

Introduction

“The covenant with Abraham is a promise of the kingdom of God: God’s people (Abraham’s descendents) in God’s place (the promised land) under God’s rule and therefore enjoying God’s blessing.

<i>The kingdom of God</i>	<i>The pattern of the kingdom</i>	<i>The perished kingdom</i>	<i>The promised kingdom</i>
<i>God’s people</i>	<i>Adam and Eve</i>	<i>No-one</i>	<i>Abraham’s descendents</i>
<i>God’s place</i>	<i>The garden</i>	<i>Banished</i>	<i>Canaan</i>
<i>God’s rule and blessing</i>	<i>God’s word; perfect relationships</i>	<i>Disobedience and curse</i>	<i>Blessing to Israel and the nations</i>

Vaughan Roberts
God’s Big Picture, pp. 55–56

This year we are memorizing Isaiah 40. This week’s verse is Isaiah 40:7...
“The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass.”

Day One

Read Exodus 1–2; God Raises Up a Deliverer

1. How does the theme of the kingdom in Genesis inform your thinking as you prepare to study Exodus?
 - a. What questions from Genesis do you think would be in the readers’ minds that they would want answered in Exodus?

2. From Exodus 1:1–7, describe what happened between Genesis 50 and Exodus 1, and how God blessed His people in Egypt.
 - a. Should this reality have surprised Israel? Explain your answer. See Genesis 1:28; 9:7; 35:11, and 46:2–3.

3. In Exodus 1:8–22, what important transition took place? How did this relate to Genesis 12:3?

4. In 2:23–25, do you think God was aware of the suffering of His people? What four actions describe His involvement with them at this point in their history?
 - a. In verse 24, does the word “remember” imply that God had been absent-minded or preoccupied? Use your Bible study notes, a commentary, or other resources to support your answer.

Day Two

Read Exodus 3–4; God’s Revelation of Himself to Moses

1. In Exodus 3:2–6, how did God reveal himself to Moses, and how did He refer to Himself? Do you think God’s use of this name for Himself was significant? Explain your answer. (See Genesis 12:1–3 and 15:4–6.)

2. From Exodus 3:7–9 and Genesis 15:13–15, do you think that God was surprised by the Egyptians’ treatment of Israel or insensitive toward the suffering of His people?

3. In Exodus 3:10–12, what did God direct Moses to do, how did he respond? How did God encourage him?
 - a. Where is God calling you to step out in faith in your own life? Are you responding with obedience or, like Moses, with resistance?
 - b. Find two or three other Old Testament references that refer to the importance of placing one's trust in God, and share those with your group.
4. In Exodus 3:13–15, what was the second concern that Moses raised, and how did God respond?
5. From Exodus 4:1–9, what was the third concern that Moses raised, and what three signs did God give to encourage him? What does that reveal about God's character?
6. Throughout the book of Exodus, God reveals important details about His character; from Exodus 4:22, identify one of the themes of the book.

Day Three

Read Exodus 5–6; *Who Is This Yahweh?*

1. In Exodus 5:1, what request did Moses and Aaron ask of Pharaoh? Do you think this was a plan to escape, or something more? Explain your answer.
2. From Exodus 6:2–8, with what phrase did God's interaction with Moses begin and end? What does this teach about God's name and His promises?
 - a. This reiteration of God's name came in response to the people's continued complaints. What does this teach you about your own contentment with life's circumstances?
3. In verses 2–8, note how often God assured His people of deliverance in light of His nature as a covenant-keeping God. What was the people's response in verse 9?
4. Using a Bible dictionary or other resource, what is the meaning of God's name "Yahweh" that's used in this text? Take time to meditate on this name for God, and how this should affect your life through your worship of Him, your reading of His word, and your prayer life. Share this with your group.

Day Four

Skim Exodus 7–12; *Yahweh Reveals Himself to Egypt*

1. As the plagues progress in Exodus 7–11, briefly summarize each plague, the pagan gods that were vanquished, and how God's grace was displayed.

- a. From 9:15–16, 10:1–2 and 11:9, what were Yahweh’s intentions during this chapter of history?
 - b. In 12:12, what judgment does God pronounce? How does this deepen your understanding of God’s character and your worship of Him?
2. In Exodus 7:3–5, what declaration about Pharaoh and Egypt did the Lord make and then fulfill in 9:12 and the plagues that follow? What do you think this means? Does this mitigate Pharaoh’s responsibility for his actions?
 - a. How does Romans 1:28 deepen your understanding of what the Lord was doing?
 - b. Can you think of practical ways in which people harden their hearts against God today? Have *you* ever hardened your heart towards God or His work in your life? Take time now to confess this sin and thank God for His provision of grace.
 3. Read Exodus 12 and identify key elements in the chapter, and how God’s character was displayed in each.
 4. Based upon your study of the plagues, in no more than one or two sentences, summarize the message of these chapters within the context of redemptive history.

Day Five

*Read Exodus 14 and skim chapters 15–18; **God Provides, Israel Grumbles***

1. Exodus 14 chronicles Yahweh’s last, devastating act of judgment against Pharaoh and Egypt. From verses 4, 13–14, 17–18, and 30–31, summarize briefly what took place and why.
2. From Exodus 15:23–25, 16:2–7, and 17:1–6, how did the Israelites’ show their lack of faith towards Yahweh, and what was God’s consistent response when the Israelites grumbled?
3. What do you think were God’s purposes in allowing His people to suffer and endure trials?
 - a. Can you identify with the Israelite’s response to trials? How has this study of the beginning of Exodus given you with a greater appreciation of Yahweh, and how might that help you respond differently in the future?
4. In Chapter 18 Moses is reunited with his father in law, Jethro, and in verses 7–12, Moses recounted all that Yahweh did. Like believers today, Jethro wasn’t an eye-witness to the events and yet on hearing the account, he was moved to worship. Is this the response of your heart? Take time to reflect on what you have studied this week and encourage the women in your group with something the Lord has taught you through this study.