

WATER•FIRE•STONE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MOSES

Session 5 – Exit Strategy, Part Three | Exodus Chapters 11–12:1–41

So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky,
and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days.
Exodus 10:22

On day four, the light emerges but not in Pharaoh’s heart. He summons Moses to announce that he has decided to grant their request. In a grand gesture he adds that *even your children can go*. But Moses refuses to negotiate God’s terms. After months of devastation and suffering that brings Egypt to the brink of collapse, Pharaoh squanders it all—and for what? Before the night is over he will lose his own son.

Icebreaker

Name a favorite tradition (meal, activity, event) that your family observed growing up that you have passed on (or someday plan to pass) to the next generation in your family.

Goals for this Session:

- Discover what made Moses a man God could entrust with power and influence.
- Consider the significance of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- Pray for patience to trust God’s timing and practice obedience without compromise.

1 Read Exodus 11:1–10 | The heated exchange between Moses and Pharaoh (chapter 10) isn't over. This chapter describes the rest of that confrontation right after the plague of darkness.

- a. In Exodus 10:28–29, Pharaoh flies into a rage. What does he threaten to do? How does Moses respond?
- b. Moses doesn't leave (yet) but he is done with this stubborn man. Exodus 11:1–3 fills in details of what Moses knew *before* Pharaoh summoned him to make a deal. What was Moses supposed to have the people do in preparation to leave?
- c. Exodus 11:4–10 picks up where we left off in chapter 10. Pharaoh threatened to kill Moses if he ever came back, but God gives Moses the last word. What was this last plague? Note the details and what stands out to you.

“

A man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest.

Paul Simon
The Boxer

2 **“One more plague . . .”** Can you imagine Moses' relief? Reading all ten plagues takes less than an hour but consider living through them in real time (at least several months, possibly nine). God told Moses in advance what this conflict with Pharaoh would accomplish but He kept the details and timing somewhat vague.

- a. From what you read in Exodus 3:19–20, would you say Moses fully grasped, going into this conflict, how long and intense the battle to leave Egypt would be? Explain why or why not.
- b. God's exit strategy wasn't swift or simple, but what did it accomplish? Use Exodus 7:5 and Exodus 9:14–17 for help and answer in your own words.

“

God never pursues His glory at the expense or good of His people, nor does He ever seek our good at the expense of His glory.

Jerry Bridges
Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts

- c. God is always working His plan, even when it doesn't make sense to us. When trouble gets the upper hand, we wonder how it could possibly be used to accomplish God's *best* plan. We prefer shortcuts and quick exits, but what must we always remember? Use the verses below and answer in your own words.

Psalm 31:14–15

Micah 7:7

Psalm 46:10

Psalm 75:2–7

2 Peter 3:7–9

3 Spotlight on Moses | When Moses came back to Egypt, he was an old man with a forgotten reputation. No one ushered him into the palace as a prince educated in all the ways of Egypt. Pharaoh belittled him and the court officials thought he was a nuisance. The average Egyptian had no idea who he was or why he was in town. It wasn't long before his own people dismissed Moses for making big promises and causing trouble.

But over the past months, admiration for Moses grew. When he spoke, people listened. Pharaoh hated him but conceded that Moses was a force to be reckoned with. What had changed? Nine devastating plagues later, all of Egypt knew that the Hebrew slaves had a formidable God and Moses was His spokesman.

Consider what made Moses a man that God could entrust with power and influence.

- a. God looked into Moses's heart and saw a man that He could raise up. The Lord is always searching for people who are fully committed to Him (2 Chronicles 16:9). What qualities does God look for in His servants? Answer in your own words.

Micah 6:8

Proverbs 3:3–4

Proverbs 8:33–35

Proverbs 15:33

b. When God first called Moses, he felt completely inadequate. But in the difficult months as confrontations with Pharaoh increased, Moses found his voice. What would you say was the reason for Moses' growing confidence?

c. *Then the Lord said to Moses . . .* In the chapters covering the plagues, we come across this phrase more than twenty times. Why is this significant? For one thing, it shows who Moses was listening to. He stopped analyzing his weaknesses and started trusting God. He refused to negotiate with the enemy. He held to the terms God dictated.

Do your best to explain the connection between Moses' uncompromising obedience to God and his increased influence among the people. What personal tips can you take from his example?

d. There will be times when we are pressed, as believers, to choose between what is right and what is easiest. Standing for God may diminish the way others see us, but God always honors obedience. In what ways have you found this to be true in your own life?

Memory Verse

"The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are.
And when I see the blood, I will pass over you."

Exodus 12:13 NKJV

Which part of this verse resonates most with you today? How or in what way?

4 Read Exodus 12:1–13 | These are the specific instructions God gave Moses and Aaron to prepare the people. The last plague would bring death to Egypt but deliverance for God’s people. As best you can, describe the significance of each aspect of preparation.

The lamb:

Their house:

The meal:

Their dress:

5 Read Exodus 12:14–28 | This section gives details of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, observed for seven days after Passover. You can make an entire study of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but for our purpose, let’s focus on two simple takeaways.

- a. *God wants His people to remember how they were rescued from slavery.* What does the Passover lamb signify? Explain the deeper meaning of Passover for us today. You can use John 1:29, Romans 5:9, and 1 Peter 1:19 for help with your answer.

- b. *God wants His people out of Egypt—and Egypt out of His people.* Leaven (yeast) signifies the corrupting power of sin. Why and in what way is this a good metaphor for sin?

In years to come, observing this feast would remind them of leaving their old life in Egypt behind. Explain how this relates to us today. Use 1 Peter 1:14–16, 1 Corinthians 5:6–8, and Matthew 16:6–12 for help with your answer.

6 Read Exodus 12:29–41 | This section tells the rest of the story about that last night in Egypt. Describe what Pharaoh and all of Egypt would remember about that night. Describe what Moses and all the people of Israel would remember about that night.

“

No one looks back on their life
and remembers the nights
they got plenty of sleep.

- a. *A promise fulfilled.* God never makes promises that are too good to be true. Moses mentions again how the Lord made sure His people did not leave empty-handed. Their Egyptian neighbors had already given these articles *willingly*; now they were even more eager to send the Hebrews on their way.

Newly freed slaves don't usually leave with parting gifts. What motivated the Egyptians? Use these verses for help with your answer.

Exodus 3:21–22

Exodus 7:5

Genesis 15:13–14

Psalms 105:38

- b. *A new beginning.* Leaving Egypt was so significant for Israel it changed how they marked time from then on. No longer slaves, they walked out of Egypt to begin a new life. That's true for every believer. How long have you been marking time as a believer? Briefly share what prompted you to begin a new life with Jesus.

Action Steps ►► As you think through this part of Moses' story, what is the most important takeaway point for you personally? How will you put what you've learned into action?

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

Adoration – Giving praise and honor to God for who He is and what He does.

Confession – Honestly deal with sin; acknowledge to God the ways (and whys) you fall short.

Thanksgiving – Verbalize your gratitude; express your praise and a thankful heart.

Supplication – Pray specifically for the needs of others, ourselves, our church, our nation.



Close your discussion time by praying together. Use the A·C·T·S pattern as a group focus and keep it simple. No need to be lengthy or profound, just authentic.
