



HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

EXODUS

THE ORIGINAL STORY OF SALVATION

SECOND STUDY



Israel in the Wilderness

OPEN UP

Okay so picture this- You have been promised salvation from slavery and you receive it, BUT now you're wandering in the desert. At some point you were told that you would be in a land of abundance. There would be more than enough to go around, but before that you have to make it through the exact opposite- a land of scarcity. How long will this take- you don't know. It's easy to see how the Israelites got so spiritually and physically lost during this time and it's important to remember that we likely would have acted the same.

LET'S TALK

Last week we talked about the plagues and Egypt and God using/ having power over all things. Any additional thoughts about those? Talk about last week for a few minutes to recall where you left off.

I often like to skip this part of exodus because it's hard for me to realize how ungrateful we can be to God. What are parts of the Bible that you tend to skip over?

God allows his people to suffer sometimes like when he allows the Israelites to walk through the wilderness. Why is this important to remember?



LET'S READ

Exodus 13:17-18:27

REVIEW

Does anything stick out to you from the reading? (*It's okay to say no*)

We learned in our reading that God could have taken the Israelites another way. They could have gone through enemy territory, but God knew they couldn't handle it. What does this teach us about God?

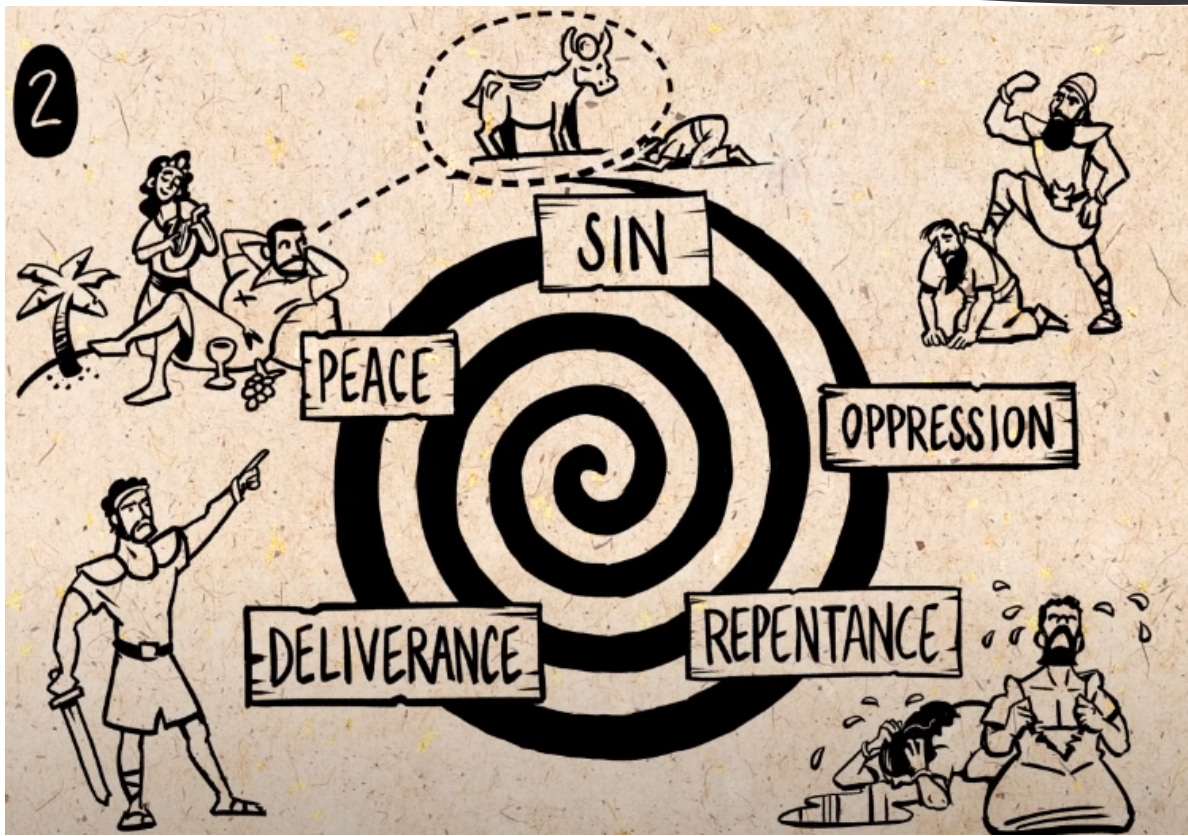
Chapter 14 shows the Israelites reacting poorly to Pharaoh coming after them and taking it out on Moses. What does this tell us to expect from God's people going forward?

