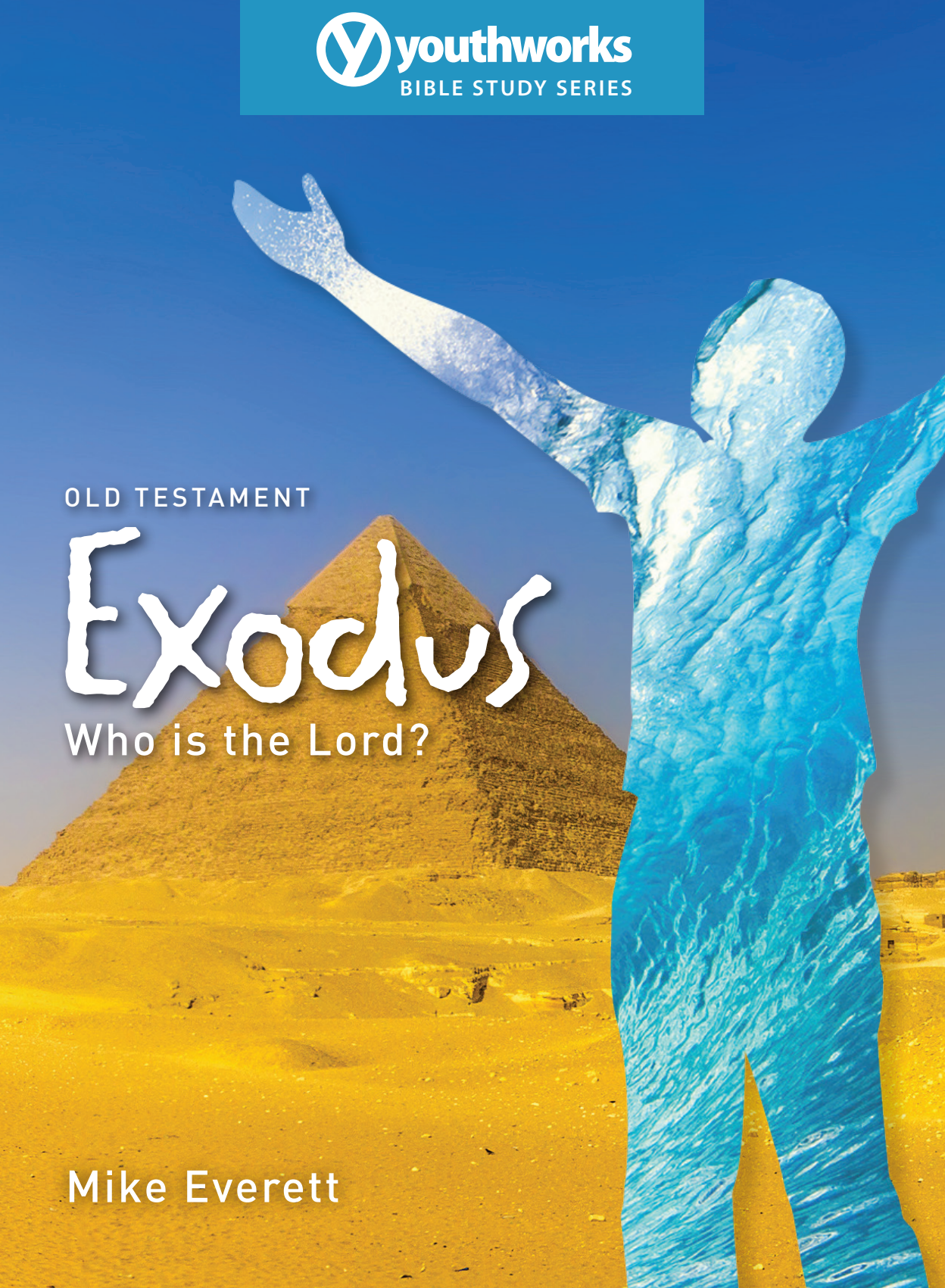


OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus

Who is the Lord?

Mike Everett

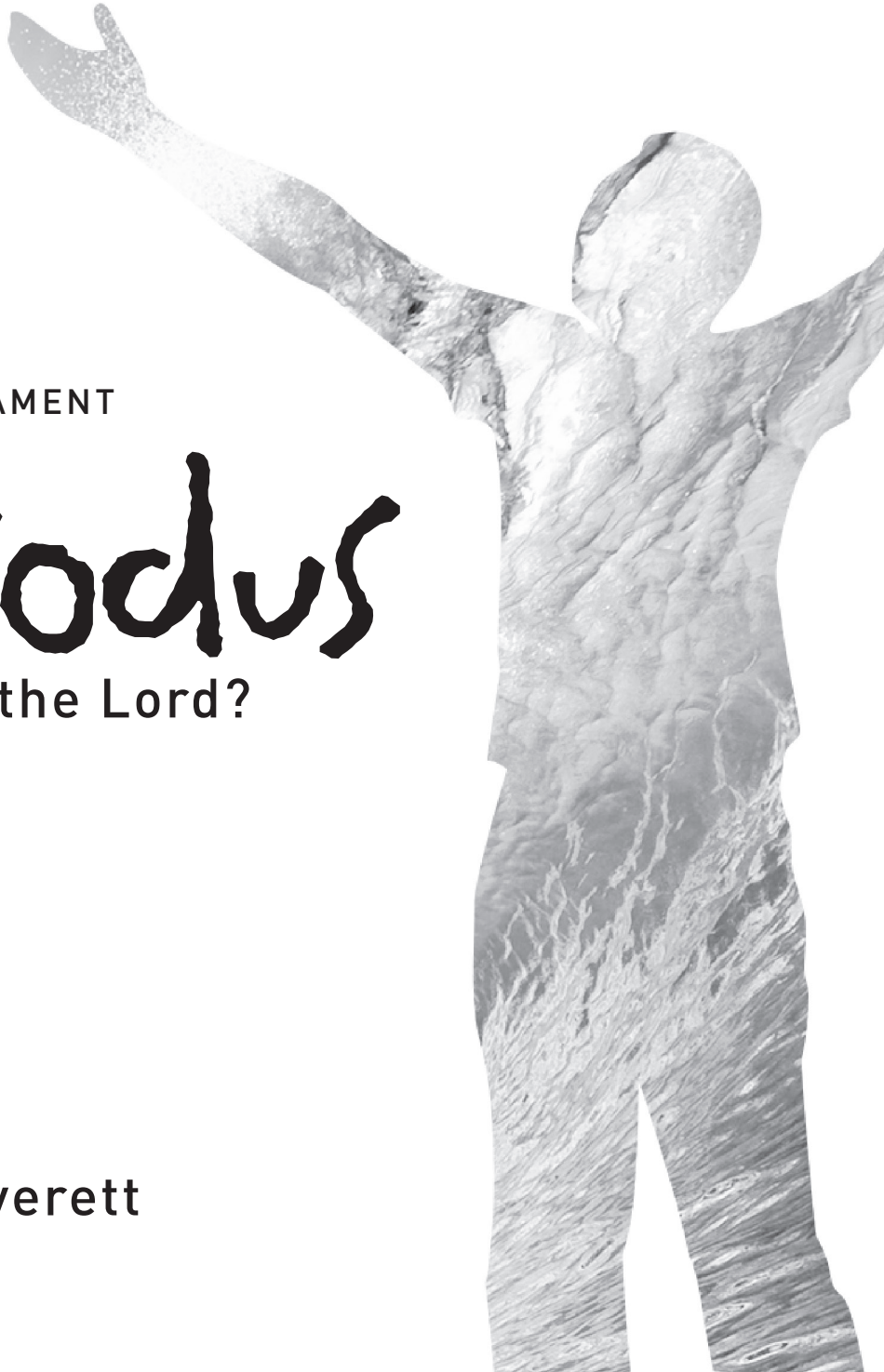


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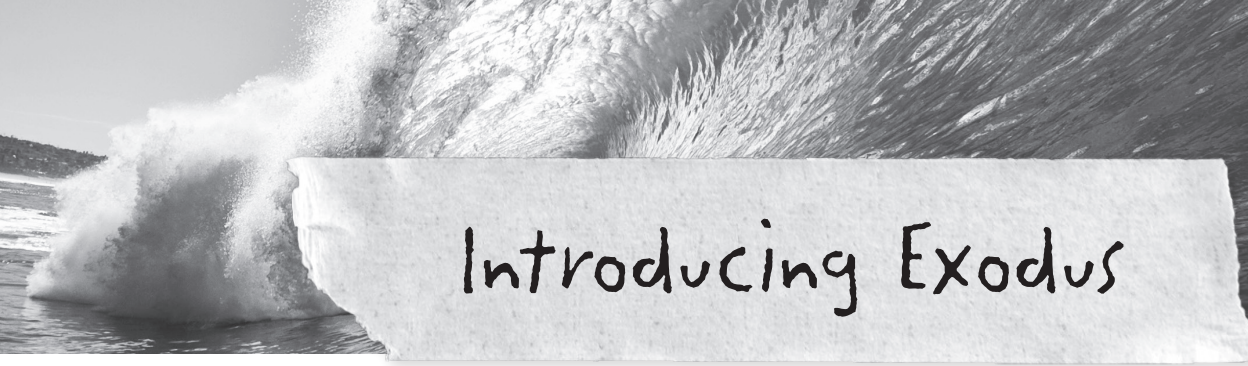
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Introducing Exodus

Atheists say, 'There is no God'. Agnostics believe God can't be known. Most people think God—if he, she or it is real—is a pushover; a super-soft Santa or a cuddly old grandpa. What about you? Who do you say the Lord is? There is no more important question in life. This is the question that drives the book of Exodus. And God gives Pharaoh (and us) a stunning, at times shocking, answer.

