

THE BIG STORY

Faith Journeys

Week of October 11

*I will take you as my people,
and I will be your God.
You shall know that
I am the Lord your God,
who has freed you from
the burdens of the Egyptians.*

Exodus 6:7



THE BIG STORY

Legend

CARAVAN! (FOR GROUPS)

Unpacking is designed for a discussion of Sunday's message. It gives a chance to interact further with the Sunday message as a group.

Trip Planner Bible study that explores the story that we will be studying in the coming Sunday – explore the stories before Pastor Laurie preaches.

On Mission is a super important section exploring our life together as West Side family. How do we participate, in tangible ways, with God's mission to bless our neighbors and city through his people?

SOLO TRAVELERS

Day Trips gives daily readings through the story cycle that we are on.

Playlist A curated list of songs from the Psalms just for this journey.

FAMILIES

Family Vacation has videos for household adaptations.

Dinner and a Movie offers movie recommendations for the entire family.

Where are we in the BIG story?

"There arose a Pharaoh that knew not Joseph..." So begins the book of Exodus – the story of how the blessing that came to Egypt through Abraham's great-grandson Joseph resulted many generations later in the enslaving of the Israelites under the power of an increasingly fearful and oppressive regime. This week we journey through the rescue of the Israelites into the wilderness to worship and serve the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

On Mission!

Last week the call on mission was to live as a blessing. Report back on any of the reflections or actions that you undertook together.

This week, the call is to be present, through our loyalty, in God's mission to rescue his people from lesser powers that oppress.

"I would watch God's children in their magnificent trek from the dark dungeons of Egypt through, or rather across the Red Sea, through the wilderness on toward the promised land." –Martin Luther King Jr.

Reflect: The Exodus narrative was an essential BIG story for those fighting for the abolition of slavery as well as for the Civil Rights Leaders in the mid-twentieth century. Is it helpful to consider contemporary struggles against oppression within the BIG story of Israel's liberation from Egypt?

Unpacking: Freedom Journey
Exodus 3 // 6:1-13 // 19:1-9

Remember the stories: Moses' call, Israel's rescue and the LORD's Covenant

What stuck with you from Laurie's sermon?

Our story and the BIG story

Laurie presented the LORD's rescue of Israel from oppression as an act of grace – God's action to confront the powers that enslave and call people into the freedom to worship and serve. Have you experienced God's grace calling you out of the oppression of sin's power and into freedom?

BIG Questions

Is there an area in your life where the call to obedience in Jesus' name and power is a struggle – an area where you long to experience the freedom of Christ?

THE BIG STORY

Day Trips | With the Wilderness Generation

Our stories this week pick up the Wilderness Generation of Israel during what became a 40 year sojourn in the desert. As you read these stories, here is a BIG question for your own reflection – and/or discussion with a spiritual friend or around the dinner table:

The wilderness generation is held up as an example of what not to do. Where do you recognize their choices or reactions to the LORD in your life and/or your generation?

Monday | Numbers 9-11

Tuesday | Numbers 12-14

Wednesday | Numbers 20-21
(if time, Num. 22-24 is a classic ...)

Thursday | Deuteronomy 1-4

Friday | Deuteronomy 5-7

Saturday | Deuteronomy 8-11

Family Vacation

We just never get tired of these BibleProject videos...

This video about [the book of Numbers](#) tells the story of the wilderness generation.

This video about [the Law](#) is also really helpful.

Dinner and a Movie!

Here's a fun idea this week – have you ever celebrated a Passover/Seder meal? What about trying one this week, combined with one of the many films about the Exodus from Egypt?

Classics: The Ten Commandments

Contemporary: Exodus: Gods and Kings

Animated: The Prince of Egypt

Little Kids: [Veggie Tales Moe and the Big Exit](#)

There are many resources online for a Seder meal – here is a [link](#) with a simple Seder order you can do at home.

Trip Planner

Wandering in the Wilderness...

This week's Bible study questions can be used in a group, in your own study of the daily passages, or in a conversation with family or friends. The Bible stories prepare for the sermon theme that Laurie will preach on October 18. So much more is gained by doing a little trip planning beforehand!

Key Passages for worship October 18...

Numbers 13:17-21 and 25-33 // Numbers 14

Who is giving this witness (whose stories are these?)

How does this story fit the BIG story of God's rescue mission (redemption and restoration)?

What is the invitation from God to faith?

What was the response?

Playlist

Psalm 78

In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt...

Psalm 81

In distress you called, and I rescued you...

Psalm 105

Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

Psalm 135

For I know that the LORD is great; our Lord is above all gods... in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.