

This is our story. Part 3—The Rescue Text: Exodus 6:1-7, 13:17-14:31

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *Tell us about a time when you got stuck.*
2. *What in your life would like freedom from?*

Digging In

Read **Exodus 6:1-7**.

Questions:

1. *Why do you think God tells the Hebrew people He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?*
2. *What questions or fears do you think the people of God had in response to God's message here?*

Read **Exodus 13:17-22**.

Questions:

1. *What does it tell you about God that He took the Israelites around the **longer** way?*
2. *What weaknesses in the people of God do you see God working with in their redemption?*
3. *What do you think was significant about Moses carrying Joseph's bones out of Egypt?*

Read **Exodus 14:1-14**.

Questions:

1. *Why do you think the writer of Exodus wanted us to know that the Israelites were so quick to give up?*
2. *Why do you think God chose to deliver the Israelites by asking them to be still instead of fighting?*

Read **Exodus 14:15-31**.

Some ancient readers of Exodus pointed out that the sea being driven back may not have looked so miraculous at first. We are told a "wind" drove the waters apart and that it took all night. It wouldn't have been as instantaneous as in our films about Exodus. It would have been slow, gradual, perhaps barely perceptible. In fact, it seems they only noticed the "mighty hand of the LORD" in hindsight, after the Egyptians had been deluged.

Questions

1. *In what objects or people do you see God working in this story?*
2. *If all you had was this story of God's redemption, what would you learn about how God works to free His people?*
3. *Do you tend to notice God's hand at work in your life in the moment, or after the fact? Why do you think that is?*

Sending Out

The early Christians attached their understanding of Jesus' salvation to the story of God's salvation on display in the Exodus. In the Exodus, God frees the people from slavery for their own sake, but also for the sake of the covenant God made with Abraham and his family. That covenant was that the people of God would be blessed, and be a blessing to all nations. Our freedom in Christ is from sin and evil and death, but that is not the end of the story. Jesus' salvation in our lives is meant to free us from our sin *and* from a life that fails to bless others.

Here's how the early Christians used Exodus language to communicate the implications of Jesus salvation—and freedom—in our lives: Read **Galatians 5:13-15**.

Questions:

1. *Do you think our church exhibits a life of freedom?*
2. *What weaknesses in us do you see God needing to work with?*
3. *What do you think our church needs to be freed from by the resurrected Christ?*
4. *What do you need to be freed from by the resurrected Christ?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, "What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?"

Close with prayer.