The book of Exodus is designed to reveal God to us and to teach us how to relate to him. Back in Genesis, God made some massive promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Exodus carries on where Genesis left off,¹ telling us more about God (revelation) and how he is going to rescue his people (redemption) to fulfil his promises (relationship and residing). So you could summarise Exodus with these 4 'R's:

Revelation—God wants Israel and all the world to know that he is the Lord their God.

Redemption—God frees Israel from slavery in Egypt, so that they can worship and serve God.

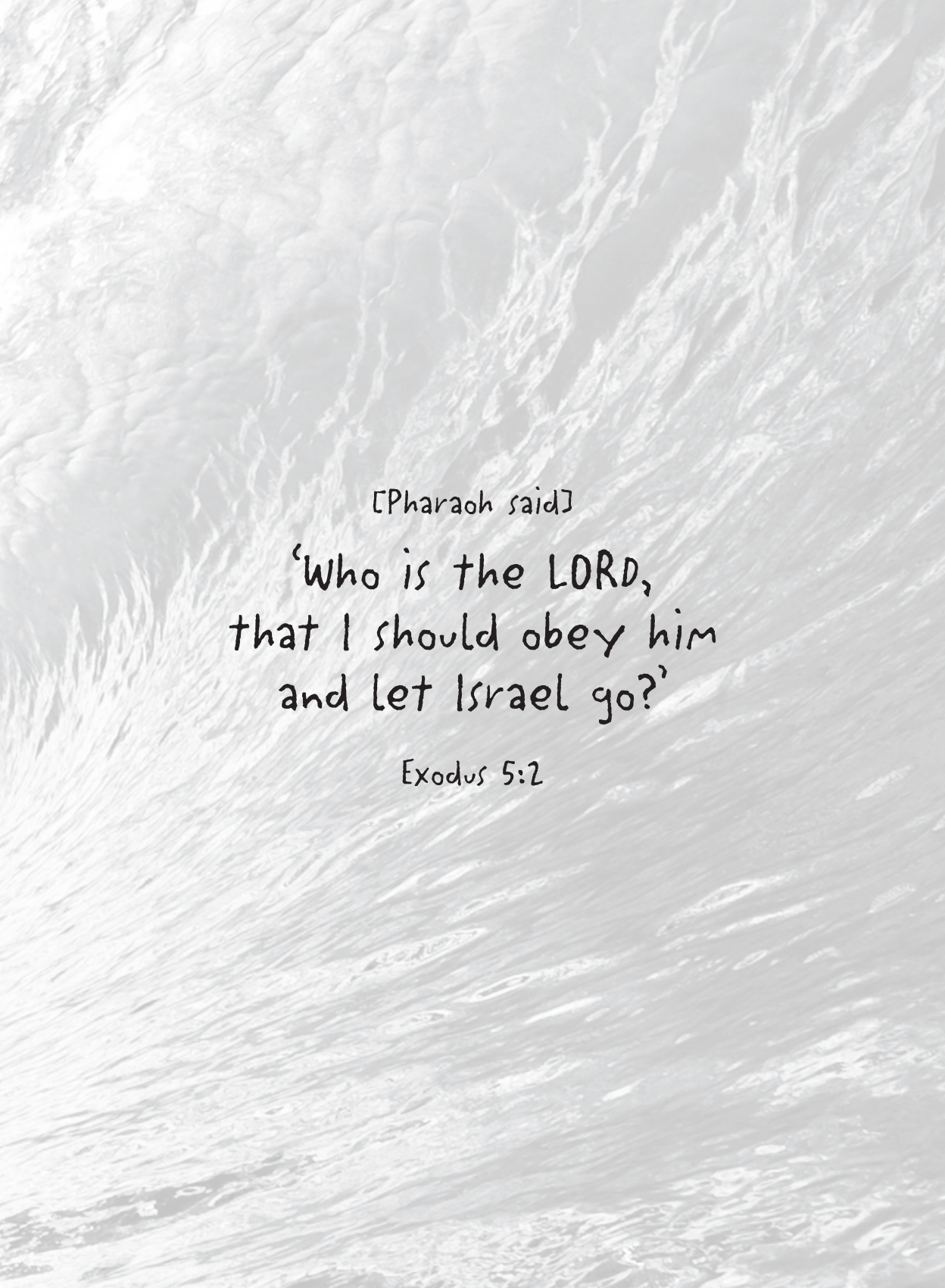
Relationship—God wants Israel to know him and love him. God is going to show them how this can happen.

Residing—God will dwell in the midst of his people and they will be given a great land.

My prayer for these studies is that they will help you be able to confidently and correctly answer the question, 'Who is the Lord that I should obey him?'

Mike Everett

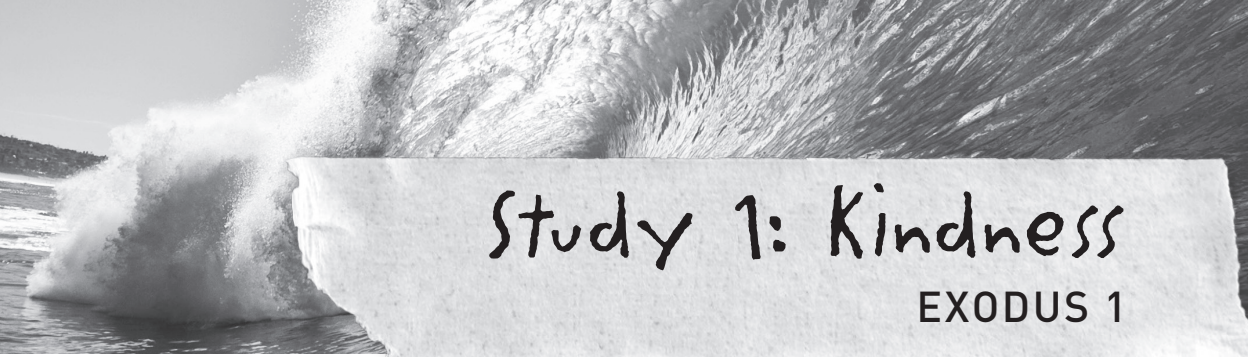
¹ The first word in the original Hebrew text of Exodus is 'and'.



[Pharaoh said]

‘Who is the LORD,
that I should obey him
and let Israel go?’

Exodus 5:2



Study 1: Kindness

EXODUS 1

Share

What is the kindest thing anyone has ever done for you?

Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 1.

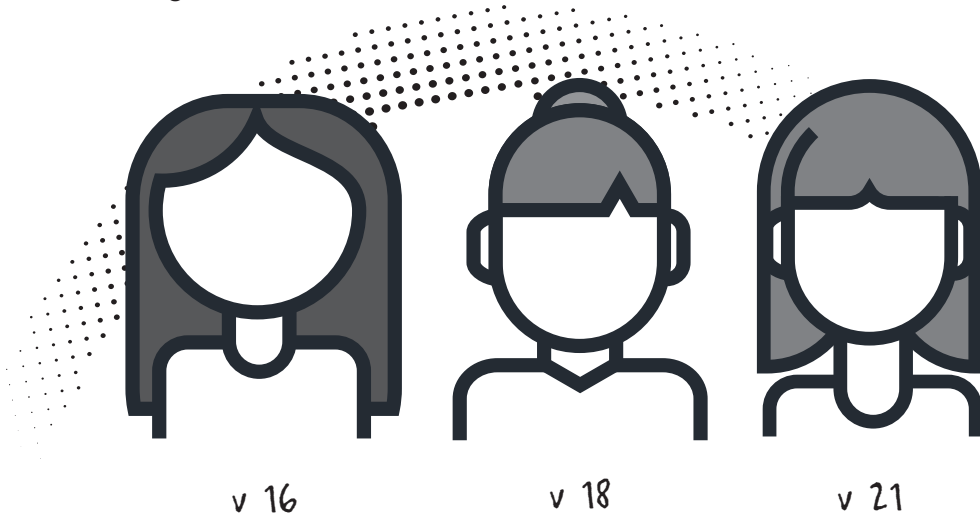
Even though the book of Genesis had a happy ending for the 'sons of Israel', things turn ugly pretty quickly in the book of Exodus.

What was Israel up against now? (vv 1-14)



Surprisingly, the more Israel was oppressed, the more they 'multiplied'.² So the King of Egypt (Pharaoh) ordered the midwives at the Goshen General Hospital Maternity Ward to terminate all Israelite baby boys (think ethnic cleansing). **But what did the midwives do (and not do) and why?**³ (vv 15–19)

Draw the midwives' reaction on these faces in response to the following verses:



Can you think of another Bible story involving a king who wanted to kill Hebrew baby boys? (Check out Matthew 2:7–16 to jog your memory.) **What might God be trying to teach us by drawing this parallel?**

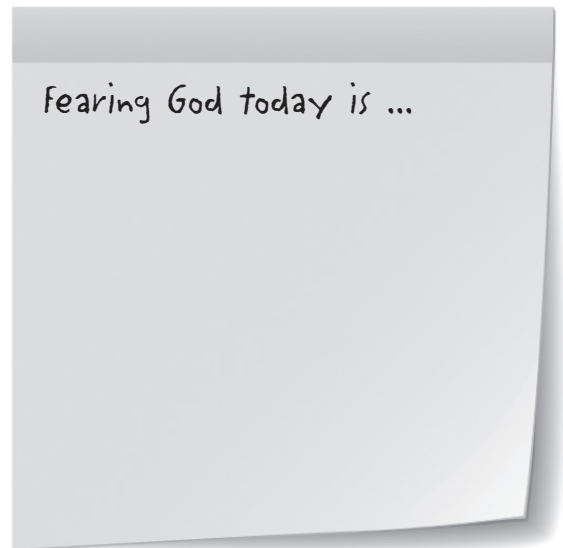
2 Pharaoh must have thought that if he tired the Hebrews out at work all day, all they would want to do is sleep at night. But when the slave masters increased the workload, it actually resulted in increased 'activity' at night.

