



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 5, Day 1 --- Genesis 48-50

Week 5, Day 2 --- Exodus 1-3

Week 5, Day 3 --- Exodus 4-6

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Week 5, Day 5 --- Exodus 10-12

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Week 5, Day 1 --- Genesis 48-50

Once again a father blesses his sons. Some of the blessings are very positive and others may seem limiting. The incredible thing is that they all came true. There are two that are amazing to me. Simeon and Levi were incredibly violent men. Their families would become warriors and would continue to be violent. The family of Levi became the priests in Israel. Their responsibility was the care of God's house so they were not given a portion of Canaan to be their own. Judah is the take charge one of all the sons. His children will become the kings of Israel and through his family line Jesus will be born. All this was predicted by Jacob almost 2000 years before Jesus was born.

Week 5, Day 2 --- Exodus 1-3

There is a gap of several hundred years between the end of Genesis and the beginning of Exodus. The family of Jacob has become the Israelite people. They are a nation inside the nation of Egypt. They are multiplying faster than the Egyptians, so the Egyptians decide to enslave them and attempt to limit their increase. It doesn't work and a cycle of more population growth and more oppression begins. This cycle is still being repeated in various cultures today.

The mother of Moses has great faith and cunning. She obeys the letter of the law by putting her son in the Nile, but she puts him in a place where he will be noticed. Her plan works and Moses is adopted into the family of Pharaoh. Moses grows up as an Egyptian. He goes to Egyptian schools and probably serves in the Egyptian army. By the time he kills the Egyptian he is 40 years old and probably a powerful and visible leader within Egypt.

Moses goes from the palace to the desert as a result of the murder of the Egyptian. He begins his family and cares for sheep for another 40 years. He is finally ready to lead his people out of Egypt. What would it take for God to get your attention? How would you respond if God called you with a new direction through a burning bush experience?

Week 5, Day 3 --- Exodus 4-6

What would you do if God spoke to you in a clearly audible voice making it very clear that He was God? What would you do if in addition to the voice God demonstrated supernatural powers that you could see and touch? We wonder sometimes why people don't do what God wants. Moses demonstrates for us that it is possible to know who God is and still resist doing what God desires.

The passage about the circumcision of Moses' son is a very difficult few verses to understand. My understanding is that it was very important for Moses to demonstrate that he was a Hebrew, a child of Abraham, and that meant that his sons needed to be circumcised. God wanted to make certain this was right before Moses return to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt. It is very important for leaders to model what they tell their followers to do.

Leaving Egypt was going to be a big change for the Hebrew people. They were slaves, but they were comfortable slaves. They lived in a very prosperous and powerful nation. They had few responsibilities. They complained about their bondage, but at the same time they were comfortable with it. Their situation had to get worse before they would be willing to leave Egypt. When their situation got worse they complained. Moses took their complaints to God and God responded in the way God typically responds. God had made a promise and He was going to keep it. How many times does the phrase "I Am the Lord" appear in chapter 6? Why is that so important?

Week 5, Day 4 --- Exodus 7-9

The hard work convinced the Israelites that they were in bondage and needed to be set free. It takes a series of plagues to convince the Egyptians that they want to set the Israelites free. Egypt was a land of many gods. The Pharaoh was god of all these gods. He viewed himself as divine and all powerful. The plagues are a direct attack on his thinking that he is divine.

Each plague is directed against one of the Egyptian gods. The plagues get worse and worse. As they get worse God protects the Israelites by limiting the area where the plagues take place. I find the plague of hail one of the most interesting. God announces that there is going to be a terrible storm. If the Egyptians believe and stay inside they will be fine, but if they are caught outside they will be killed. God gave them a choice and a chance.

Have you ever been determined to demonstrate that you are in control? The Bible tells us that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. God could have done this directly and He has the power and position to do that. It could also be that the continuous pressure that God put on Pharaoh through the plagues made Pharaoh more and more stubborn. Some people give in to pressure quickly. Other people get more and more determined. They won't bend so they eventually break. Think about situations in your life where you have been like Pharaoh. Maybe there are times when God has been trying to get your attention, but you have been determined to do things your own way. How is that working for Pharaoh in this situation?

Week 5, Day 5 --- Exodus 10-12

I had never seen a locust until I traveled to Africa. They look like grasshoppers, only they are much larger. They are greatly feared because of the amount of vegetation that they can eat. As the plagues progress Pharaoh becomes less and less respected even by his own people.

The final plague is important for many reasons. For the Israelites the plague of death resulted in the Egyptians sending them away with great wealth. For us it is a picture of what will be required to set us free from our bondage. It is easy to forget that the Israelites were slaves by the time we reach this point in the story. They had no power and were helpless. They cannot be freed without someone dying. The Egyptians die because they have refused to recognize God. The lambs die so that the Israelites might be protected from the angel of death.

Remember this story. It is incredibly important and will help you understand what happens when Jesus comes as the Lamb of God and dies for our sins.

Week 5, Day 6 --- Exodus 13-15

The Egyptians and Israelites reluctantly separated. The Egyptians had lost a workforce of 600,000 people and in spite of the deaths of their sons they wanted that workforce back. The Israelites had lost the security of their slavery. Now they had to depend on God and themselves for their day to day provision and this was frightening. One last event was needed to separate them so that they would stay apart.

God leads the people to a place where they are pinned between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea. From a human perspective they are dead. They are not trained or equipped for battle and on their own they would all die. However, God has a plan and He provides a way out. The path through the sea provides rescue for the Israelites and destruction for the Egyptian army. If God had not done this the Israelites could have been pursued by the Egyptians all the way to the Promised Land.

When they were safe on the other side the Israelites sang a new song. My hope is that someday you'll be able to write and sing a new song.

Week 5, Day 7 --- Exodus 16-18

No one likes change. In fact, we don't even like changes that are good, but we especially don't like changes that we think are bad for us. The Israelites never mention the work they no longer have to do. No one ever mentions that they are no longer beaten as slaves. All they can think about is that they do not have abundant food and water. They grumble and complain constantly to Moses and for a time he allows their complaints to make him miserable.

God hears the complaints and answers in a special way. He provides food for the Israelites that will keep them strong and healthy. They had never seen food like this before, so they called it "what is it". The Hebrew word that means this is manna. They were on the move, so they did not plant seeds and then harvest a crop. Instead, God provided this food every day, so they harvested every day except Saturday. Saturday, or the Sabbath, was a day of rest. Pay careful attention to God's instructions in these verses and how the Israelites responded. Why do you think that some of the Israelites didn't follow God's instructions?

God speaks to us in many ways. In the final chapter of today's reading God speaks to Moses through his father-in-law Jethro. Moses is exhausting himself taking care of all the people. There are over 1 million people and every dispute has to be resolved by Moses. Obviously, many disputes aren't getting resolved and Moses is getting exhausted. Jethro's advice is incredibly practical and Moses is wise enough to accept it and everyone benefits.