

Into The Wild

EXODUS READING PLAN

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Week 1

Exodus 1

MONDAY
Verses 1-5

TUESDAY
Verses 6-7

WEDNESDAY
Verses 8-10

THURSDAY
Verses 11-12

FRIDAY
Verses 13-14

SATURDAY
Verses 15-19

SUNDAY
Verses 20-22

Behind The Scenes:

As we start our journey through Exodus, it's important to remember where we've been. If we look back at Genesis chapters 37-50, we get the story of Joseph and how the Israelites came to be in Egypt. Exodus picks up where that story left off. Verses 1-5 are a quick reminder of the lineage of Jacob who traveled to Egypt with him.

Make It Real:

Pharaoh noticed the hand of God and the blessing of God on the people of Israel. He saw that they continued to multiply and became afraid. He was afraid of losing his power, strength, and control over his country. So, he devises a plan to "deal with" these people and protect his rule. The powers of this world will always be threatened by the power of God. See if you can think of another example where you've seen this happen either in your own life or the lives of others.

Read Ephesians 6:10-13.

How does the Bible tell us we can stand firm in the struggles we face?

Week 2

Exodus 2

MONDAY
Verses 1-4

TUESDAY
Verses 5-10

WEDNESDAY
Verses 11-12

THURSDAY
Verses 13-15

FRIDAY
Verses 16-20

SATURDAY
Verses 21-22

SUNDAY
Verses 23-25

Behind The Scenes:

Verse 24 says that God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Take a look back at Genesis 17:1-8 and Genesis 22:15-18. What did God promise to Abraham? Now take a look at Genesis 26: 3-4. How did God continue His promise to Abraham through his son, Isaac? Jumping back to Exodus 1:6-7, how do you see that God was still continuing to fulfill His promise to Abraham?

Make It Real:

When you are going through trials, do you wonder if God has forgotten you? It can be easy to forget that God is always working behind the scenes. The Israelites understood this strain. But what they did not know is that God had His hand on Moses and was raising up someone He would use to deliver them from the very trials they cried out against.

Read Psalm 121.

This psalm reminds us that God does not fall asleep on the job. He is always working, always caring for us. He is our help in times of distress. He is always on our side. How does this promise resonate with you today? How can you trust God for the answers that He is working out behind the scenes that you don't yet see?

Week 3

Exodus 3

MONDAY
Verses 1-3

TUESDAY
Verses 4-6

WEDNESDAY
Verses 7-10

THURSDAY
Verses 11-12

FRIDAY
Verses 13-15

SATURDAY
Verses 16-18

SUNDAY
Verses 19-22

Behind The Scenes:

Did you know that by the time God appears to Moses in the burning bush, he was about 80 years old? Acts 7 tells us that he was about 40 when he killed the Egyptian. Then, about 40 more years passed before God spoke to him in the burning bush. Can you imagine? At 80 years old, Moses was sure that the impact of his life was over. But God had been preparing him for what was to come!

Make It Real:

Oftentimes we have the bad habit of putting time stamps and restrictions on God's plans. We assume that we have a clear picture of what He can or cannot do in the various seasons of our life. But God is not restrained by age, income, social status, education, or any other earthly measure. He can call you to big things regardless! Moses had to learn that God could call him to change a nation even at 80 years old. He still had a story to live, and God was just getting started!

In what areas have you put time stamps or restrictions on God?

Take a look at Jeremiah 29:11.

This verse tells us that God has a plan for our lives. Knowing this, how can you surrender the timestamps and restrictions to allow God to move in His time and in His way? How can you adopt an attitude of expectancy, being ready for God to move in all seasons and situations of your life?

Week 4

Exodus 4

MONDAY
Verses 1-5

TUESDAY
Verses 6-9

WEDNESDAY
Verses 10-13

THURSDAY
Verses 14-17

FRIDAY
Verses 18-23

SATURDAY
Verses 24-26

SUNDAY
Verses 27-31

Behind The Scenes:

Moses had lived a quiet life in Midian with his family. He surely wasn't ready for God to up-end it when he was in his 80's. But God comes to him and calls him to a God-sized task- the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. Whether from fear, uncertainty, or unwillingness, Moses argues with God. But God is faithful to answer every objection Moses presents. God proves Himself to Moses, removing any obstacle that could stand in the way of Moses walking out his calling.

Make It Real:

Like Moses, sometimes we only see the obstacles that stand in our way. But we must remember that where God calls, He also provides. God went above and beyond to not only call Moses, but also to give him every tool he would need to be successful.

Read Hebrews 13:20-21.

What does this verse tell us about how God provides what we need to accomplish His will for our life? Can you think of a time you, like Moses, argued with God about where He was calling you? How can you step out in faith today, trusting that God will supply every answer and every tool you need to succeed wherever He is calling you?