3 Proverbs 16:6b 'through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided'.

Exodus 1 ends with God being 'kind' and Pharaoh out to 'kill'.⁴ (vv 20–22)
How is this a good summary of Exodus 1 and some of the other themes in Exodus as a whole from what you know at this point?

Bring it home

Read Luke 12:4–5. Why should *you* fear God and what does fearing God look like today? (Hint: remember the midwives!)



⁴ Pharaoh decided to bypass the midwives and order all his own people *to murder every infant Hebrew boy* (v 22). This policy would later come back to haunt his nation with a grim irony: as the Israelite children were killed in water now, so the Egyptian army would die in water later (14:26–28).

Think about all the ways God has been kind to you (if you are really stuck, look up Ephesians 2:7–9 and Titus 3:3–7). **Write some of them down in the space below.**

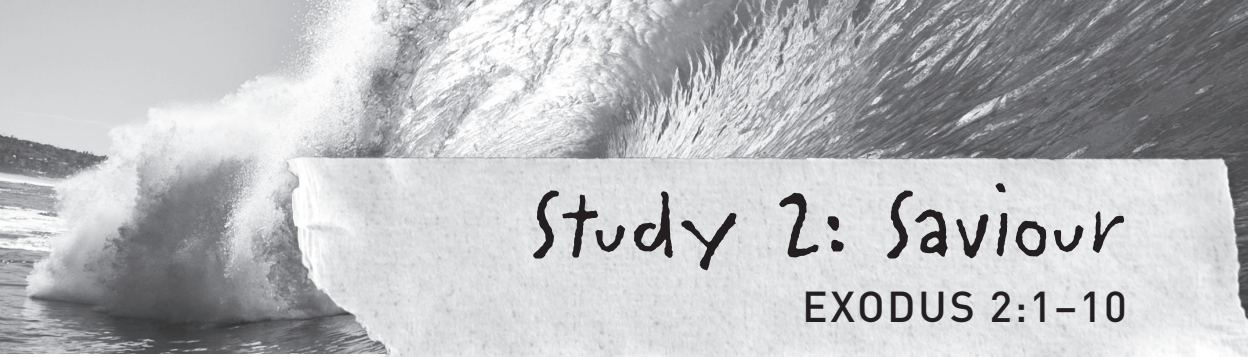


Ways God has been kind to me



Pray

Spend some time talking to God, thanking him for all his kindness.



Study 2: Saviour

EXODUS 2:1-10

Share

Think of a time when you were in real danger and needed someone to save you. What happened?

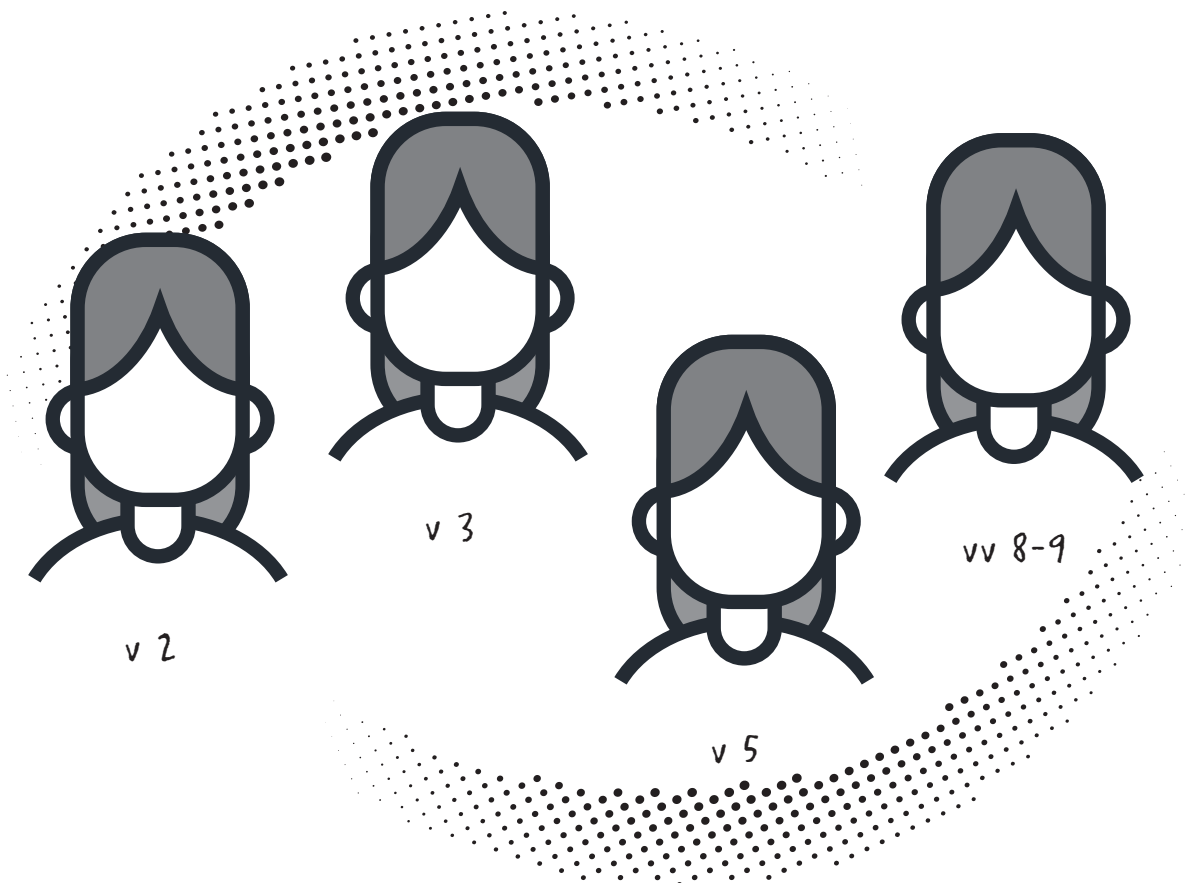
Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 2:1-10.

At the end of Exodus 1, Pharaoh wanted to drown every Israelite boy in the Nile (1:22). In Exodus 2, one family dodges that bullet for a while. For three months this family hid their little boy, but this was starting to get difficult. **So what did they do? (vv 3-4)**



Draw Moses' mother's reaction on these faces in response to the following verses:



Can you think of another Bible story in which God saved some people from drowning in 'water' in a 'floating device'⁵ covered in 'pitch'?

[If you are struggling, try Genesis 6:11–14.]

⁵ The word translated *basket* in Exodus 2:3 is the word translated *ark* in the Genesis account—the word only occurs twice in the whole of the Hebrew Old Testament, so it joins these two stories together.

What do you think God is trying to tell us about Moses by drawing such a strong parallel between him and Noah?⁶

Back in Exodus 2, God did something pretty cool to get Moses out of hot water (or not so hot water) using someone from team Pharaoh to save someone from team Israel. **How did this play out? (vv 5–10)**

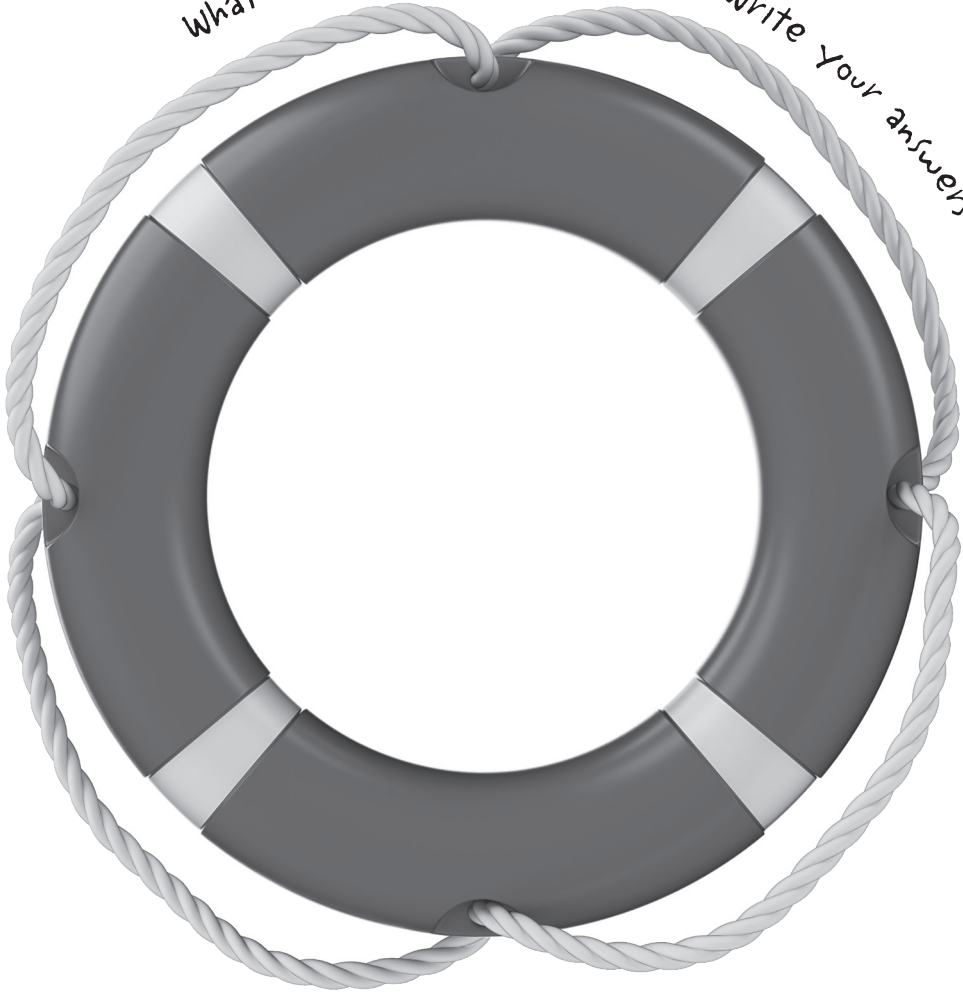
So God outsmarted Pharaoh again, being 'kind' where Pharaoh wanted to 'kill'. God's ways are surprising, even using his enemies to bring about his plans for salvation. **Can you think of other times in the Bible when God has pulled this off? (Genesis 50:19–20; Acts 2:22–24)**

