

## **Families On Mission Week 3 Devotional Guide**

*We are going back to the story of Abraham and his descendants now, so you may want to take a moment to give your children an overview of some of the key players and events we skipped over in Genesis in order to get through God's Word in a year.*

*Abraham and Sarah's son, Isaac, who we saw on the altar last week, married Rebekah and had 2 sons, Jacob and Esau.*

*Jacob and Esau had a falling out, and we discovered that it was through Jacob that God's promise to Abraham was to be fulfilled. Jacob was the father of 12 sons, and his name was changed to Israel. Thus, we have the 12 tribes of Israel that we will see mentioned throughout the rest of scripture. It was through the line of one of Jacob's sons that Jesus was eventually born.*

*Through a tragic, yet providential group of events, Jacob's favorite son Joseph ended up in Egypt. It was through Joseph that God ultimately saved the rest of Israel's family as well as the people of Egypt when a terrible famine came. Jacob and his family eventually moved to Egypt to be reunited with Joseph and to prosper.*

*Their moving to Egypt sets up the fulfillment of a prophecy given to Abraham in Genesis 15, and the book of Exodus will allow us to see how God kept His promise. We will also see how God brings Israel into fellowship with Him through redemption and sacrifice, and how He teaches them to live as His people.*

### **Day 15- Exodus 1 -Israel in Egypt**

The situation of the Hebrew people had changed in the days since Joseph and those who knew him had died. Instead of having favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, the children of Israel were now seen as a threat, and they were enslaved. It must



have seemed that they were forgotten, but God was still at work. Though they were treated unfairly and harshly, God continued to multiply them.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *There is nothing "fair" to be found in Exodus 1. Conversations about what we deem fair and right are incredibly valuable, for as we all know there will always be situations in our lives that we deem unfair or unjust. Just as we see with the children of Israel, though, God remains at work in our lives. We learn in Hebrews 13:5 that God "will never leave you nor forsake you," and we are assured in Romans 8:28 that He will work all things out for the ultimate good of those who love Him. This is a great day to talk about trusting God and why He is worthy of our trust regardless of our circumstances.*

Learning to tie different passages of scripture together as we teach our children to know God and walk in His ways will give them a more complete view of God's plan for His people. It also gives us as parents more to rely on as we face our own temptations and tribulations. God is so good to give us His Word, so we can come to know Him and His ways better each and every day.

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### **Day 16-- Exodus 2- Moses' Birth**

This is a great, narrative-filled chapter to read together. In the first section of the chapter, we meet Moses' big sister. God used this young girl and her love and care for her little brother in a mighty way. That alone is great fodder for discipleship discussion! *"How can God use you right where you are...?" "How is your relationship with your siblings?..."*

The second section is much harder to read, for we see Moses in a way we definitely don't want to. He kills a man and runs away. It is amazing that the man about whom we will eventually read about as *"very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth,"* (Numbers 12:3) was so out of control at this point that he murdered a man out of anger.

What an incredible lesson about how God can change a person and use you despite your flaws, your past, your heritage, etc.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *Have you ever been tempted to believe that God couldn't possibly use you because of who you are or what you've done? Take hope in knowing that He has used countless others throughout history who seemed to be the last person He would ever choose. Allow Him to change you and mold you into His image even as we'll see Him do that with Moses in the days ahead.*
- *A very practical discipleship tool is to let your children know your testimony. In our family, I was saved at an early age and was honestly saved FROM a lot of things. David, on the other hand was 24 when he came to know the Lord, and he was saved OUT of a lot of things. Both tales of grace are miraculous. Both*

*of us are unworthy of being used by God at all, and through both of our testimonies our children can better understand the love and nature of God.*

We can't forget, nor can we let our children forget that Jesus knows. He understands. He sees. His grace is sufficient for us if we will just trust Him and lean on what we know to be true.

### **Day 17-- Exodus 3- The Burning Bush**

There are so many things to talk about in this chapter-- the coolness of seeing a burning bush that doesn't burn up, the awe and fear you would have felt at hearing a voice-- God's voice!-- coming from that burning bush, the immensity of the task given to Moses, etc.

I would encourage you to look at God's statements in the dialogue we're privy to here:

- *"**I have surely seen** the affliction of the people..."*
- *"**I have heard** their cry..."*
- *"**I have come down to deliver them and to bring them out** of that land..."*
- *"The cry has come to me, and **I have seen the oppression...**"*
- *The cry has come to me, and **I have seen the oppression...**"*
- *"**I will send you** to Pharaoh..."*
- *"**I will be with you...**"*
- *"**I AM WHO I AM...**"*

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

*How often do we teach our children Bible stories, but we fail to teach them about God Who is at the center of them all? This chapter gives us a lot to talk about God, from His own mouth.*

- *God is personal. Here we see Him talking directly to one who by all accounts is unworthy.*

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- *God hears our cries for help and deliverance, and He sees our plight.*
- *God knows our sufferings.*
- *God will deliver in His own way and timing.*

We can trust our personal God Who hears us and knows us. As we grow, we'll see more and more that God's ways are better than our ways, and His provision and deliverance is often way more than we would have ever thought to ask for. The Hebrews would ultimately leave Egypt with the riches of Egypt in hand. They would have never imagined that! God sent His only begotten Son to become the perfect Savior for all mankind-- who would have dreamed of that? We serve a great and mighty, personal and loving God!

