

# WATER•FIRE•STONE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MOSES

## Session 6 – Exit Strategy, Part 4 | Exodus Chapters 13–14

The moon was still making its way across the night sky when Moses came back with the news. At last, it was time to go. We don't know how long it took for the word to reach every hut and hovel, but the people were ready and wasted no time. Families lined up by tribe, and tribes fell into step behind their leaders.

Can you picture it? Hebrew migrants pouring out of Goshen in the middle of the night, leaving a ghost town where they had lived, labored and died as slaves for centuries. But now God's people were leaving the land of their affliction behind.



### **ex•it strat•e•gy** (*noun*)

A preplanned means of extricating someone from a situation that is likely to be difficult or unpleasant.

God knows exactly what He intends we become, and what circumstances will produce that result in our life. In this last session of our four-part series, we explore why God's exit strategy looks different than ours.

He uses the unlikely, the unqualified, the uneducated, the unworthy. The only person God will not use is the unwilling.

### **Icebreaker**

Share a favorite tradition that has been passed down in your family.

### **Goals for this Session**

- Discover the significance of Passover for every believer.
- Consider the vital connection between God's Word, obedience, and courage under fire.
- Pray honest prayers that instill faith, stand firm, and walk in freedom.

**1** Read Exodus 13:1–16 | This section breaks away from the storyline to explain specific practices that would become part of Israel’s observance and worship. Since we have already touched on this in Exodus 12, briefly consider two phrases and how they apply to us.

- a. *Remember this day.* The Israelites are barely out of Egypt and no one thinks of Passover yet as a tradition; it’s a current event. If Moses was on Instagram, the posts on his feed would still be fresh and raking in likes. #outofegypt #timetogo #noleaven #weoutthere

Think about it. Why did Moses give these instructions right away? Discuss why Passover and retelling the story would be so crucial for Israel now that Egypt was behind them.

Why is retelling the story of Passover significant for us? Read Luke 22:14-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-28 and answer in your own words.

tradition: handing down beliefs, customs and history, from one generation to the next, especially by word of mouth or practice.

- b. *It shall be as a sign to you.* Passover wasn’t just a meal to eat, it was a story to tell; and the ones who did the explaining were the parents (Deuteronomy 11:18-19). The idea here is that *remembering* and *retelling* is an identifying mark of being a redeemed child of God.

If you are a parent or significant influence in the life of a child, what habits/traditions have you (or will you) put in place to pass the story of redemption to the next generation?

2 Read Exodus 13:17–22 | Leading the Israelites out of Egypt was a massive endeavor. There were half a million men, plus women and children. A mixed multitude left with them, so it's reasonable to estimate that Moses led the evacuation of about two million people, along with their animals and possessions.

- a. What is happening? Highlight anything that stands out to you about this scene.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. The shortest way would have been along the northern trade route of the Mediterranean, through Philistine territory. Why didn't God send Moses that direction?

3 Imagine the “firsts” these people experienced. Life outside of Goshen. Tired feet from walking instead of trampling Egyptian mud to make bricks! Best of all, God's tangible presence constantly with them—His cumulous white pillar of cloud by day, and unquenchable pillar of fire by night.

- a. Describe some of the “firsts” you experienced when you became a believer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What is one of the most meaningful ways you experience God's presence on a daily basis?

## Memory Verse

“Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord,  
which He will accomplish for you today.”

Exodus 14:13 NKJV

Which part of this verse resonates most with you today? How or in what way?

## 4 Read Exodus 14:1–9 | What is happening? Describe the situation in your own words.

- a. It didn't take long for Pharaoh to regret letting the Hebrews leave. He had never intended to set them free.\* Pharaoh wrongly assumed he still controlled the fate of God's people, but according to verses 3-4 what was actually happening?

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- b. Think about it. How are Pharaoh's actions in verses 5-8 similar to what Satan tries to do to Christians (especially new converts) today?

You have escaped from your old master. God has brought you into liberty. But the tyrant has not forgotten you, and he desires your capture and re-enslavement.

C.H. Spurgeon

Pharaoh could chase and threaten and stir up fear, but he was powerless to capture them. Once God has set us free, Satan has no right to take us back into slavery. Each verse below clearly states a promise that is true for *every* believer. Choose one to share how it has personal significance for you.

John 8:36

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 8:1-2

Ephesians 6:10-11

1 John 4:4

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\* Recall that Moses had repeatedly referred to a “three day journey” (Exodus 3:18, 5:3, 8:27). By the time Egypt was done burying their dead (Numbers 33:3-4) it dawned on Pharaoh that his slaves weren't coming back.

5 Read Exodus 14:10-18 | So far, things had been going well for Moses and the Israelites. Those early days must have been as exciting as they were exhausting. Hope ran high in the camp and Moses was everyone's hero. Thanks to him, they were finally out of Egypt. But getting Egypt out of them would take much longer.

Camping by the sea sounds wonderful, doesn't it? But then suddenly, it wasn't. Describe what changed and why.

- a. *Reading between the lines.* Look between verses 10 and 11 in your Bible or device...what do you see? Nothing but white space? Look closer. What were the people doing at the end of verse 10?

We can only guess how many minutes transpired between these verses (30? 60? 90?) but notice what are they doing now in verses 11-12.

So what happened during the white space? That's when they realized they were caught between the devil and the deep Red Sea. God led them there . . . and there was *no contingency plan*. God needs no back-up plan, but they had no idea what He was doing!

- b. *Then the Lord said to Moses.* How many times have we read that phrase? Moses has come a long way since his own bouts of fear and worry at the beginning. His courage under fire now is a direct result of being close enough to hear God's voice and trusting enough to obey. When trouble came, he instinctively turned to God.

Exodus 14:13-18 | Use these phrases to share your insights and any takeaway lessons from this section. Take extra space for anything else you want to add.

**Do not fear.**

**Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.**

**The Lord will fight for you.**

# 6

Read Exodus 14:19-31 | What happened? Highlight what stands out most significantly for you as you're reading it this time.

- a. From a human standpoint, Moses and the Israelites were trapped with no place to go, but God opened a way for them.

Can you recall a similar experience in your own life—a time when you cried out to the Lord, stood on His Word, and He opened a way? Share how God has made a way through a seemingly impossible situation for you or someone close to you.

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You are  
Waymaker, Miracle Worker,  
Promisekeeper,  
Light in the darkness,  
My God, that is who You are.

Sinach Kalu  
*Waymaker*

- b. For you personally, what is a sure indication that you are trusting God to fight for you?

When I \_\_\_\_\_, I am trusting God to fight my battle.

When I \_\_\_\_\_, I am trying to deal with it on my own.

- c. Staying grounded in God's Word is vital for building faith that conquers fear. God spoke directly to Moses, and God speaks directly to us through His Word. Share one or two of your personal "go-to" Bible verses when life backs you into a corner.

**A**ction Steps ►► As you think through this part of Moses' story, what is the most important takeaway point for you personally? How will you put what you've learned into action?

**P**ray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**Adoration** – Giving praise and honor to God for who He is and what He does.

**Confession** – Honestly deal with sin; acknowledge to God the ways (and whys) you fall short.

**Thanksgiving** – Verbalize your gratitude; express your praise and a thankful heart.

**Supplication** – Pray specifically for the needs of others, ourselves, our church, our nation.



Close your discussion time by praying together. Use the A·C·T·S pattern as a group focus and keep it simple. No need to be lengthy or profound, just authentic.

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