



# EXODUS: FOCUSING ON GOD IN A WORLD OF DISTRACTIONS

**Exodus 5**  
**Week of February 19, 2023**

**Belong:** *Use this as a time to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and belong to the group.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, Give a fun fact about yourself.
- Or, What are three apps on your phone you can't live without?
- Or, What is something in your house you want to get rid of **but can't**? *[Please no naming your spouse or children!]*

**How has God revealed Himself to you this week?**

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**Believe:** *Read this week assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that speaks to you. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have someone in your group read **Exodus 5** aloud.

In chapter 4, we saw "hope" as the Israelites viewed the signs of God and responded to God in worship. This week, Moses & Aaron visits Pharaoh and he cruelly doubles down on his oppression. The chapter ends in disappointment for Moses & Israel. **Our question today is how do we respond to God in our discouragement/ disappointment?**

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**Build:** *Engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning. Ask why it was written, who was it written to, and what is the author trying to say to the **original audience**. Be sure to pay attention to the **context** to help you understand the meaning. How does it fit with the verses before and after it?*

With God's three signs in hand, Moses obediently goes to Egypt to confront Pharaoh.

- What do you think Moses expected to happen?
- What was surprising about Moses' interaction with Pharaoh? What is not surprising?

In **Exodus 5:1-5**, Moses asked that the Israelites be allowed to go and worship God, what was the main reason Pharaoh didn't want to let the people go to worship?

In **Exodus 5:22-23**, Moses seems discouraged with God.

- If you had been in Moses' sandals, what would you have done? *[gone back to shepherding, complained to God, let Aaron take over, waited patiently...]*

## **Become:** *Application is the heart of the process. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

Do you agree with Moses' complaint to God in **Exodus 5:22-23**?

- Was it sinful?
- When do we cross the line from an honest complaint to sinful defiance?

What kinds of difficulties or setbacks have you faced in serving God?

- How did you deal with them? What did you learn?

How does this week's text in **Exodus 5** challenge the idea that our obedience to God in-turn obligates God to bless us and grant us an easy life?

- How does it challenge the idea that the Christian life is free from doubt?

Have someone read aloud **John 16:33**. What does Jesus say to His disciples? What does He say they will encounter in this world?

- Do we take heart in the knowledge that Jesus has overcome the world?
- Is this great advertisement for the "Christian life?"

How inclined are you to disappointment/ discouragement when obedience to God does not bring an immediate, noticeable blessing?

- What is a better reason for obedience than to gain a blessing?

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## **Begin:** *It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

**Based on our study this week, how are you convicted to respond?**

**At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:**

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

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## **Additional Resources:**

**Blue Letter Bible: David Guzik:** Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin: Exodus 5:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

