



# THE STORY Sermon Study Guide

## Week 3: The Exodus - Freedom Through God's Power Lance Blythe

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God's gift of salvation isn't only about saving us *from* something, it's also about saving us *into* something. This week we reflect on the Exodus narrative, a three-part story of God leading His people out of slavery, through the wilderness, and into His promises. We can trust Him to lead us in the same way today.

### Read Exodus 5:1-9

Moses and Aaron's first encounter with Pharaoh doesn't seem to go according to plan. Pharaoh's response is swift and brutal: "Who is the Lord? I don't know this God, and I certainly won't obey Him." But Pharaoh's question—"Who is the Lord?"—sets up the entire narrative that follows. Over the coming chapters, God will answer that question comprehensively, revealing His power, justice, and heart for all people to know Him.

In a reverse of Genesis creation, the plagues in Exodus show God uncreating the framework of evil, systematically unwinding its very fabric. This act of justice is not rushed; it is thorough and redemptive, giving all people—not just the royal elite—a chance to witness, understand, and respond. In our own lives, we may long for quick resolutions, but God's heart is to bring about deeper transformation and a wider invitation to all. We can trust His timing.

1. When you face opposition or setbacks in following God's leading, how do you typically respond? What can we learn from Moses' honest complaint to God after this encounter? (see Exodus 5:22-23)
2. Where in your life or in the world do you long to see God's justice "unwind the fabric of evil"? How can you trust His timing whilst still caring about injustice?



## Read Exodus 12:21-28

With the final plague—the Passover—the Exodus story becomes a powerful foretelling of Jesus, the Lamb of God, whose blood marks our lives and sets us free. In Jesus, we see that salvation is not only about rescuing us *from* sin and death, but also about saving us *for* a beautiful purpose and *into* an eternal future.

The Exodus narrative isn't just about an exit—it's a three-part story that repeats throughout Scripture. God leads His people out of slavery, through the wilderness, and into His promises. Today, these three parts are stacked on top of each other. We're simultaneously saved from the slavery of sin, walking with purpose through the wilderness of this current life, and living into God's promises now whilst anticipating their fulfilment to come.

God calls us out, leads us through, and brings us in. If we focus only on what we have been saved from, we risk missing the fullness of His purpose for us.

1. In what ways have you focused more on what God has saved you *from*, rather than the purpose He has saved you *for* and the future He has saved you *to*?
2. What does it mean practically to live "under the blood of the lamb" in your daily life? How does this freedom change how you approach challenges, relationships, or decisions?

## Read Exodus 32:1-6

Perhaps the most confronting part of the Exodus story is the golden calf. How could the very generation that witnessed the plagues and parting of the Red Sea turn so quickly to idols? The answer is uncomfortably simple: they looked at the nations around them, who had gods they could see and touch, and decided they needed the same.

Idolatry is often subtle and personal. It can be a relationship, a career, a habit, or even a good thing that becomes ultimate in our lives. God calls us to honest self-examination and to surrender anything that competes with Him for our devotion.

How often do we, like the Israelite people, grumble, doubt, and chase after things we shouldn't? The Exodus narrative is a mirror. We're meant to see ourselves in these stories, invite the Spirit to reveal His truth to us, and return to the cross of Jesus, where we find true freedom and the assurance that He alone is worthy of our worship.



1. What are some “idols” (things that take God’s place) that you are tempted to trust or rely on in your own life?
2. What are some practical ways you can keep the Lord before you and remember the things He has done for you in the past?

## Optional Reflection Activity

Encourage each person to sit quietly and reflect on these questions. Consider having people write their answers on a card or save it on their phones as a reminder.

- **Out:** What has God saved you from? Thank Him for His rescue.
- **Through:** What wilderness are you currently walking through? Ask for His daily provision and trust in His preparation.
- **Into:** What promises is God leading you towards? Pray for faith to live into those promises now.

## Suggested Closing Prayer

Faithful God, Thank you for the powerful reminder of your love, justice, and mercy revealed through the story of Exodus. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, the Lamb sacrificed for us, who leads us from slavery into freedom, purpose and eternal life.

Please reveal to us any idols we have set up in our lives. Show us where we have placed things above you. Help us to repent and return to your cross, Jesus. Strengthen us to walk in your truth, to live as your disciples, and to carry your love into the world. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

## Bible Reading Plan & Resources

As we engage in this sermon series and reflect on ‘The Story’ of God’s redemptive pursuit of humanity, we invite you to practise the discipline of regular Bible reading. You may like to use the [NewHope Bible Reading Plan](#) which has been developed to accompany each sermon over the next 12-weeks. Get a physical copy at church, download a digital copy from our website or follow NewHope in the Bible App for daily updates.

There are also many other wonderful ways to engage with Scripture and you can find a collection of resources, such as books, apps, courses, and more at [newhope.net.au/the-story](http://newhope.net.au/the-story).