We often see people that follow God doubt him as soon as things don't go well. We see in the Bible that this is a common thread throughout all of human history. Why is it good to know this?



RETHINK EXODUS 14 AND 15

In Exodus 14 we see the Israelites doubt not only God's power, but they also argue that they would rather die than be lost in the wilderness. And then in chapter 15 we have an entire chapter devoted to the Israelites worshiping God when they do in fact get saved. This cycle of rejecting God and then praising God when saved actually appears all throughout the Bible. If you look for it you will see it everywhere. Why is it important to see it in the Bible and how does it relate to us?



THE SIN CYCLE

This graphic made by The Bible Project shows the sin cycle as observed in the book of Judges. This theme goes far beyond Judges in the Bible and it reaches out into the lives of Christians.

Talk about how Christians tend to get "stuck" in the sin cycle as shown here. (Changing words might help: **Sin- Suffering from Sin- Asking for Forgiveness- God saves us- Peace-Sin**)

THIS WEEK

Talk about how we can be better at identifying when we are in the cycle and how to break out of it. Think deeper: Is it something that can/should be broken?

Make a commitment to each other to take time this week to think about your own life and if you're stuck somewhere on here and need help. How can we help each other through this?

How can Hope Community Church be better at "owning" our sin and staying out of the cycle?

LET'S PRAY

Take prayer requests and address the challenges you set up for yourself this week.

Israel at Sinai

OPEN UP

We've come a long way since the beginning and we're approaching the end of this study. Today we're going to talk about the 10 Commandments. A lot of us have our opinions about these laws and the rest of the laws in the Old Testament, but try to approach today's study with fresh eyes. Keep in mind the story of the whole exodus and do your best think about this like an ancient Israelite might think about it. Their view of God and their recent history are important to remember.

LET'S TALK

Have you thought any more about last week's study on the wilderness and the Sin Cycle? *(review it together if necessary)*

This week we're reading about God giving his people rules to follow or "laws". Does this mean that before this the Israelites were allowed to do whatever they wanted?

Which of the 10 commandments stick out to you if any?



LET'S READ

Exodus 19,20,24

I'm directing you to skip chapters 21-23, because it's easy to get lost in the weeds here, but feel free to study these on your own time.

REVIEW

Did you learn anything new or did anything stick out to you about Moses, God's direction or the setting? *(It's okay to say no)*

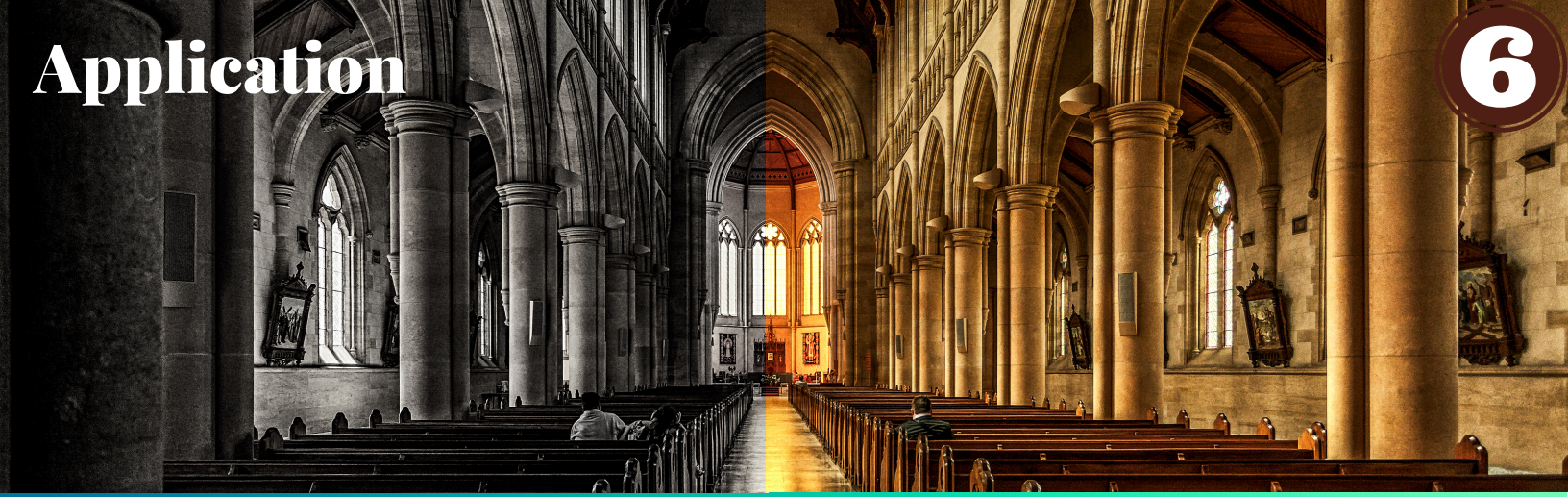
In Genesis God makes it pretty clear that these laws in the 10 commandments are important to Him before for they are written here in Exodus. For example the murders like the killing of Abel are demonstrated as against the will of God. Why are they written out as laws if these things were already expected of God's followers?

