



Hope for the 757

Impact Group Study: Exodus (Fall '20)

Hope for the 757

Introduction

Our community is hurting. No one could have imagined all that would unfold in 2020. We've been struck by the Co-Vid virus, injustice, riots, a bitter political divide, and more. People have quarantined in their homes and grown cynical, bitter, worried, and depressed. As the church, we have something different to offer. We don't feed people's disillusionment, worry, and cynicism. We bring hope. And that's our theme for this year, *Hope for the 757*.

During the course of 2020-2021, we will be exploring the book of Exodus. Together we will unpack this gripping book through our main services and our Impact Groups. As we investigate the story and meaning from Exodus, we will be better prepared to bring hope to the hopeless.

In Exodus we will see a community not unlike our own. A community grumbling about current politics, a community confused about what would happen next, a community trying to take matters into their own hands—a community in desperate need of hope. We'll also, like Moses, feel that gripping challenge to rise above the worries of the world and offer *Hope for the 757*.

Your Impact Group will dive into the 7 movements of hope we see in the book of Exodus. During this current season of Impact Groups, we will uncover the first two movements, Hope Begins with a Burden and Hope Conquers Fear. During this session, your hearts will be stirred to action with a burden for your community. So our Impact Groups will leave our meeting places every other week to pray for our neighbors. The goal is simply to leave a positive impression. The theme will be put into action as we bring a little *Hope for the 757*.

Throughout this study our prayer is that you would rise above the fears and troubles of this world. We pray that your hearts would be infused with a supernatural hope by the God who gives good gifts to His children. We pray that hope would be reflected in the smile on your face, the content of your conversations, your comments on social media, your engagement with our community—in short, we pray this hope would permeate all of your life as you Share Jesus and Impact People.



Steve Grieme, Lead Pastor

Week 1 - Movement 1: Hope Begins with a Burden

Exodus 1:1-7

Observe:

1. Of Jacob's family, how many of them had moved to Egypt?
2. How are the Hebrews faring in Egypt?

Interpret:

1. What caused the Hebrews to end up in Egypt?
2. Where is the land of promise for the Hebrews?
3. Roughly 300 years had passed from the time Jacob's family initially moved to Egypt to the point at which the number of Hebrews in Egypt had grown exponentially. At that point, how might the Hebrews have thought about Egypt? How might the Hebrews have thought about the land of promise?
4. Compare and contrast the attitude Joseph had toward his family with the likely attitude of the Hebrew descendants at this time.
5. In those 300 years God took one family and began to make a nation for Himself. What does that tell you about God and His promises?

Week 1 - Movement 1: Hope Begins with a Burden

Exodus 1:1-7

Apply:

1. Looking back over the course of your life, what evidence do you see of God's leading and directing?
2. What causes you to become complacent and focused on temporary successes/failures rather than the mission God has given you?
3. What is it about times of prosperity that seem to pose an even greater threat to walking by the Spirit than times of hardship?
4. How can you develop a burden for your sphere of influence—the communities where you live, work, study, and play?
5. What are some of God's promises that encourage you, and how can you encourage others with those promises?

Week 2 - Pray and Go 1: Hope Begins with a Burden

Exodus 1:8-22

Before you go, take a moment to remember why we go. Consider these two questions of application to develop a greater burden for your community.

1. What are some examples of hopelessness that you've noticed in our community?
2. When God seems absent, what is our hope?

General Prayer Prompt

Like in the days of Exodus, Satan continues to try to discourage, deceive, and destroy. Pray that our neighbors would know that when God seems absent, he is most gloriously present. Pray that they would be encouraged by an unwavering hope that comes only through Jesus.

