



Exodus Study Questions

Week 1

Genesis, the first of the Bible's 66 books, ends as an unfulfilled promise made by God to bless the world through one man, Abram (see Genesis 12:1-3). You might think that a promise made by God should be fulfilled quickly—certainly by the end of a 50-chapter book—but that's not what happens. Genesis ends with 12 of the great-grandsons of Abram (known then as Abraham) displaced, yet living together in Egypt to escape the desolation of a famine. It's a picture of a family living together, *but how can a displaced family bless all the world?* Are God's promises trustworthy? Welcome to Exodus!

Main Text: Exodus 1:1-14

Connect

1. What's the most "epic," or incredible, real-life story you've heard that's not in the Bible? What makes it epic to you?
2. Imagine if someone made a promise to you that took longer than expected to be fulfilled. Even if it hasn't happened to you, how do you think it would make you feel?
3. What do you know about the storyline of Exodus? If you're familiar with it, take a few minutes to briefly describe one or two of the major events.
4. What did you find most significant from this week's sermon?

Understand

Note: We recommend watching The Bible Project's video on Genesis 12-50 before launching into this section. You can find it [by clicking here](https://thebibleproject.com/explore/genesis-12-50/) or by visiting the following link: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/genesis-12-50/>. The video is about 8 minutes.

1. Exodus 1:1-5 lists the "sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob," which refers back to a story that began all the way back in Genesis 37! How did Jacob and his sons end up in Egypt in the first place?
2. These first 7 verses begin with the description of a family consisting of a father and his 12 sons but ends with so many descendants that "the land was filled with them." How could this rapid growth relate to God's promise to Abraham back in Genesis 12:1-3 (and restated in Genesis 15)?
3. According to verses 8-10, how does the attitude (or fear) of the "new king over Egypt" help us see why the Israelites' rapid growth was so unwelcome? This sets the stage for the major conflict in the book.

4. Verses 11-14 describe the dramatic shift in circumstances for Jacob's descendants. As their conditions get worse, which major character of the Bible is absent in the story so far? Don't overthink the answer!

Apply

1. God made a promise in Genesis 12 that could seem more and more unlikely to be fulfilled as the years go by in Exodus 1:1-14. Have you ever felt like God was slow in accomplishing His promises? If so, what has that experience been like for you?

2. The change in power to a "new king in Egypt, who did not know Joseph" reads like a tragic setback for God's people. Think of one or two recent events in our day that you would say were—at least on the surface—apparent setbacks for God's people.

3. As the circumstances get worse for the Israelites, God's presence is conspicuously absent from the story. We might imagine wondering if God was even aware of what was happening. Can you think of a time where you wondered if God was aware of what was going on in your life? If so, please share it with your group.

4. Take time to pray for each other, asking that God would increase your confidence in His promises as well as your awareness of His presence, even in difficult circumstances.