

God's Compassion for His People

God faithfully keeps His promises to His people and is compassionate towards them in their suffering.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Exodus 2:23-3:20

March 22, 2020

(Exodus 2:23-25) ²³ During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. ²⁴ God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵ So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

(Exodus 3:1-20) ¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." ¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' 'This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. ¹⁶ "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷ And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.' ¹⁸ "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.' ¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. ²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- Have you ever seen a child who lost their parents in a public place? Has this happened to you?
- If you had trouble finding your child in a public setting, do you think you could pick out your child's voice? Why or why not? Encourage learners to recall times when they had to respond to a painful or fearful cry from one of their children—or when their parents responded to their cries.

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Exodus 2:23-25

- How did the Israelites respond to their oppression at the hands of the Egyptians? What action words describe God's response?
- What prompted God to take action on behalf of the Israelites?
- God's remembering His covenant does not imply that He had forgotten it. Rather, it means that He chose to put His promises into effect. What is the relationship between the cries and prayers of the people, and God's promises?

Have a volunteer read Exodus 3:1-6

- Why did the Lord tell Moses to remove his sandals? Joshua was told to do the same near Jericho (Josh. 5:15). What do you think made these places "holy ground"?
- What did God disclose about Himself to Moses in these verses?
- How did Moses respond in verse 6 to God's revelation? Why do you think Moses was afraid?
- Moses was nearly eighty years old when the Lord appeared to Him (Ex. 7:7). He was also a fugitive from justice, having killed an Egyptian man (Ex. 2:11-15). What does this tell us about the person God can use?

Have a volunteer read Exodus 3:7-10

- How did the plan God disclosed differ from the kind of relief the people likely hoped for when they cried out to God because of their difficult labor (Ex. 2:23)?
- What role was Moses going to have in fulfilling God's plan? How do you think he felt?
- How has God worked in surprising ways in your life? When has He used unexpected people to minister to your needs? How might you be part of His compassionate action in someone else's life?

Have a volunteer read Exodus 3:19-20

- What was God's ultimate goal in these verses? What were the obstacles that needed to be overcome? What additional obstacle would God overcome for His people? How would He do this, and for what purpose?
- List one or two major obstacles you're praying God will overcome in your life. How does Jesus' life, death and resurrection give you hope that God will ultimately act for your good?
- What promises of God do you want Him to remember for you?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- What circumstances have driven you to cry out to the Lord for help? Which of His promises give you hope in the midst of your trouble?
- How would it change your life to realize with every step you take your feet are on holy ground in the presence of the Lord? What will you do differently?
- What insights gained from this study could you share with a non-Christian who asked you, "How do you know God cares what happens to you?"

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Exodus 8-9
 DAY 2 – Exodus 10-11
 DAY 3 – Exodus 12
 DAY 4 – Exodus 13:17-14
 DAY 5 – Exodus 16-17

KEY VERSE: Exodus 12:13

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.