Moses is very unique in his relationship with God. What characteristics make Moses different here?

How do the 10 commandments line up with the teaching of Jesus? Read Matthew 12:28-31. Why doesn't Jesus give just one answer when asked for just one?

RETHINK THE PRIEST

Moses makes a lot of trips up and down the mountain to the point where it often gets confusing to when and why Moses is up there. Moses is playing the Priest here. A priest is person that is a connection between God and humanity. They speak on behalf of God to humanity and from humanity to God. God's plan is that everyone would be able to live the way Moses does with no one standing in-between us and him. That's why Jesus came- to tear down the veil that separates us and to allows to connect fully with him. This is a new way of living and having a relationship with God.



OLD WAY

God uses Prophets, Priests, or Kings as the primary way to connect with his people.

A priest had to make themselves as pure as possible to be in the presence of God.

Priest were rare and sacred people.

Priests typically only connected with God in Holy places.

The cost of sin would have to be a sacrifice of an innocent life of an animal done by a priest.

NEW WAY

God connects with his people through the Holy Spirit available to all people.

Jesus lived the ultimate pure life because we couldn't. He is the reason we can meet God any where , any time, in any condition.

All followers of Christ can act as a priest. Connecting God and people

We can connect with God anywhere. Because of the Holy Spirit- we are the holy place.

Jesus paid the cost that we should have paid. We have access to this if we lay down our lives for Jesus.

THIS WEEK

Talk about how we can realize our calling to be priests to others. As in how can we do a better job at connecting people to God.

Make a commitment this week to value yourself highly as you are a priest and your body is a temple. Realize that all other people have this intrinsic value too. What does this look like practically to value yourself and others more?

How can Hope Community Church be better at valuing people more and putting less emphases on the building ?

LET'S PRAY

Take prayer requests and address the challenges you set up for yourself this week.





The Next Leader- Joseph

OPEN UP

Moses is often remembered as one of the greatest characters in the story of the Bible. He makes mistakes, but he's a good leader that connects well with God and God uses him for incredible things. The Israelites will think back on Moses as one the best leaders they have ever had. Moses however has some flaws- He's human. He can't live forever and he can't lead Israel forever. this shouldn't come as a surprise to us, but it needs to be said- Moses was never intended to be Israel's one ultimate leader and king. God was always supposed to be Israel's ultimate leader.

LET'S TALK

Have you thought any more about last week's study on priests? *(review it together if necessary)*

This week we're learning about the passing on of responsibility and God's leadership in our lives.

Why do we often focus more on human leaders than God himself?



LET'S READ

Numbers 27:12

What we're going out of Exodus? Yes! The Exodus Story (That is the salvation of God's people) continues far out passed the book titled Exodus. Feel free to finish Exodus to get a more wholistic understanding of the text.

REVIEW

What do you think Moses felt when God told him to pass on his leadership role? Have you ever gone through something similar?