Bring it home

In what ways is Jesus a 'surprising' Saviour?

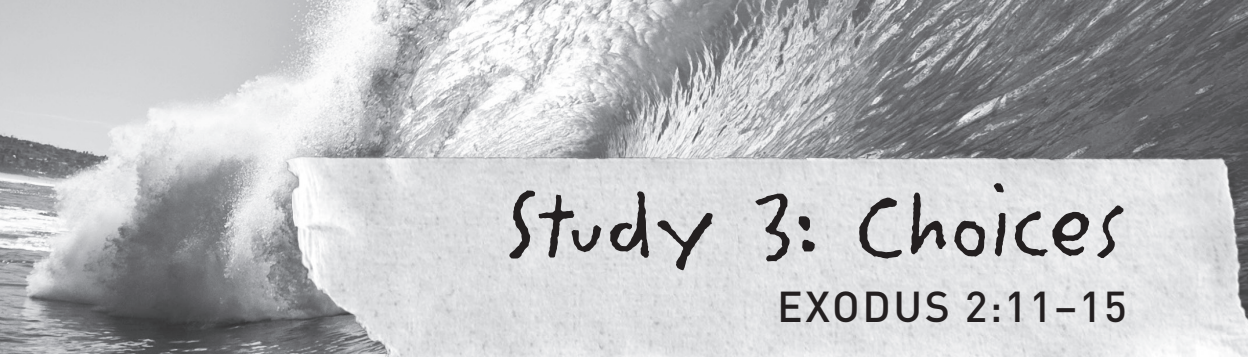
⁶ Moses is one special guy in God's plans for salvation; not a 'basket case' at all!

What has Jesus saved you from? Write your answers in the rescue ring.



Pray

Thank God that he knows how to save his people, often using surprising people and methods.



Study 3: Choices

EXODUS 2:11–15

Share

**What is the toughest choice you have had to make this year?
What were the options and what was the outcome?**

Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 2:11–15.

**In light of the story so far (Exodus 1–2),
why is it surprising that Moses identified
the Hebrews as ‘his own people’ (v 11)?**

**Did Moses do the right thing when he
killed an Egyptian (v 12)? Why/Why not?**

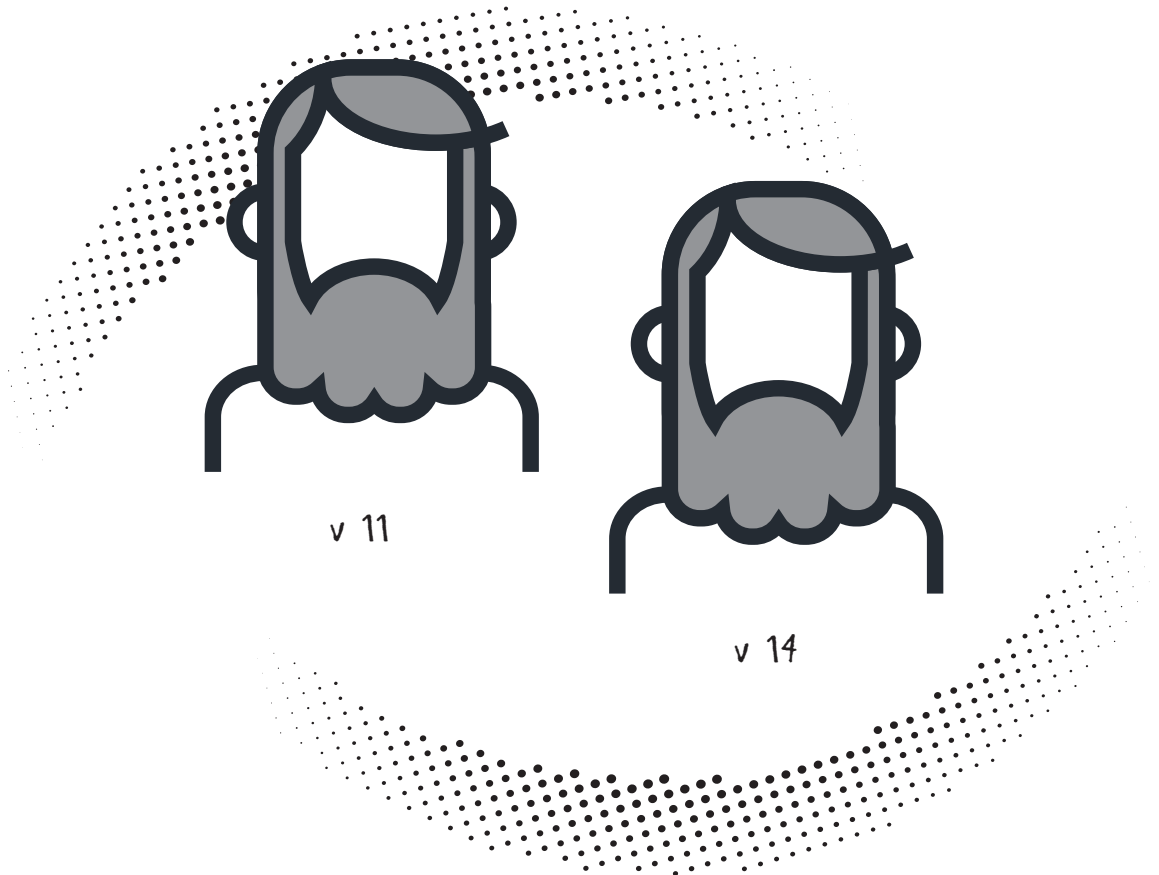


7 After you have had a vigorous debate about this question, check out Acts 7:23–29.

How would you answer the Hebrew man's first question in verse 14 (assuming you know something of how this whole story ends)?

Do you think the man would expect that answer?

Draw Moses' reaction on these faces in response to the following verses:



Read Hebrews 11:24–26. How does this help us understand Moses' actions in Exodus 2?

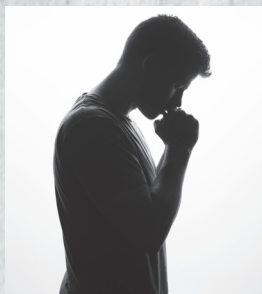
Bring it home

Moses made a choice to stand with God and his people, even though it led to suffering and sacrifice.

When can we be faced with a similar choice?

Why do we sometimes make the wrong choice and not stand with God and his people?

How can you make sure you make the right choice to stand with God and his people?



Pray

Pray for each other, that you will make the right choices this week and stand with God and his people, no matter what it costs you.

Study 4: Rescue

EXODUS 2:16-25

Share

What is your favourite movie rescue scene? Act it out to the rest of the group and see if they can guess the movie.



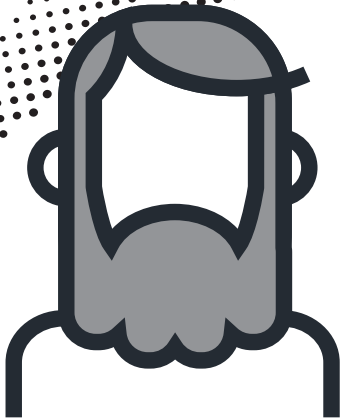
Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 2:16-25.

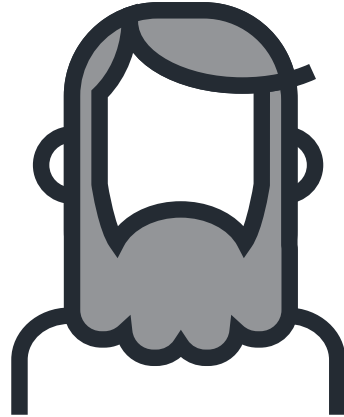
Moses 'rescued' some people near some water. **Does this sound familiar at all?**

Why do you think God gave us this 'sneak peek' into what he would do through Moses later in Exodus?

