

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"EXODUS: GOD SETS HIS PEOPLE FREE" MARCH 3

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Imagine you're looking through a crack in a doorway. You can see that there's something on the other side, but you can't see the whole picture. To really know what's on the other side you would have to open the door all the way. Reading the Bible can be like that. You might read a bit about David, or one of Jesus' parables, about Queen Esther or a talking donkey, some handwriting on the wall, and a guy that got shipwrecked. But how does it all fit together? What's the big picture of the Bible? Over six weeks, we're going to work our way through the one story that the Bible is telling, how God has been at work from the beginning in the Garden of Eden through the Old Testament to Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. We'll look back at what has happened and what it all means for what is happening now and what is to come.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 1 minute

Open with prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

The Israelites were stuck in Egypt, slaves to the powerful Pharaoh. They cried out to God who remembered that He had bound Himself to His people in His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and sent Moses to rescue His people. Sin has us in the same kind of bondage, and we can't get free by ourselves. But God's promise stands and He sends us a rescuer in Jesus.

3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Do you think are are more of someone who likes to follow the rules, or someone who likes to think outside the box testing boundaries ? Describe.



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⁹ "Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt." - Exodus 3:9-10 NLT

Reflect

A prayer to start... Father, as I read your word, please open my ears to hear and my heart to surrender to your purposes today.

Read the full passage in your Bible - Exodus 2:23-3:10.

What is something that is catching your attention from the passage? Pause here, camp on this a bit, be curious.

Ponder the truth that God hears the cries of his people and acts.

Has there ever been a time when you experienced being rescued? How might this connect with your spiritual journey?

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

What do you learn about God in this Exodus passage?

Read Romans 1:28-32. What do you learn about the sinful state of all people in this passage?

Read John 8:31-38. The truth will set us free. But many times when we are caught up in sin, we are at first upset by the truth that we need to hear. Can you think of a time when this has been true for you? If so, share the story and describe what the internal struggle was like for you. How did your dependence on Jesus play a role in this struggle?

Read Hebrews 3:14-15, Ezekiel 36:26-27, and Proverbs 4:23. In what ways have you seen the state of your heart determine the course of your life?

Read Psalm 102:1-7 and 18-22. God hears our cries, breaks our chains, comes to our rescue, and leads us home. Is there something for which you wish to praise God or request from Him?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:
About 15 minutes

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection.

Break into pairs. Share your prayer request with the person you are paired with and pray aloud for each other in your pairs now.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Talk to God about your reflections on the previous question about being rescued.

Is there an area of your life where you struggle to be free from sin, where you need help or maybe rescue? Share that with God, cry out to him, and listen for his response.

Thank God that he hears your cries and has the power to rescue you.

Live It Out

This week, invite God to awaken your heart to the times when he has shown up in your life and the difference his presence makes every day. Let that expand your heart of gratitude.

Is there someone you know who might also need to experience this? Pray for them and reach out to encourage them.

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!**

6**LIVE IT OUT:**

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.