

Exodus Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson One: Moses' Birth and Call – Exodus 1:1-7:7

Unless otherwise noted, all questions in this and subsequent lessons refer to the underlined Scripture references listed at the beginning of each of the five sections within the lesson (often given as readings).

Read Exodus 1 – 2:10.

- 1) List the words in Exodus 1 that describe the Israelites or their lives. **“The Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them” (1:7). They had slave masters put over them who oppressed them with forced-labor (1:11); the Egyptians dreaded them (1:12) and worked them ruthlessly (1:13-14); their lives were made bitter with hard labor (1:14); their women were vigorous, giving birth quickly/easily (1:19), so they increased and became even more numerous (1:20).**
- 2) What information is given in Exodus 2:1-10 and Acts 7:20 about Moses’ birth and infancy? **Moses was born into a Levite household at a time when Pharaoh required all male, Israelite babies be put to death. Moses’ parents saw that he was “no ordinary child” (Acts 7:20), “a fine child” (Exodus 2:2). After hiding him for three months, they put him in a basket along the bank of the Nile River, hoping to spare his life. One of Pharaoh’s daughters found, named, and adopted him.**
- 3) Romans 2:14-15 tells us that God has placed His moral law within the heart of every human being (in the form of a conscience). At the end of Exodus 1, what moral law did Pharaoh disregard? What can you learn from Moses’ parents’ actions about living under human authority or in a culture where God’s moral laws are disregarded? **Pharaoh disrespected the value of human life. Like Moses’ parents, Jesus lived in a time and place where moral laws were disregarded. He sent out His disciples “like sheep among wolves,” instructing them to be “as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16). Similarly, Moses’ parents acted carefully and wisely. They formed a plan, included trustworthy people (Moses’ sister), but not more people than absolutely necessary. Perhaps they coached their daughter in handling various situations that could arise. When the time came, Moses’ sister was able to respond calmly to Pharaoh’s daughter, indicating that once their plan was made, Moses’ family trusted God with the results. Personal sharing**

Read Exodus 2:11-22.

- 4) According to Stephen in Acts 7:23-25, why did Moses leave Pharaoh’s household to visit his fellow Israelites? **He “thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.”**
- 5) Moses is not the only Bible figure who found himself in a foreign land.
 - a) Who else met his wife while watering her flocks at a well in a foreign land (see Genesis 29:9-12)? **Jacob met Rachel while watering her flocks at a well in Paddan Aram.**
 - b) From the following passages, name the men whom God instructed (or whose characters He developed) in a foreign land:
 Genesis 29:1 and 31:36-42: **Jacob in Paddan Aram** Genesis 37:28 and 41:51-52: **Joseph in Egypt**
 Exodus 2:21-22: **Moses in Midian** Galatians 1:1, 13-17: **Paul in Arabia**
- 6) Have you ever experienced a season in a foreign place (literally or figuratively) that initially seemed wasted or meaningless but turned out to be God’s training ground? If so, tell about it. **Personal sharing**

Read Exodus 2:23-3:10.

- 7) Exodus 2:24 says, “God heard their groaning and remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.” What was His covenant with these Patriarchs? See Genesis 12:2-3, 7, together with Exodus 3:17. **Blessing, descendants, and land (Canaan, specifically)**

- 8) From Exodus 3:2-6 and Deuteronomy 4:24, identify “*the angel of the Lord*” who appeared to Moses in a burning bush. **The scriptures closely tie the “angel of the Lord” to the Lord Himself. This angelic messenger was probably the preexistent Word of God (Jesus Christ), manifesting Himself in some visible form prior to His incarnation.**
- 9) Read Acts 7:23-30.
- How long had Moses been in the desert caring for sheep when the angel of the Lord met him? **Moses had been keeping sheep in Midian for 40 years (Acts 7:30).**
 - Had Moses been correct in his assumption that God would use him to rescue His people (Acts 7:35 and Exodus 3:10)? **Yes, Moses’ belief that God would use him to deliver Israel was correct.**
 - In light of your answers, why do you think Moses was surprised (Exodus 3:11) by God’s call? **After so much time had passed, Moses probably thought that he had been mistaken about God using him to deliver Israel, or even that God had entirely forgotten him.**
 - Specifically, how does this story encourage you regarding God’s timetable and your usefulness to Him (include details specific to your own life and circumstances)? **Personal sharing**

Read Exodus 3:11 – 4:31.

- 10) According to 3:11 – 4:13, what excuses did Moses give for not believing God could use him? **“Who am I that you would use me” (3:11)? “I don’t know who You are, God” (3:13)! “I have no confidence that Israel will listen to me” (4:1). “I am slow of speech” (4:10). “Sending someone else is a better idea” (4:13).**
- 11) How did God answer Moses’ final objection (4:14-16)? What does Exodus 4:27-31 imply about Aaron’s willingness to obey God? **God said Moses’ brother Aaron would be his mouthpiece. There is no record that Aaron was anything but completely willing.**
- 12) Exodus 4:31 says that when the Israelites “heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.” Tell about a time when the Lord reminded you of His knowledge of your circumstances and His personal concern. Then finish the following sentence: “Lord, today I will praise you for your knowledge and concern for me regarding...” **Personal sharing**

Read Exodus 5:1 – 7:7.

- 13) Record the following names from Exodus 6:14-25 (including verse numbers):
 Moses’ and Aaron’s great-grandfather (or oldest named ancestor): **Levi (6:16)**
 Moses’ and Aaron’s grandfather (or second oldest named ancestor): **Kohath (6:16, 18)**
 Moses’ and Aaron’s father: **Amram (6:18, 20)**
 Aaron’s four sons: **Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar (6:23)**
 Aaron’s grandson: **Phinehas (son of Eleazar) (6:25)**
- 14) Which phrases summarize:
- the way Pharaoh handled his concern that Moses would encourage rebellion (from Exodus 5:6-21)? **“Make the work harder,” so they will “pay no attention to lies” (Exodus 5:9).**
 - the Israelites’ attitude toward Moses (from Exodus 5:6-21)? **“You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh” (Exodus 5:21)**
 - the Lord’s intent and promise to Israel (from Exodus 6:2-8)? **“I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God... I will bring you to the land... I will give it to you as a possession” (Exodus 6:7-8).**
 - God’s motive in using miraculous signs and wonders to deliver Israel from Egypt (from Exodus 7:1-6)? **“The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord” (Exodus 7:5).**
- 15) Reread Exodus 5:22-23. What can you learn from the way in which Moses related to God? How will you apply this in your own prayer life? **Moses approached God with bold honesty and emotion. Personal sharing**