Draw Moses' reaction on the faces below in response to the following verses.



v 21



v 22

God heard his people's cries for help.

Did God answer these cries straightaway?

God 'remembered' his covenant
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **Does this mean God
'forgot' his covenant for a while? If not, what
does 'remembered' mean?**



What exactly is this 'covenant' that God remembered?⁸

How did God ultimately fulfil this covenant through Jesus?

Bring it home

When you need help, do you cry out to God? Why/why not?

⁸ Check out Genesis 12:1–3 if you are stumped.

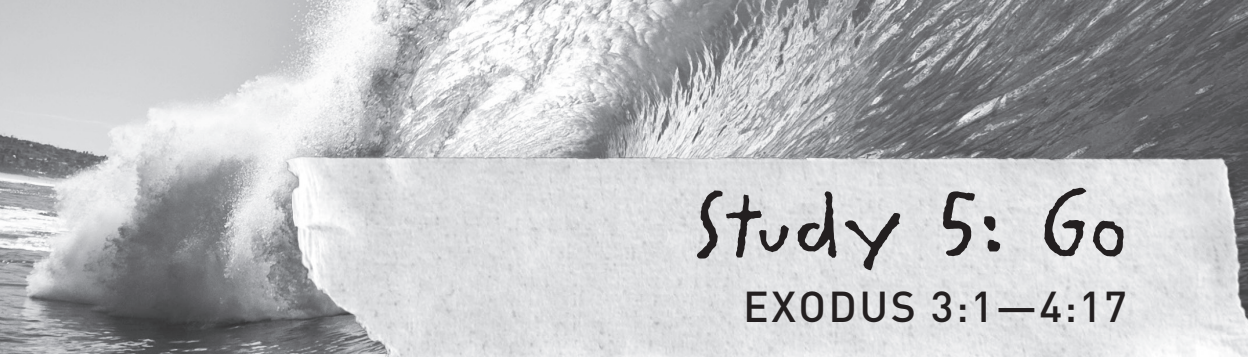
How can the fact that God didn't answer his people's cry for help straightaway encourage you if God hasn't answered your prayers yet?

Read Romans 8:28. Do you love God? How does the story of Exodus help you to believe that God is working for your good (if you love God) even when you can't necessarily see him at work?



Pray

Praise God that he never forgets his promises and never forgets his people, even if it doesn't always feel like it. Thank God that he has a plan for your life and is working towards that plan, even if you can't always see it. Pray to God about any part of your life that you need help with.



Study 5: Go

EXODUS 3:1—4:17

Share

What is the most difficult task/job you have been asked to do lately?
Were you able to do it? Did you give up or were you able to complete it?

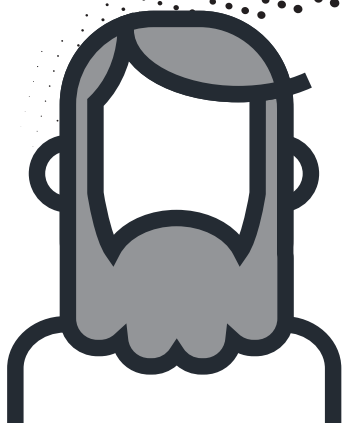
Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 3:1—4:17.

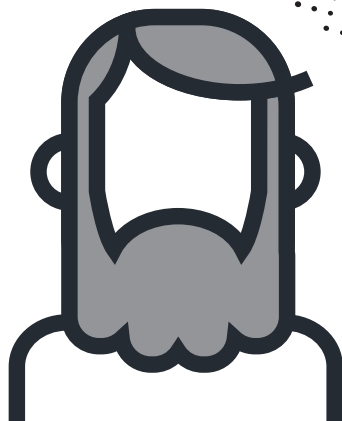
God, using the non-burning burning bush, announced to Moses that he had heard and seen the suffering of his people. **What did God say he was going to do about it? (vv 1–10)**



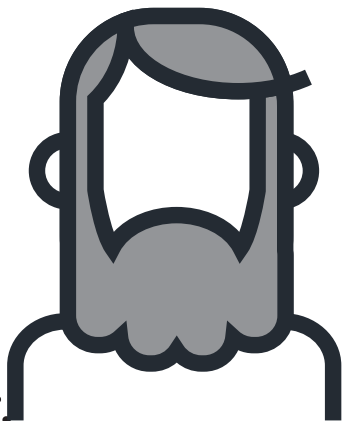
Draw Moses' reaction on these faces in response to the following verses:



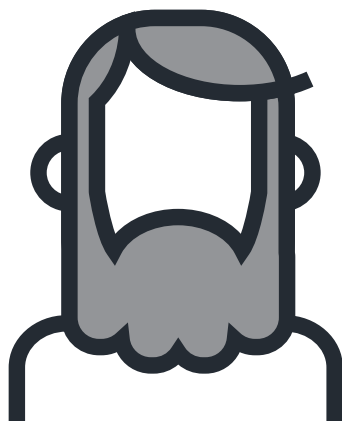
v 2



v 4



v 6



v 10

Moses was not very keen about carrying out his role in God's plan.
List Moses' objections and God's responses and then summarise both at the end.

	Moses' objection	God's response
3:11-12		
3:13-22		
4:1-9		
4:10-12		
4:13-17		
Summary (noting repetition for really important bits)		

Imagine you were God (a scary thought). After which of Moses' objections would you have given up on Moses? Circle one.

I can't speak properly

Send someone else

Who am I?

They won't believe me

Who is the real hero of the story of Exodus: Moses or God, and why is this important?

Do you think Moses' objections are reasonable? Why/why not?

Bring it home

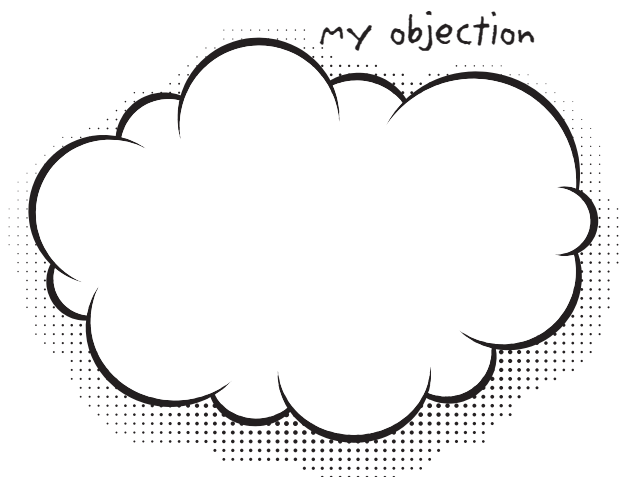
God is the God of the past (think 'Abraham, Isaac and Jacob'), the God of the present ('hears' and 'sees' and is 'concerned') and the God of the future ('I AM WHO I AM'⁹ or 'I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE'¹⁰). **How do these truths help you to trust God with your past, present and future?**

⁹ Jesus also used the name 'I AM' to show that he too is God (John 6:35; 8:12, 58; 9:5; 10:7, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1).

¹⁰ What God is really saying here is, 'Watch this space'. His name will become clearer as Exodus goes on. So keep reading!

As Christians, we have a role to play in God's present-day rescue mission. **According to Matthew 28:19–20, what is that mission and what is your role?**

How are you going at fulfilling this mission? Which one of Moses' objections are you tempted to share when it comes to your role in the mission of making disciples?



Jesus says that he will be with his people 'always, to the very end of the age' (Matthew 28:20b).

How does this truth help you with your objections?

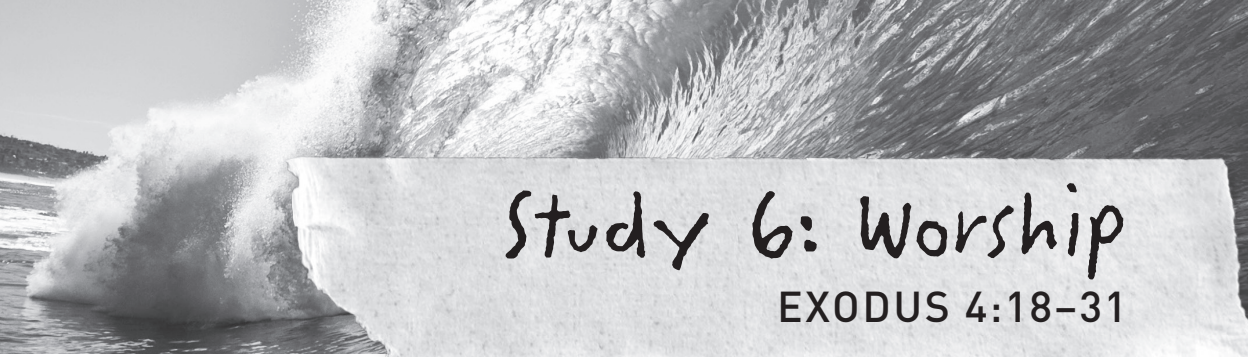


Pray

Write down the names of two people you would like to talk to about Jesus. Pray that God would give you the opportunity and the strength to talk to them or someone else about Jesus this week.

1.

2.



Study 6: Worship

EXODUS 4:18-31

Share

What comes to mind when you hear the word 'worship'? Share the first thoughts that come into your head.

Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 4:18-31.

In verses 21-23 the Lord tells Moses exactly what is about to happen (a bit of a summary of the next eight chapters of Exodus). This raises some big/interesting/tricky questions.

