



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of April 14, 2024

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- Who is someone who kept a promise in your life? What difference did it make?

Exodus 1:1-14

Fruitful & Oppressed

¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴ Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵ All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶ Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷ But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

- The Israelites were “fruitful” and “multiplied”, and filled the land. To whom did God promise this would happen? What connection do all of these passages suggest?
 - [Genesis 1:28](#)
 - [Genesis 9:1](#)
 - [Genesis 17:2,6; 22:17](#)
 - [Genesis 26:4](#)
 - [Genesis 28:14; 35:11; 48:4](#)

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. ¹³ So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

- What is the first thing we learn about the new Egyptian king? (8)
- Read the following passages. Why would the memory of Joseph (or lack of it) impact the current state of the Israelites in Egypt?
 - [Genesis 41:39-41](#)
 - [Genesis 45:16-18](#)
 - [Genesis 47:27](#)

- How does the king see the Israelites? What does he do to try to manage them? (9-11)
- The phrase “afflict with heavy burdens” (11) carries the sense of “beating down” or “bringing low.” What does this tell us about the intent of the Egyptian taskmasters?
- The Exodus story describes a broader pattern that is still at work in our fallen world. What are examples of people beating one another down in an effort to take control?
- The apostle Paul refers to human sin as a bad taskmaster when he says, “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions... For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace” ([Romans 6:12-14](#)). How exactly are we freed from the reign and dominion of sin?
- How effective was the Egyptian strategy? (12)
- What words stand out to you in the description of the plight of the people of Israel? (13-14)
- Consider generations of people living under this kind of oppression. How might it impact your identity, relationships, and hope for the future?
- Even in these bleak circumstances, Moses sees God keeping His promises. Reflect on a past hard time in your life? Can you see God’s faithfulness at this point? Why, or why not?
- Reflect on this week’s passage together, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org