Week 5

Exodus 5

MONDAY
Verses 1-5

TUESDAY
Verses 6-9

WEDNESDAY
Verses 10-12

THURSDAY
Verses 13-16

FRIDAY
Verses 17-18

SATURDAY
Verses 19-21

SUNDAY
Verses 22-23

Behind The Scenes:

In the last verse of Chapter 4, we see the people of Israel are excited and receptive of Moses and Aaron. They worship God and praise Him for sending a deliverer. But, like it often does, it gets worse before it gets better. Soon the very people who were welcoming and grateful turn on Moses and Aaron. Moses once again turns back to God, downhearted and discouraged. But keep reading! As always, God has an answer for Moses and the people.

Make It Real:

Oftentimes we can become discouraged and weary before we reach the finish line. The temptation to quit, to turn around, and to give up can be so strong. But like Moses, we must continue to have faith even when it's hard. We must continue to trust God to finish what He began.

Read Galatians 6:9.

What does this verse tell us about remaining faithful even when it's hard? How can you trust God in the circumstances of your life today? How can you remain faithful, relying on God to finish what He began?

Week 6

Exodus 6

MONDAY
Verses 1-5

TUESDAY
Verses 6-9

WEDNESDAY
Verses 10-13

THURSDAY
Verses 14-17

FRIDAY
Verses 18-22

SATURDAY
Verses 23-26

SUNDAY
Verses 27-30

Behind The Scenes:

Feeling defeated in the face of rejection from both the Israelites and Pharoah, Moses slips back into his old habits. Moses must have felt like he was on an emotional roller coaster. But notice God's response to his doubting and backsliding. God repeats the promise He has already stated. He reaffirms that He is still in control and that He is still working. God's plans are not swayed by the doubts of His people. He presses on, patiently reminding Moses and Aaron who He is and what He has promised.

Make It Real:

Our doubts and fears can so easily stand between us and God's promises for us. Our memories are short, and hardships often make us forgetful. Can you think of a time that struggle has made it hard for you to remember God's faithfulness?

Read Deuteronomy 7:9.

What does this verse tell us about God? When you are feeling doubtful and tempted to backslide into old habits, how can the truth of this scripture help you to keep going?

Week 7

Exodus 7-10

MONDAY
EXODUS 7:3-5, 13-14

TUESDAY
EXODUS 7:17-18, 8:1-4

WEDNESDAY
EXODUS 8:16-17, 20-23

THURSDAY
EXODUS 9:1-5, 8-9

FRIDAY
EXODUS 9:13-19, 22

SATURDAY
EXODUS 10:3-6

SUNDAY
EXODUS 10:21-23

Behind The Scenes:

In chapters 7 through 10, we repeatedly see the same pattern: Moses gives a warning, Pharoah hardens his heart, God sends a plague, Pharoah ask Moses to apologize to God for him, God lifts the plague, Pharoah hardens his heart, and they repeat the cycle over again. Pharoah's heart remains hard to the movement of God even through one plague after another. Pharoah's stubbornness to recognize the authority of God and surrender to His will causes his people to suffer over and over.

Make It Real:

When we look at the hardness of Pharoah's heart, it wasn't that Pharoah did not believe in God or even that he did not think God was powerful. Instead, his hardness was rooted in a stubborn refusal to relinquish control. Pharoah tries to manipulate God and maintain control over his country and the Israelites. But God will not share His throne with anyone.

Read Romans 1:21-23.

Contemplate on the words of this passage. What does it look like to know God and yet not honor Him as God in our lives? Does this ever work out for our good? Why do you think that surrender is so hard? Take a moment to look at your life and pray that God would help you surrender to His lordship in all areas of your life.

Week 8

Exodus 11-12

MONDAY
EXODUS 11:1-5

TUESDAY
EXODUS 11:6-10

WEDNESDAY
EXODUS 12:1-10

THURSDAY
EXODUS 12:11-20

FRIDAY
EXODUS 12:21-30

SATURDAY
EXODUS 12:31-39

SUNDAY
EXODUS 12:40-50

Behind The Scenes:

This final plague was the worst of them all. The hardness of Pharoah's heart and the sin that rampaged the land deserved no less. The cost for the sins of the people was heavy indeed. But God, in His perfect mercy, sent a way to be spared. Those who were God's people, those who believed what He said and committed to do what He commanded, were to take the blood of a spotless lamb and put it on their door frame. This would be the symbol that would seal them as God's people and the angel of death would pass over them.

The Passover is an incredible foreshadowing of the coming Messiah. Nearly 1500 years later, Jesus would die on the cross as our Passover Lamb. It was through His blood that we are saved from eternal death and separation. His blood on our lives marks us as the children of God.

Make It Real:

Consider this: choosing to do this marked you, not just for God to see, but for everyone to see. Choosing to paint your door red with the blood of the lamb could not be hidden. God called His people to make a statement of faith, trusting in His protection and claiming their allegiance to Him. Trusting God in this way, the Israelites were taking a huge leep of faith, risking their lives to stand on what they believed and the God they followed.

Read Mark 8:34-38.

What is Jesus saying here? To be His follower, we must be willing to take a step of faith, to publicly proclaim we are His. Like the Israelites, it will sometimes mean doing something that seems foolish in the eyes of the world. But we are called to take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. We are called to be set apart, different than the world around us.
In what areas of your life do you need to be more willing to "paint your door red" and stand out from the people around you? How can you trust God to be faithful today as you choose to look different from the world around you?