Have a go at answering the ones below and on the next page.

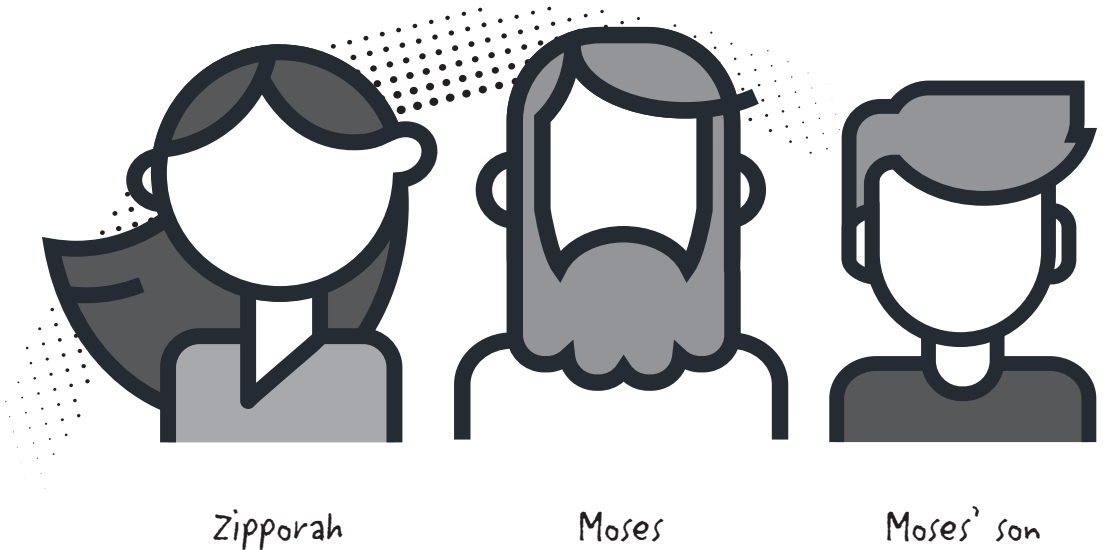
How can God know the future so accurately?

Why would God want to harden Pharaoh's heart?

Did God have the right to kill Pharaoh's firstborn son?
Why/Why not?

Why is it important that Moses' son was circumcised?
(vv 24-26; Genesis 17:12-14)

Draw Zipporah's, Moses' and Moses' son's reaction on the faces below in response to verse 25.



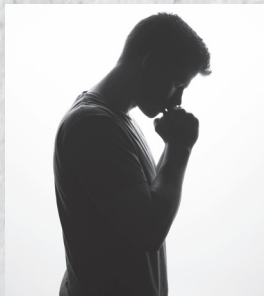
Moses was then joined by Aaron (vv 27–28) and Israel's elders (vv 29–30a).
What things did the people do when they heard and saw Moses and Aaron's message (vv 30b–31)?

Bring it home

God is sovereign over the future, over people's hearts and even over life and death. The only appropriate response to God is to 'worship' him (vv 23, 31). **According to the following verses, how do we worship God today, in light of God's revelation and mercy found in Jesus?**

John 4:23–24

Romans 12:1



Pray

Worship is a lifestyle for Christians. Think and pray about how you can worship God this week:

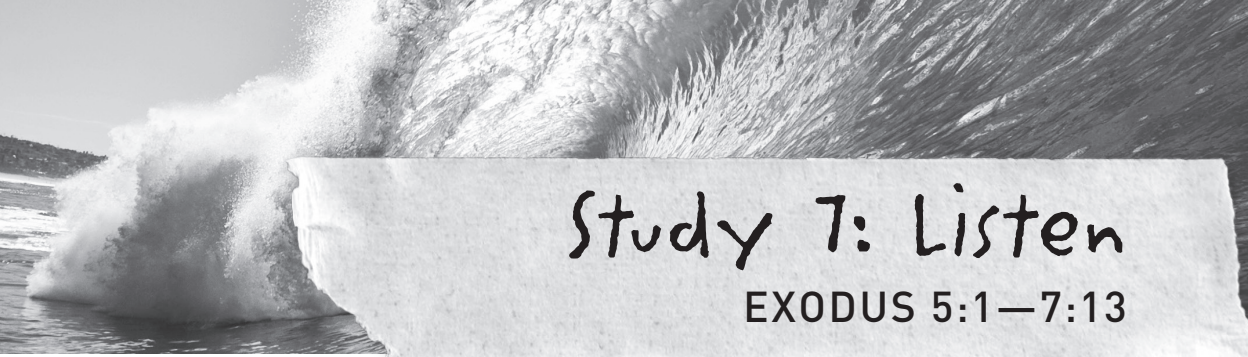
at home

at school

at church

online

with your money



Study 7: Listen

EXODUS 5:1—7:13

Share

Play a game of 'Chinese whispers'. **How good was your group at listening and passing on the message?**

Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 5:1–2.

From what we have covered so far in Exodus, how would you answer Pharaoh's question?¹¹

How would you describe Pharaoh's attitude towards God?



¹¹ This might just be the key question of Exodus. Interestingly, these are Pharaoh's first recorded words in Exodus.

Draw Pharaoh's reaction from 5:2 on the face below.



If you can, read Exodus 5:1—7:4. If this is a bit too much of an ask, here is a summary of Exodus 5–6:

The first time Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh to let Israel go, Pharaoh completely dismissed them and God, and gave Israel more work to do (5:1–21). Israel became discouraged, but God reminded them of his power, his promises and his plan (5:22–6:12), which are all reinforced by the inclusion of an Israelite family tree (6:13–27).

Imagine you were one of the Israelites listening to Moses in 6:9. How would you have responded?

Got angry

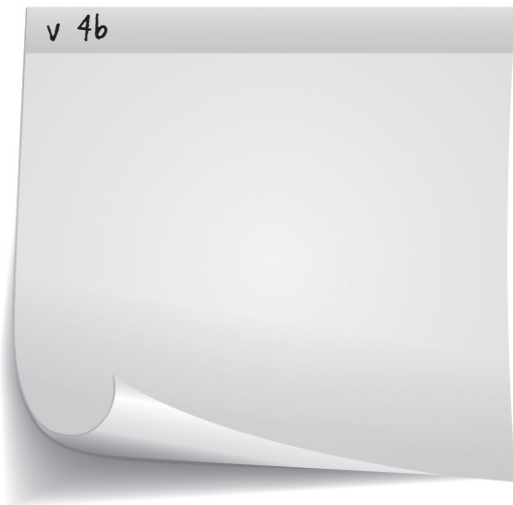
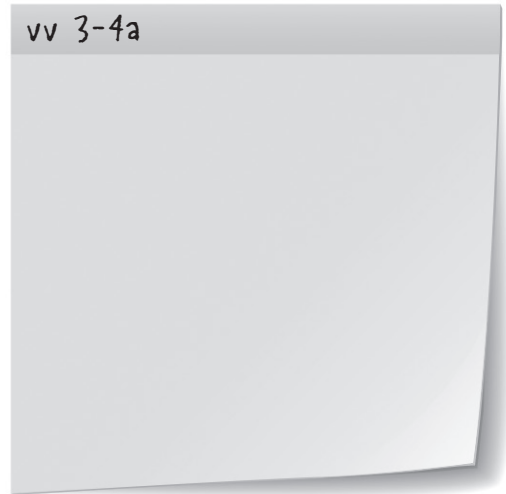
Cried

Believed

Laughed
mockingly

Ignored
Moses

Now pick up the action at Exodus 6:28. In response to another objection from Moses, the Lord told Moses exactly what was about to take place (spoiler alert). **Read Exodus 7:1–5 and then draw what was going to happen below.**



Bring it home

'Hard hearts' and an unwillingness to 'listen' to God seem to go hand in hand (see 7:3–4, 13; also 7:22; 8:15, 19; 9:12).

Hebrews 3:12–14 makes the same point. Check it out now.

How and when do you listen to God's voice?

How does sin harden your heart and stop you listening to God?

What sin is hardening your heart and stopping you from listening to God at the moment?

According to Hebrews 3:13 what is one solution to our sinful, hard hearts?

**How can we as a group encourage each other daily as Christians?
Think of at least five ways.**

1.

2.

3.