Week 3 - Movement 1: Hope Begins with a Burden

Exodus 2:1-22

Observe:

1. Describe Moses' upbringing compared to most Hebrews.
2. What caused Moses to flee to Midian?

Interpret:

1. Describe the conditions surrounding Moses' birth. What does this say about who God is able to use to accomplish His sovereign designs?
2. What type of education would Moses have received being raised by the daughter of Pharaoh? How might that education have prepared Moses for later in life?
3. Moses was being groomed for national leadership in Egypt, but based on this section, was he ready to take the reins of spiritual leadership for Israel?
4. When Moses killed the Egyptian he tried to hide what he had done. What consequences did Moses face for trying to conceal his sin?
5. Compare and contrast what life must have been like for Moses in the Egyptian palace versus what life must have been like in the fields of Midian. What lessons might God be teaching Moses in Midian?

Week 3 - Movement 1: Hope Begins with a Burden

Exodus 2:1-22

Apply:

1. How has God used the experiences of your past to prepare you to impact people?
2. Moses was obviously burdened for his people, how does having a burden for people and hope go together?
3. What are some consequences of taking action without waiting on God's timing?
4. We all recognize the natural tendency is to try and hide our sin. What are some benefits of sin being brought to the light?
5. Moses was essentially an Egyptian prince who became shepherd. What makes humility such an attractive and necessary characteristic to be an effective spiritual leader?

Week 4 - Pray and Go 2: Hope Begins with a Burden

Exodus 2:23-25

Before you go, take a moment to remember why we go. Consider these two questions of application to develop a greater burden for your community.

1. We understand from our section this week that a key turning point for the Hebrews was when the king of Egypt died, an ordinary human event. How might God use something ordinary like a doorhanger to bring hope to this neighborhood?
2. God responded to the pleas of his people. How burdened are we for our community?

General Prayer Prompt

God's providence is continually worked out in and through ordinary human events. Pray that this ordinary event this evening would bear eternal results. Pray that this ordinary act of service would generate a greater burden in the heart of the church to bring hope to our community.

Week 5 - Movement 2: Hope Conquers Fear

Exodus 3:1-22

Observe:

1. When did God speak to Moses through the burning bush?
2. How did Moses respond when God told Moses that He was sending Moses to Pharaoh?

Interpret:

1. Compare and contrast how Moses felt when he first noticed the burning bush versus how he felt when God spoke to him. What does this say about the revelation that God gives?
2. God said that He had seen the affliction of His people and He had heard their cries. What does this say about God?
3. When God first called Moses to go to Pharaoh, Moses responded by saying, "who am I?" How would you describe that response?
4. Moses' next excuse was essentially, "I won't know what to say." How would you describe that response?
5. How does God assure Moses as he is dealing with these fears?

Week 5 - Movement 2: Hope Conquers Fear

Exodus 3:1-22

Apply:

1. How does it make you feel knowing that God is able to grab our attention as we go about ordinary life events?
2. God's revelation brings clarity not confusion. What are some areas in your life where His truth has brought clarity to you?
3. How did God deal with Moses' doubts and fears? What does that tell you about how we ought to deal with people struggling with doubt and fear?
4. Like Moses, God has called us all to impact people. What are some fears that you have related to that mission?
5. God told Moses that He would empower him and that He would be with him. Can you think of any New Testament promises from God that are similar for us today?

Week 6 - Pray and Go 3: Hope Conquers Fear

Exodus 4:1-31

Before you go, take a moment to remember why we go. Consider these two questions of application to develop a greater burden for your community.

1. We often think of Moses as a great leader and rightly so, but we see from this passage God had to move him past a lot of self-doubt. What qualifies a person to be effectively used by God?
2. We know from previous studies that Moses had a deep burden for his people, but we also see he was fearful that he could do anything about it. How does hope conquer fear?

General Prayer Prompt

When we are burdened for our community because we see the sin of our community, it can become easy to question, "What difference can we make anyway?" Pray that our focus would be on the size of our God and not the sin of the world. Ask God to conquer any fears we have so that we are able to trust that He can use us to accomplish His redemptive work.