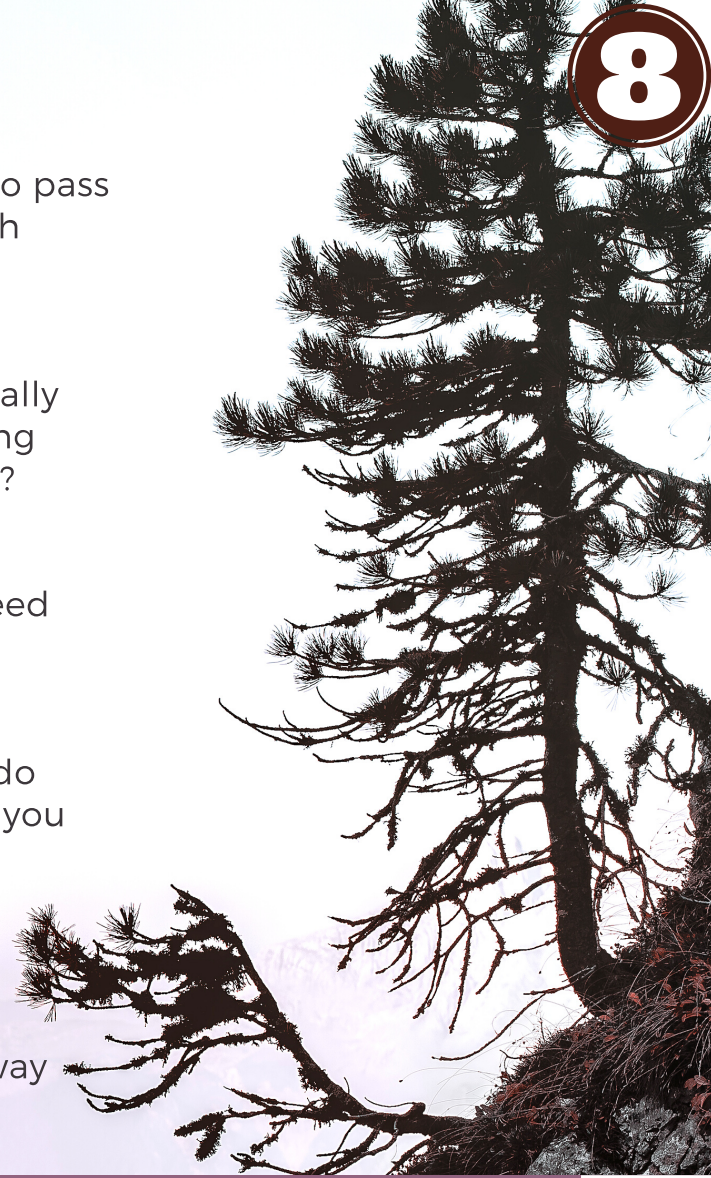
Joshua is not a new character in this story. It's actually pretty clear that he had been watching and learning from Moses. Why is discipleship like this important?

What pitfalls could Joshua run in to trying to succeed Moses?

Think back over the whole study. What did Moses do really well and what did he struggle with? How do you relate or not relate to him?

Read: Deuteronomy 34

Moses left a long legacy that many people revered him for sometimes to a fault. This extends all the way into the New Testament. What are the dangers of revering a human leader too much?



RETHINK THE EXODUS

Think over your time of learning and reading about the exodus out of Egypt. God chose the most vulnerable- an immigrant baby- to lead his nation out of slavery. This shy man was chosen as God's prophet to His people. He had many short comings, but ultimately did God's will more often than not. He seems like the ideal savior!... Until you realize that God's people were still just as far from Him as they were being slaves.

But that's not the end of the plan. Everything we learned about the slavery, parting of the sea, tornadoes of fire, mana, ten commandments- all of it is to set the stage for Jesus. The one who would connect us completely to God. The ultimate Exodus would not be the one in this book, but the one where we exit the dominion of sin and enter into eternal relationship with God. That's what Jesus did.

THIS WEEK- EVERYTHING WE'VE LEARNED

Jesus makes it clear that the greatest commandments boil down to two main categories. Love God and Love Others.

LOVE GOD

Week- 2- Don't run from God when life gets hard

Week- 3- Don't worship other god's or idols

Week- 6- Realize God is the ultimate leader that stops at nothing to be with us

LOVE OTHERS

Week- 1- Be more accepting of others that need out help

Week- 4- Realize your place in the Sin cycle and help each other out of it

LET'S PRAY

Take prayer requests and talk about what the future of your group looks like!