



Exodus Study Questions

Week 5

Some of us are normally upbeat, optimistic, glass-half-full kind of people. Some of us are normally more somber, reserved, and “realistic.” Chances are good that we know what it’s like to operate in both camps, though. We can be hopeful one moment and without hope the next. Sometimes it doesn’t even take much to knock us off our perch of positivity!

Main Text: Exodus 5-10

Connect

1. What kinds of things energize you and make you most hopeful as you go through your day or week?
2. What kinds of things tend to steal your courage and hopefulness as you go through your day or week?
3. What did you find most significant from this week’s sermon?

Understand

1. Chapter 4 ends on a perch of positivity as the people of Israel worship “when they heard that the LORD has visited.” Look through chapter 5 and identify the issues that knocked the people of Israel and Moses off this perch.
2. How would you summarize the LORD’s response to the discouragement of Moses and the people of Israel in chapter 6:1-13?
3. If you’ve read through chapters 7-10, what are some of the patterns or themes you’ve noticed? There is a literary structure or symmetry to how they’re written!¹
4. Read 7:1-5, 9:14-17, and 10:1-2. What do these passages tell us about the LORD’s purpose for the “signs and wonders” and “great acts of judgment” with these plagues?
5. Chapters 7-10 include phrases about the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart.² We read that the LORD will harden Pharaoh’s heart in 7:3, but when is the first time where it is said that

the LORD actually does it? (Hint: it's in chapter 9). What could this imply about the natural state of Pharaoh's heart before the LORD is said to have hardened it?

Apply

1. God's Word does not try to deny how fragile our faith can be. Even Moses doubts. How can we consistently encourage each other's faith?
2. God is present and incomparably powerful in Egypt and in all the earth, including Boulder, Erie and the surrounding communities. He's present in our homes, schools, offices, and cars. Is this a reality that makes a difference in your life? If so, how?
3. The repeated phrase from the LORD is that He is acting in these truly epic ways so *that people will know Him*—Moses, Israel, pharaoh, Egypt, and the world. It's a theme that continues on into Jesus' days as well (e.g., Matt 28's "Great Commission"). How does this mission of God help us understand what our lives should be about too?
4. We can know God as either the God who judges us or the God who delivers and saves us. As we'll see in future weeks, it's possible for God's people to experience both God's judgment and salvation. Take time to pray together, that we would be the kind of people who know God as Deliverer and Savior rather than Judge!

Endnotes:

1. For example, many see three sets of three plagues from 7:14 to 11:29. The first, fourth, and seventh plagues all start with Moses going to Pharaoh in the morning. The second, fifth, and eighth plagues show Moses going into Pharaoh's palace, while the third, sixth, and ninth plagues are immediate with no advanced warning to Pharaoh.
2. The different phrases include "I will harden Pharaoh's heart," "The LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart," "Pharaoh hardened his heart," and "Pharaoh's heart was (or became) hard." The last, translated by the ESV as "Pharaoh's heart was hardened" implies that the LORD may have been responsible; however, scholars point out how these instances are better translated as simply, "Pharaoh's heart was/became hard."