



EXODUS: FOCUSING ON GOD IN A WORLD OF DISTRACTIONS

Exodus 9–10
Week of March 12, 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, Which celebrity do you shamelessly follow in the news?
- Or, What's the greatest physical discomfort you've ever endured? What did you learn from it?

How has God revealed Himself to you this week?

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

Have several group members read **Exodus 9–10** aloud. (**Several verses. All don't have to be read.**)

In **Exodus 9–10**, we see God strike Egypt with five more plagues or "wonders" as He refers to them in **Exodus 3:20**. *Just like last week*, we will see through the plagues that human idols pale in comparison to God's greatness. The question we should be asking is how do the plagues show us God's glory and how do the plagues show us that He ALONE is worthy of our worship?

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?*

In **Exodus 9–10**, we see 5 plagues: Egyptian livestock die, boils, hail, locusts and darkness.

In your opinion, which of the next 5 plagues would be the hardest to endure? Why?

During the eighth and ninth plagues, Pharaoh's response takes an interesting turn. Look back at **9:27 and 10:16**. What does his response show us in light of his continued refusal to let the Israelites go.

- What is the difference between confession and repentance?

Compare Moses' words in **11:8** to God's words back in **7:1**. How has Moses' confidence in God grown, even as Pharaoh's heart has hardened?

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?*

Though we may not want to admit it, we may try to attempt negotiating OR try other tactics with God, just as Pharaoh did.

- When are we most likely to bargain instead of repent?
- What faulty thinking about ourselves and about God does our attempts at negotiating with God reveal about us?

Exodus 10:7, starts to reveal some cracks in Pharaoh's leadership. The people and even Pharaoh's servants refer to him as a "snare."

- Why did the Egyptian people react differently to Moses than Pharaoh did?
- How does pride keep us from recognizing the activity of God in our lives, even when others around us are seeing it?
- Is pride currently blinding you to God's will in your life?

Have someone read aloud **Proverbs 16:18**. The Bible speaks of **pride** as a sinful trait, something to be avoided and resisted. It's also referred to as an excessive self-importance or superiority, and it is often associated with foolishness. The Bible also warns that **pride** leads to destruction, as it can lead to a lack of humility and an inflated sense of one's own importance.

- So far in Exodus, do we see this trait in Pharaoh?
- Do you see this trait in your life?

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

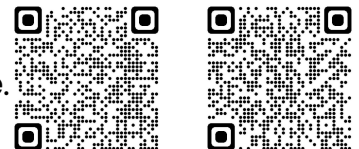
**Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

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.

Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: Exodus 9–10: Check out the QR codes to learn more.



Precept Austin: Exodus 9–10: Check out the QR codes to learn more.