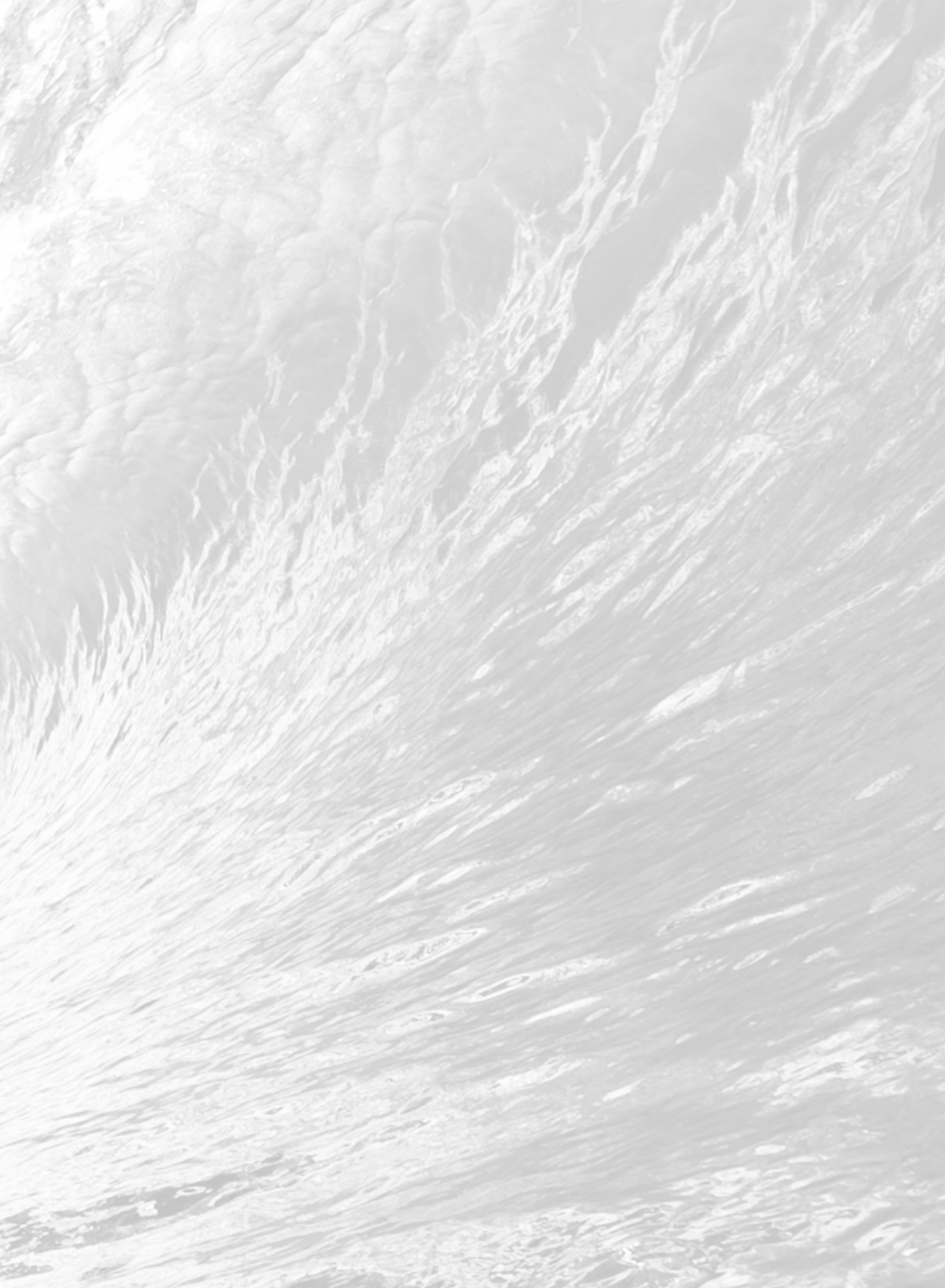
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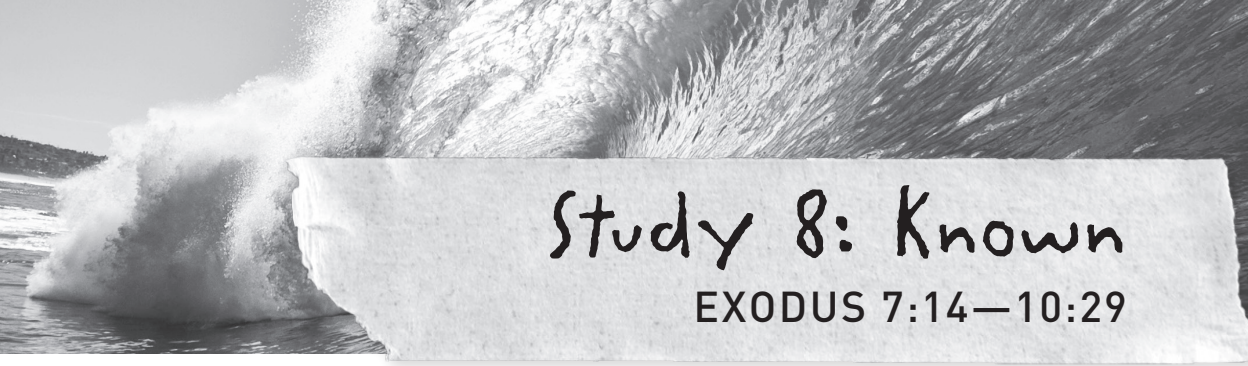
5.



Pray

Repent of the sin that is hardening your heart and stopping you listening to God. Ask God to give you 'soft hearts' and 'big ears' to listen to him. Also, ask God to enable you to encourage each other daily as Christians.





Study 8: Known

EXODUS 7:14—10:29

Share

Describe yourself to the rest of the group using the letters of your first name, for example, Mike is Musical, an Introvert, likes KitKats and Exercise.

Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 7:14—10:29 and fill in the chart below as you go.

	Who started the plague	Who hardened Pharaoh's heart	Magicians' response	Distinction made between Israel and Egypt	Pharaoh forewarned	Pharaoh's response	The reason for the plague
Blood							
Frogs							
Gnats							

	Who started the plague	Who hardened Pharaoh's heart	Magicians' response	Distinction made between Israel and Egypt	Pharaoh forewarned	Pharaoh's response	The reason for the plague
Flies							
Animals							
Boils							
Hail							
Locusts							
Darkness							

Do you remember Pharaoh's key question back in Exodus 5:2: 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go?' From what we have just read, how would you answer that question now?

God is determined to make himself known to the world.¹² So determined was God to make himself known that he even sent his Son, Jesus, into the world (look up John 1:14–18). **What does the coming of Jesus add to our understanding of God?**



Bring it home

God is determined to make himself known to the world. **Do you share his determination? What part can you play in making God known in the world?** Check out the following for ideas:

a) Matthew 5:16

b) Colossians 4:5–6

c) 1 Peter 3:15

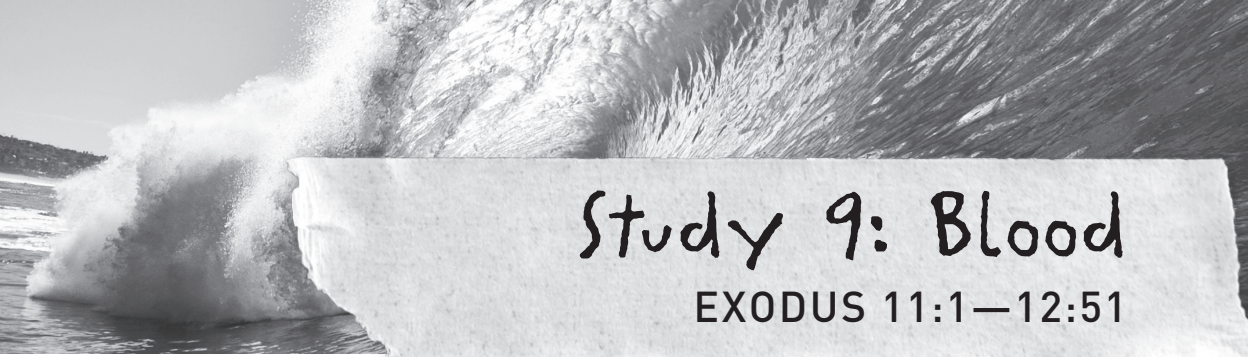
¹² That is, revelation.

Think about the ideas you wrote down on the last page and write down some practical, specific ways you can put these into practice this week.



Pray

Thank God that he has made himself known throughout Exodus and supremely through Jesus. Ask God to strengthen you to make him known this week, through what you do and what you say and the way you say it.



Study 9: Blood

EXODUS 11:1—12:51

Share

Divide your group so that all the firstborns are together, then the second-borns, third-borns, etc. **In your group, discuss the advantages/disadvantages of your position in your family.**

Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 11:1—12:30 and fill in the chart below as you go.

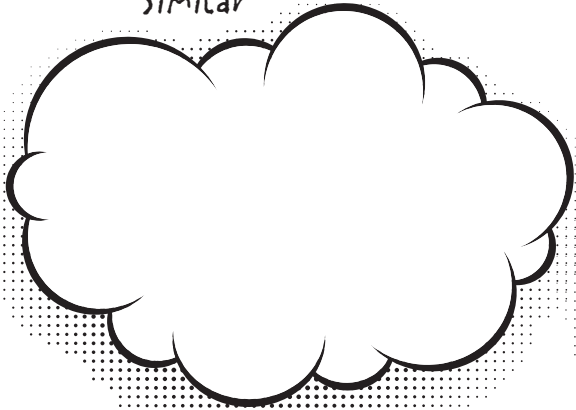
	Who started the plague	Who hardened Pharaoh's heart	Distinction made between Israel and Egypt	Pharaoh forewarned	Pharaoh's response	The reason for the plague
Firstborn						



Remember back to the first nine plagues (flick back in your Bibles, and/or flick back in this study to refresh your memory).

How is this last plague similar and different to the others?

Similar



Different



How was Israel to celebrate and remember this event in the future, in terms of:

a) Calendar (12:2)¹³

b) Celebration (12:14–20)

c) Children (12:25–27)

¹³ Just as we divide history into BC and AD, Israel would have divided history into BP (Before Passover) and AP (After Passover).

Read Exodus 12:31–42. At last, Pharaoh gave in and let Israel go. Woohoo! What a relief!

What promises of God can you see fulfilled in this passage?