Week 7 - Movement 2: Hope Conquers Fear

Exodus 5:1-23

Observe:

1. How did Pharaoh respond to Moses' requests that came from God?
2. How did the Hebrews feel about Moses once their work became so much harder?

Interpret:

1. Moses and Aaron approach Pharaoh immediately after being encouraged by God. What do you think they were likely expecting when they approached Pharaoh?
2. Pharaoh would have heard of the God of the Hebrews. What did Pharaoh mean by the statement, "Who is the Lord and why should I obey him?"
3. The Hebrews were numerous at that time. What would it have meant to the Egyptian economy to lose all of that labor?
4. What are some reasons that Pharaoh would have made the work more difficult following his interaction with Moses and Aaron?
5. After his people have turned against him, how is Moses feeling by the end of this chapter?

Week 7 - Movement 2: Hope Conquers Fear

Exodus 5:1-23

Apply:

1. What is it like to experience unmet expectations? What can we learn from those times?
2. Pharaoh valued economic success over the lives of the Hebrews. This is a temptation for many people and nations. How do we develop a heart for people?
3. The Hebrews become upset with Moses because their situation just got way worse. How are we to handle conflict when times are hard?
4. Moses had to get past a lot of fear just to return to Egypt and his first conversation with Pharaoh is essentially a failure. What do we learn about God that He allows us to “fail” even when we’re faithful?
5. Moses, deeply confused, asked God “Why?”. What is it like to be confused? How can we remain faithful when life doesn’t make sense?

Week 8 - Pray and Go 4: Hope Where Is Our Hope?

Romans 13:1-20

Before you go, take a moment to remember why we go. Consider these two questions of application to develop a greater burden for your community.

1. With an election this week, a lot of people are nervous. As Christians, why is it important to remember where our hope really lies?
2. Compare and contrast the power of government with the power of God. What, then, is the best way to see the most positive change in our community, our country, our world?

General Prayer Prompt

Pray that our faithfulness tonight would be an example to our community, that regardless of the result of any election Jesus Christ is on His throne. Pray that our leaders would govern in ways that represent our God well.

Week 9 - Where Is Our Hope: Citizens

Matthew 4:12-17

Observe:

1. What prompted Jesus to go to Galilee?
2. What was Jesus' message once he arrived in Galilee?

Interpret:

1. With John being imprisoned, what are some possible effects that could have on his followers and Jesus' followers?
2. Based on John's arrest for speaking against Herod, how would you describe the political climate at that time?
3. Jesus left Judea and went to the province of Galilee. Galilee was the province with the highest Gentile population and thought of as the worst section of Israel. What would cause Jesus to choose this area as a home base for ministry?
4. Matthew quotes a passage from Isaiah. What does that prophecy mean?
5. How would Jesus preaching be a proper response to the political darkness facing Israel?

Week 9 - Where Is Our Hope: Citizens

Matthew 4:12-17

Apply:

1. Compare and contrast what a hope in politics produces and what a hope in Jesus produces.
2. How would you describe the current political climate in our country?
3. At its best, what can government accomplish? What are the limitations of good government? What are the ramifications for looking for political solutions to spiritual problems?
4. Based on Jesus' response to the political darkness of his day, how should the church respond to the challenges our society faces today?
5. Biblically speaking, we are both dual citizens of God's kingdom and of the United States as well as ambassadors to America. Have you ever thought of yourself as an ambassador? How does that perspective affect the way you live?

Week 10 - Pray and Go 5: Where Is Our Hope?

John 18:33-37

Before you go, take a moment to remember why we go. Consider these two questions of application to develop a greater burden for your community.

1. We pray and go as a demonstration of our allegiance to Jesus. How does being aligned with the purpose He has for your life bring encouragement?
2. How have you been encouraged by our Impact Group?

General Prayer Prompt

Pray that our faithfulness today would be a testimony to the truth that real hope can only be found in Jesus. Ask that our church would have a right view of ourselves as citizens of God's kingdom.



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