



R E A R R A N G E

S E R I E S R E A D I N G G U I D E

CROSSWALK
REARRANGED - SERIES STUDY GUIDE

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Greetings in a New Year!

While 2020 was a hot mess, 2021 holds the opportunity to be a year where we come out of our “time in the desert” in a very different way. How do you change your priorities when you are just leaving a situation that has been difficult. We could say that 2020 was our “Egypt Experience”. As we come out of this seeming oppression, we have to take a look at how we rearrange things in our lives so as to not fall into the same patterns that brought us to where we were before.

The story of the Children of Israel leaving Egypt is a complex story, full of successes and failures, with some miraculous instances, and some deeply troubling issues as well. How can a group of people who are seeking to follow God through difficult and trying circumstances find their anchor points to prepare them for the land that God has given them? We could and should ask ourselves the same questions. This series will take us through the Exodus of Israel and help us understand what changes need to be made in our lives so that we can continue to follow God. Hopefully, this series will also keep us away from some of the mistakes that they made in the preparation to take back the land God had given them.

Our series guides will look a little bit different. While not as much content, there will be a reading guide, questions, and a weekly small group guide for your small groups. I hope this is a blessing to you and your family. Happy New Year!

Grace to you, and Peace.

Pastor Timothy Gillespie

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Gillespie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

WEEK 2

EXODUS 2 (NLT)

The Birth of Moses

1 About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. **2** The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. **3** But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. **4** The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

5 Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. **6** When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This must be one of the Hebrew children," she said.

7 Then the baby's sister approached the princess. "Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" she asked.

8 "Yes, do!" the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby's mother.

9 "Take this baby and nurse him for me," the princess told the baby's mother. "I will pay you for your help." So the woman took her baby home and nursed him.

10 Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses,[a] for she explained, "I lifted him out of the water."

Moses Escapes to Midian

11 Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. **12** After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.

13 The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. "Why are you beating up your friend?" Moses said to the one who had started the fight.

14 The man replied, “Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?”

Then Moses was afraid, thinking, “Everyone knows what I did.” **15** And sure enough, Pharaoh heard what had happened, and he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian.

When Moses arrived in Midian, he sat down beside a well. **16** Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters who came as usual to draw water and fill the water troughs for their father’s flocks. **17** But some other shepherds came and chased them away. So Moses jumped up and rescued the girls from the shepherds. Then he drew water for their flocks.

18 When the girls returned to Reuel, their father, he asked, “Why are you back so soon today?”

19 “An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds,” they answered. “And then he drew water for us and watered our flocks.”

20 “Then where is he?” their father asked. “Why did you leave him there? Invite him to come and eat with us.”

21 Moses accepted the invitation, and he settled there with him. In time, Reuel gave Moses his daughter Zipporah to be his wife. **22** Later she gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom,[b] for he explained, “I have been a foreigner in a foreign land.”

23 Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. **24** God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **25** He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act.[c]

DAY 8

1 About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. **2** The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. **3** But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. **4** The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

This is one of the most
famous stories in scrip-
ture. The baby Moses in
the reeds has captured
the imagination of so
many for so long. We
usually encounter this
story when we are young
and we view it through
a child's eyes. What hap-
pens if we view it through
our adult eyes?

1- How do you envision
this story? Was there a
childhood picture book
that put images into your
head about this story?

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2- How did this story first
impact you when you
were younger? Did it
speak to you about God's
provision?

3- What does this story
say about the love of a
mother and a family to
for their children?

5 Soon Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. **6** When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This must be one of the Hebrew children,” she said. **7** Then the baby’s sister approached the princess. “Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” she asked. **8** “Yes, do!” the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby’s mother. **9** “Take this baby and nurse him for me,” the princess told the baby’s mother. “I will pay you for your help.” So the woman took her baby home and nursed him. **10** Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses,[a] for she explained, “I lifted him out of the water.”

Within this story there
is a sense that God uses
those who might not
even believe in him to
accomplish his ends.

1- When did you first en-
counter this story?

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2- Did you notice how
God used Pharaoh's
daughter? Do you think
he could use someone
you consider an enemy
to accomplish his ends?

3- How can you see God
working even in those
you would consider to be
different or opposed to
what you are and what
you believe?

3- Moses must have felt
some sense of shame
for what he did, or at
least fear, because he hid
the body. Have you ever
done anything, that even
though you felt was for
the right reasons, may
not have been done in
the right way? Did it cre-
ate a sense of shame in
you?

13 The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. “Why are you beating up your friend?” Moses said to the one who had started the fight. **14** The man replied, “Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?” Then Moses was afraid, thinking, “Everyone knows what I did.” **15** And sure enough, Pharaoh heard what had happened, and he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian. When Moses arrived in Midian, he sat down beside a well. **16** Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters who came as usual to draw water and fill the water troughs for their father’s flocks. **17** But some other shepherds came and chased them away. So Moses jumped up and rescued the girls from the shepherds. Then he drew water for their flocks.

We see things getting worse for Moses, so he ran to the land of Midian, which is a long trip, through the Sinai peninsula. Moses was not joking about getting away from Egypt. However, he never could have guessed that he would later be spending more than 40 years back in that area.

1- Have you ever had to
run away from some-
thing you had done?
Have you ever made peo-
ple around you so upset
that you needed to leave?

2- If you had to leave,
where would you go?
And do you think you
would be welcomed?

3- Immediately, Moses is
seen as a hero again. How
can you ingratiate your-
self to those new people
around you? (I know we
can't all save damsels in
distress...)

2- What do you make of the narrator's voice in this story? We have to remember that this was written after a significant amount of time.

3- What does it say about God that he heard their moaning and remembered his promise to Abraham?

Introduction - The following is a guide to help facilitate discussion. Feel free to add or subtract or change questions to fit the conversation, and pray for the Spirit to lead in all things. (Pastor Paddy McCoy, Pastor Mike Rhynus.)

OPEN

Have you ever been asked to do something that you thought was impossible for you to do? If so, share what it was and how you responded.

HEAD (digging into the passage)

1- Read as a group Matthew 1: 17-25 and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage

2- How would you expect someone to respond to the news that their fiancé was pregnant with someone else's child? Why do you think Joseph was able to stay so calm, cool, and collected in his response?

3- Knowing what could have happened to Mary for getting pregnant out of wedlock (rejection, abandonment, stoning), do you think Joseph was taking any risks in divorcing her quietly?

4- During the time Mary was pregnant with Jesus, do you think Joseph, or Mary for that matter, ever doubted in God, or themselves?

5- What about Joseph and Mary's life before the announcement of Jesus was

never going to be the same? What would their "new normal" look like?

HEART (lessons for us today/application)

1- Do you know someone like Joseph? Righteous and honorable? Who and what qualities do you admire most about them?

2- Joseph and Mary were both pushed out of their comfort zones with the news from the angel. In what ways have you been pushed with change in 2020? Have you made any changes that are good and that you want to continue into your new normal?

3- What insights do you learn about God through the story of Mary and Joseph and the coming of Jesus, or Immanuel? What about these insights into who God is confronts your life and your heart today?

HANDS (in light of this study, what are Immanuel, God with us, is not just a description of God's desire to be with us, it's also a call for us to be with others. How, in the new normal of following

Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.