

Major Event: EXODUS

Lesson 1: The Jews in Egypt

Scripture: Exodus Chapter 1

Central Text: Exodus 1:7

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- Historical background: The time period covers the Jews sojourn in Egypt, from 1876 BC when Jacob is moved to Egypt until the deliverance out of Egypt in 1446 BC. (Principle: God works with His people through literal historical events)
- The birth of the Jewish nation and the formation of a people to be a nation (in Exodus there is a focus on the God “who brought you out of Egypt” as opposed to the God who created you back in Genesis.
- The God who created all things is creating a nation through whom He would bring blessing to the world (Gen. 12:1-3).
- God’s Sovereign Lordship over history and nations.
- The sojourn in Egypt taught humility through adversity.
- The slavery in Egypt taught their distinctiveness as a people and the importance to remain distinct as God’s covenant people.
- It would teach them to trust God, wait on Him, and not depend on the nations.
- Like the Hebrew midwives who feared God over Pharaoh (1:15-22), we need to fear God over man.
- The Jews in Egypt was no accident (God always has a purpose. Genesis 50:20).
- God’s plan is not always in agreement with the way we would do things. We need to trust His ways (Deut. 29:29; Ps 77:13). Why would God choose to enslave His people in Egypt? Why not another way? Why allow affliction and suffering with His people? Suffering and trials can spiritually grow God’s people. God in His wisdom protected and multiplied His people in Egypt and preserved them as a distinct people until He was ready to bring them out of Egypt.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Truth (Faithfulness): God is multiplying the Jews into a nation (Exodus 1:7) as He promised (Gen. 15:5; 22:17; 26:4). God never breaks a promise.

Omniscience and Omnipresence: God knows all things - He predicted the Jewish enslavement back to Abraham back in Gen. 15:12-16 (God knows our difficulties before we even encounter them and always has a solution).

God is present with His people; He is present and knows of the faithfulness of the Hebrew midwives (God recognizes their obedience and their value for the plan of God). He knows the best possible way to accomplish His plan to bring Him maximum glory.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Suffering and trials: Rom. 5:3-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:1-4

Fear God over man: Ecclesiastes 12:13; Job 1:1, 8; 1 Peter 2:17

Notes: God is a God of purpose and has a plan that no man can destroy. This book will show how God can work mighty things despite difficult circumstances. Just as God worked His plan through Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt (Gen 50 - his brothers meant it for evil, God meant it for good), God used the slavery of His people to give birth to His covenant nation.

* A critical point to remember when teaching kids is Deuteronomy 6:4-7

4 "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 5 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

According to this passage (also Deut. 11:18-19), God demanded that the parent teach the word of God to their children. They were to teach their children the Torah, which includes Genesis through Deuteronomy.