

# E X O D U S

v o l u m e 3

## **Restoration** (Exodus 37-40)

**Bottom Line:** No matter who you are or what you've done, God has the ability to restore you and to use you mightily for His glory.

### **What is something that we tend to start but not finish?**

The Israelites started out in captivity, enslaved by the Egyptians. God, through an intense and spectacular display of his might and power, delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians and set them free. The reason God did this was because He had chosen Israel to be His people—Israel would be a nation of people committed to the worship and service of the One True God. God demonstrated great faithfulness to the people of Israel, but at the first instance of hardship, the Israelites turned their back on God and fell into idol worship. Through the intercession of Moses and the repentance of the Israelites, the nation of Israel was restored back into a right relationship with God, and now, here at the end of the story, we find the Israelites fulfilling their end of the deal they made with God and completing the work of building the tabernacle—the place where God would dwell with His people.

### **Read Exodus 40:34-38. What do you notice about the presence of God with the Israelites? Does this tell us anything about what restoration to God can look like?**

The journey of the Israelites was an incredible one. They had front-row seats to all the miracles that God performed in sending the plagues against Egypt. They saw God demonstrate his power in the parting of the Red Sea. They saw God's provision in the wilderness when He daily sent them the mana and the quail to eat. They even physically saw the glory of God in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night.

### **What amazing things have you seen God do in your life? What amazing things have you seen God do in the lives of others?**

But despite all that the Israelites experienced, they were far from perfect people. They complained against God and against Moses in the wilderness, they constantly doubted God and grumbled against Moses, and they ultimately showed the hardness of their hearts when they directly disobeyed the second commandment and made an idol of a golden calf and worshiped it.

### **What times in your life have you been tempted to forget God's faithfulness and complain? When have you felt the most alone in your walk with God? Was God faithful to you in those moments? How?**

One of the lessons we've learned from the story of the Exodus is that God's presence will not attend a sinful people. The same is true today. When we fall into sin and idolatry, this "grieves" and "quenches" the Holy Spirit in our lives (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19). This certainly happened with the Israelites, when they sinned and forsook God, God withdrew His presence from

# EXODUS

v o l u m e 3

them (Exodus 33:1-3). But nevertheless, at the end of the story, the fact that God is still present with His people, and in such an intense way, reminds the Israelites of something else: all is forgiven.

**God proved to Israel that their sins were forgiven by dwelling again with them in such a powerful way. In what way does God dwell with us today? How does this prove to us that our sins are forgiven? Are you letting any past sins convince you that you can't be used by God in a mighty way? Are you letting any past shame prevent you from pursuing something you feel God has called you to?**

Our journey is a lot like the Israelites'. We, too, have been delivered and are waiting to arrive at our final destination. We follow our Redeemer as He guides us to the Promised Land. And although there is no cloud overhead, we have the Spirit of God dwelling in us, telling us that our sins are forgiven and that God is with us. He is encouraging us to not live in past failures, but to press on in pursuing the calling He's placed on our lives. Our past sins do not limit God's ability to use us mightily for His glory, as long as we are willing to repent of those sins, receive His forgiveness, and trust His ability to guide us and use us. The God of Exodus is still guiding us; He is still present with us.

**What is something that God is calling you to do? What is something great that you want to accomplish for God's glory? How will you go about pursuing this goal?**

**What is something that God is calling our small group to do? What is something great that WE can accomplish for God's glory? How will we go about pursuing this goal?**

---

**Reflection:** Read these aloud, using your discretion about which questions should be pondered and which questions should be discussed.

**Have you been set free from the bondage of sin? If you feel shackled and limited by your sin, then perhaps the freedom that you need is salvation. Jesus intends for us to live lives that are free from shame and regret. Have you truly accepted Christ's payment for your sin and placed your faith in Him?**

**What past sins do you tend to dwell on? Why do you think you can't get past them? Do you need to repent of anything? Do you need to apologize to someone or make restitution in some way? Is there unfinished business that you need to take care of? What can you do to clear your conscience and renew your trust in Jesus' blood to cover your sins?**

**What is the biggest takeaway that you've gleaned from our time in Exodus? Have you been pushed to grow in your relationship with Christ and your walk with the Lord? If so, how will you keep this momentum going? What can you do to remind yourself of what you've learned and store those truths deep in your heart? How can you use what you've learned from Exodus about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or yourself?**