### **Day 18-- Exodus 4-- Moses Called**

Moses thought he had a lot of reasons why he couldn't possibly be the one who God actually wanted to call to serve Him, but I love what God draws to Moses' attention early in this conversation, for it provides an incredible reminder for all of us and for our children...

*"The Lord said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' He (Moses) said, 'A staff.'"* (v2)

That's it! Did you catch it? The tool God would use to turn Pharaoh's heart and to lead Israel out of Egypt was right there in Moses' hand already!

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *What's in YOUR hand that God could use right now? Are you willing to put it into play?*
- *Encourage your children to come up with creative ways to use what God has put into their hands right now to serve God and others. You'll be amazed at some of the creative ideas they are likely to come up with! :)*

Last year in Teach Them Diligently 365, we spent the entire year "Rethinking" elements of our lives, homeschool, and walk with God. One of the videos is about "[Rethink Your Rear-View Mirror](#)," and it encourages us all to consider what God has put into our hands through circumstances, experiences, giftings, etc. and how those things can be used by God if we open our hands and allow Him to work. I encourage you to check it out. If you're not a TTD365 member, I invite you to [join us there now](#). It's a serious mentoring community, bringing resources and encouragement to you each and every day of the year.

### **Day 19-- Exodus 5-- Pharaoh Refuses**

Things got really bad for the children of Israel after Moses and Aaron appeared before Pharaoh. In v. 22-23, we even see Moses questioning God about the way things were playing out.

Do you ever notice how we, like Moses, Aaron, and the children of Israel, often have a pre-conceived notion about how things will work out? "We obey. God blesses." It's a simple equation in our minds, and many times we do see it play out like that.

This was BIG, though! God was redeeming His people. All power of hell was about to be unleashed to try to thwart God's plan of redemption of Israel, a plan that will ultimately pave the way for His redemption of all mankind.

Through these trials and God's display of power, their faith and knowledge of Him would grow, and ultimately all power of hell would fall very short of thwarting God's plan for His people.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *Times got rough for the children of Israel, and they are likely to get rough*

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*for us from time to time as we follow God, but it's always good to remind ourselves that we are told in Romans 8:35-39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God, just like the children of Israel were never outside of God's love in Egypt.*

- *Since God is our Heavenly Father and sets the ultimate example for us as parents, this is a great opportunity to reinforce to our children that you will always love them as well and that you trust your Heavenly Father to take care of you no matter what comes your way.*

### **Day 20-- Exodus 12- The Passover**

Today, we will read all about the Passover, which is incredibly interesting merely as an historical event, but it is profoundly impactful from a spiritual standpoint. As you are reading this with your children, you will find perfect opportunities to compare what you're reading about the sacrifices to the perfect sacrifice Jesus offered once for all when He gave His life for us. You'll even read some of the lyrics to a favorite old hymn, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you..."

One thing that really grabs my heart and attention as I read this passage starts in verse 11 as we see the expectation with which they kept this feast. Over the days preceding this one, the children of Israel had seen God do many mighty works in Egypt as He displayed His power through the plagues. They were gaining a knowledge of and an appreciation of the power of God through seeing Him work, so when He said to eat this in a ready-to-go way, they did so.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *We as parents have a great opportunity to share with our children great things*

*God has done and is doing all around them. Celebrate their own praises as they thank God for things they see Him do-- even if they seem small or silly to our adult sensibilities.*

- *Perhaps this is a great time to start a prayer/praise journal to keep track of how you're seeing God work right now.*

### **Day 21-- Exodus 13-- Redeeming the Firstborn**

This is a really personal chapter, and we will see God instructing parents to use the events that had transpired as teaching tools in the days ahead. Verses 8 and 14 specifically instruct parents to talk to their children about these things.

The Lord was beginning to set up statutes or traditions for His people to help them remember for generations to follow what He had done that day. The main vehicle for passing those accounts on from generation to generation was from parent to child. Aren't you thankful to play such an important role in God's mission to save a lost world? You, mom and dad, are privileged to allow what God is teaching you to overflow into your children, naturally teaching them diligently and instilling in them a faith that will take root. I wrote Teach Them Diligently, Raising Children of Promise to encourage parents in that incredible role. [I would love for you to pick up a copy.](#) If you're a Teach Them Diligently 365 member, you may want to check out the [Raising Children of Promise video](#) where we discuss that parenting manual God has given us all.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *This may provide a great opportunity for you to have some special time with your oldest. God clearly set apart the*

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*first born, for they have an unusual amount of influence in the family. How is your oldest handling that position? Encourage him or her to allow God to use them in that way. Remind your child that God knew exactly who should be born first, for He makes no mistakes.*

I pray this week of devotion and study has been a blessing for you and your family. If you're interested in diving even deeper into topics ranging from studying God's Word to parenting and marriage to academics and activities for families, I'd love to have you join us at [Teach Them Diligently](#) events or in [Teach Them Diligently 365](#). We endeavor every day to bring resources to families that will strengthen their faith in God and their bond together with their loved ones here on earth. We are praying God will revive families all around the world and each of them will become a FAMILY ON MISSION to impact the world for His Kingdom. Won't you join us?