

## **The Exodus**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Life is full of unwanted transitions. Illness. Unemployment. Foreclosure. Family Crisis. We can find ourselves in a place of uncertainty, where life is not as it once was and the future is in question.

In this sermon/lesson series, we are looking at the Israelite's transition through the desert and recognizing in it our own difficult transitions. This is our story. Through life's most difficult transitions, it is our response that will determine whether our journey through the desert will result in deep, lasting growth or prove destructive to the soul.

### **Week 3: No Longer Alone**

**Big Idea:** God hears our cries, knows what we need and invites us to come to Him and let Him provide for us.

### **Bible | Numbers 11:16-23; Mt. 6:25-34**

### **Lesson:**

- God invites us to draw near and let Him take care of us. The invitation to draw near to God is our hope—He is our hope. Did you realize that the most repeated command of God's Word is, "Fear not!" Over 300 times! God really wants us to get the message.
- He is the God who provides community, our needs and know our needs before we even ask (Mt. 6:8) *"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."*
- God is concerned about our troubles and hears our cries (Exodus 3:7) *"Then the Lord said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters.'"*
- We know of God's faithfulness in theory, but now we must know through experiential knowledge (through our transitions).
- Worry about money really causes us conflict. Does the King really care about us? Didn't the apostles go without food? Didn't Paul suffer unbelievable persecution? He doesn't seem to selectively protect believers during a flood, earthquake, famine, fire, stock market crash or any number of problems. Divorce, suicide, cancer, heart disease all fall upon the evil as well as the Godly. This reality pushes us toward the worldly solution of self-protection. We may have experienced its failure in the past, but we may also have experienced the apparent failure of the King to protect and sustain us also. Money may not be all-protective, but it does allow us to replace at least our material possessions.

# **life group study guide**

## **5/7/2017**



What are our expectations in this relationship?

- Comfort, good health, protection from trouble?
  - Exact replacement of all we have currently? Or **more**, after all Job . . .
  - My wants
- Discuss how you counsel a fellow believer who has “lost everything,” is dying from Cancer, just lost a child, discovered that a beloved parent doesn’t recognize them anymore; to be thankful, to rejoice, etc.
- How do you personally address this “promise of care and companionship” with those who have experienced great loss?
- Compare and contrast the bread you made your last sandwich with and the “Bread of life,” refrigerated bottled water on a really hot day and the “Living Water.”
- On that lengthy list of wants is a list of what we want to gain from our faith; i.e., the kind of music I like in church, the kind of preacher I enjoy listening to (for a short time), owning my own stuff and being able to hold onto it tightly.
- What is the value of the manna and quail and water for the Israelites to you? What lesson do you observe?
- Identify some transitions that have given you difficulty.
- What elements might contribute to someone transitioning victoriously or someone transitioning disastrously?