



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 'T. Gillespie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

WEEK 3

I think we all love the story of the burning bush! IT is such a fantastic story of God's willingness to advocate for his people, and a dramatic story of God's call in the life of Moses. Also, God told Moses that he was to say "I am" sent me. What this really means is "to be". That is a pretty huge statement of being. But more on that in the sermon.

1- When was the last time, or the first time, you felt God's call on your life?

2- What do you think you would have done if you were Moses?

3- Have you seen that show on the History Channel “Alone”? It makes me think of what Moses might have been experiencing as a shepherd. Do you think this was a hallucination?

This section is where Mo-
ses pushes back on God
for calling him to this
work. He doesn't think he
has the skill, the tools, nor
is he qualified to speak
for God. While God has
already told Moses his
name, he understands
that he must qualify the
call, rather than simply
calling the qualified.

1- Has God ever called you
to something you don't
feel you are qualified for?
Did you do it? How did it
work out?

2- How does God qualify us? What kind of gifts does he give for the completion of his work in and with us?

3- Have you been praying that God would have a specific purpose for you?

The story of the oppression of the Israelites and the decree that they make bricks without straw reminds us that there are certain kinds of people, like the Pharaoh who are never satisfied and always want more no matter the cost. In our lives, we have to decide whether to live in the Abundance of God, or in the fear of Scarcity that makes for so much trouble in the world. Choose the former, and eschew the latter!

1- What do you do when you feel like you don't have "enough?"

2- Why is it that when we live in scarcity, we never seem to have enough, but when we choose abundance, God seems to provide all we need?

3- When you pray, what do you pray for? What do you believe you have in abundance in your life?

Today's reading begins the story of the plagues of Egypt. We study these a great deal when we are young, but not so much when we are older. Let us look at them again with new eyes, to see what God was trying to say with each particular plague.

1- Why is it important to look at the plagues separately? Can you find specific teachings or connections to each plague?

2- Why would the plague of blood be shocking? Did the plague of frogs mean something specific to the Egyptians?

[illegible][illegible]

These two chapters entail pretty significant plagues; locusts, darkness, and finally the firstborn. While the previous plagues were difficult, these were downright earth shattering for those who experienced them. Sometimes, we can handle a little, but as the difficulties increase, we find ourselves having to change our minds about how things work.

1- What would be the worst plague to live through, other than losing a child?

2- How did God increase the intensity of the plagues so that Egypt would listen?

3- When it says “God hardened his heart,” speaking of the Pharaoh, what do you think that meant? Did God actually cause the Egyptians’ hearts to harden?

This chapter is a big one, with lots to think about. It is the culmination of the plagues, it is the installation of the idea of passover, and its execution. As well, it mentions some passover restrictions that are developed. Have you ever celebrated passover?

1- Have you ever wondered why we don't celebrate some of these traditions that come from our previous faith tradition?

2- Is there any benefit in doing so? Should we try them out, even as just an exercise to understand our faith history?

3- What was God's purpose in creating this tradition?

