

Slavery to Home: Exodus

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Exodus 1:1-14

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Small Group Discussion Questions

We are launching a series in Exodus – a journey from slavery to home

The story of Exodus is the story of all of us and the journey he is leading us on.

*What do you think of when you hear the word 'home'?

*Why do you think we all have such a longing for a home we haven't found?

Read and discuss

Exodus 1:1-14 (NIV)

These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah;³ Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; ⁴ Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher.⁵ The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy^[a] in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

⁶ Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, ⁷ but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

⁸ Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹ "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³ and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

*What does this passage tell us about a sense of home?

*How can we relate to these verses in our own lives? Do you see yourself here in any way?

The journey from slavery to home is an internal one

It is the preference and propensity to trust ourselves instead of trusting God.

*In what silly and/or serious ways do you trust yourself and reject God?

*What feels like slavery you are carrying around in your life right now?

The journey from slavery to home is an external one

Humans have incredible propensity to enslave and control each other.

*Where do you see slavery around you in the world?

*What would it look like to find ourselves in the story of leading others from slavery to home?