When Jesus celebrated and remembered ‘the Passover’ he changed it, saying that it was no longer about what happened in Exodus but about himself (read Luke 22:14–20 and 1 Peter 1:17–19). **How did Jesus in his death act like the Passover lamb of Exodus?**¹⁴ **Fill in the table below.**

	Who is in danger and why?	How are people saved/protected?	Who dies and who lives?
Everyone in Egypt then			
Everyone today			

¹⁴ ‘For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.’ 1 Corinthians 5:7b

Bring it home

Trusting in the death of Jesus (his blood) is equivalent to Israel putting the blood of a lamb on the doorposts. **Do you trust in Jesus' death for you? Why/why not?**

Celebrating and remembering Jesus' death for you is a really, really important thing to do. **Think of three things you can do to celebrate and remember Jesus.**

Celebrate Jesus

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Remember Jesus

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

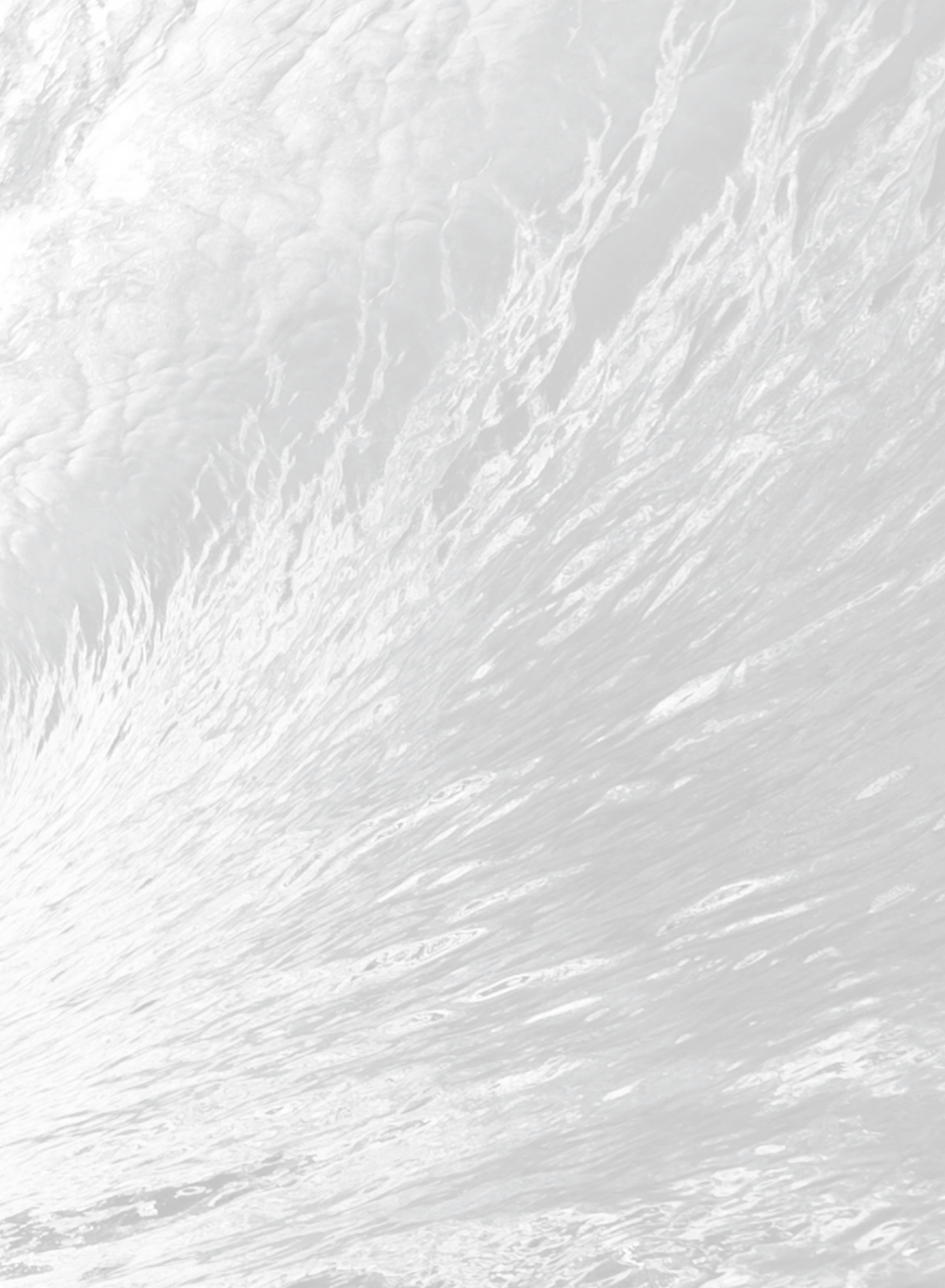
40



Pray

Jesus died so that God's anger at you can 'pass over' you. **Write a prayer/letter to Jesus in the space below, thanking him for what he did for you. Then pray that prayer.**

A large, blank, lined page with a torn left edge and a dark circular fastener at the top center. The page is designed for writing a prayer or letter to Jesus.



Study 10: Remember

EXODUS 13:1–19

Share

Share your earliest childhood memory.

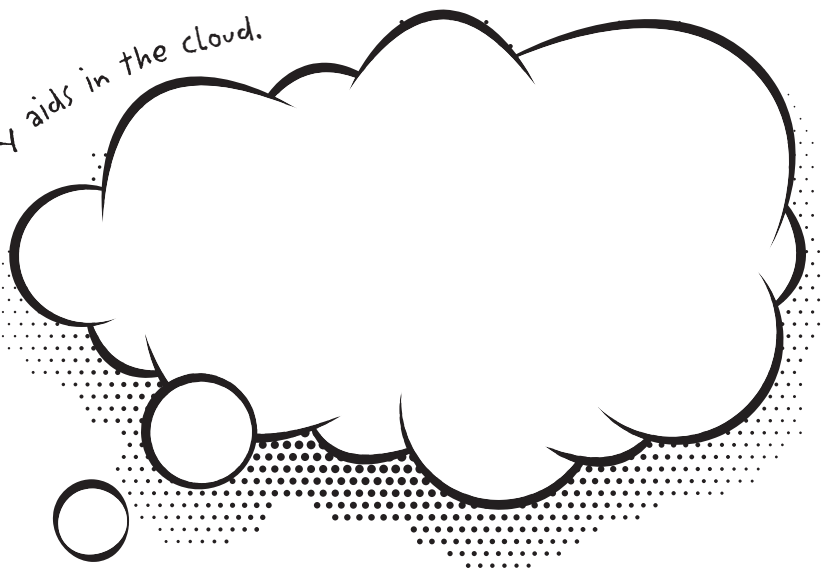
Read and talk

Pray and then read Exodus 13:1–19.

God wanted to make sure that Israel remembered to remember. So God told Israel again how to remember him bringing them out of Egypt (see verses 1–16).



List the memory aids in the cloud.



Why did God make Israel take a 'long-cut' (opposite to a 'short-cut')? (vv 17–18)

How do you think the Israelites would have felt about having to take the 'long-cut'? Tick the boxes that apply.

☐ Confused

☐ Angry

☐ Scared

☐ Hungry

What key theme of Exodus is reinforced by the fact that Israel was carrying Joseph's skeletal remains with them? (13:19; also Genesis 50:24–25)

God always keeps his promises. What promises does God make to us in the gospel? (Have a think first, but if you get stuck, try John 3:16 and John 11:25–26.)

Bring it home

**How did you go at celebrating and remembering Jesus this last week?
Did you follow through on the things you wrote in the last study?**

**When are you tempted to give up on God and his promises, and
'return' to your 'old' life?**

What are some remedies for this kind of discouragement? Think of some answers yourself first, then look up the verses below and write what remedies they give.

My answers

Galatians 6:9

1 John 2:15-17

Hebrews 12:2-3

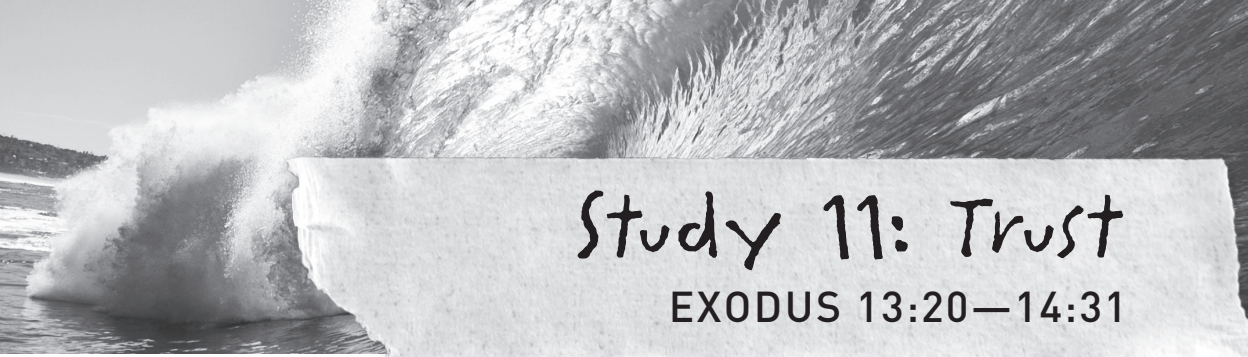
When are you tempted to think that God will not keep these promises?

How does Exodus help you with these doubts?



Pray

Thank and praise God that he always keeps his promises. Ask God to help you to believe this, particularly when you are tempted to 'return' to your old life. Also, ask God to help you to remember and celebrate Jesus this week, even more than you did last week.

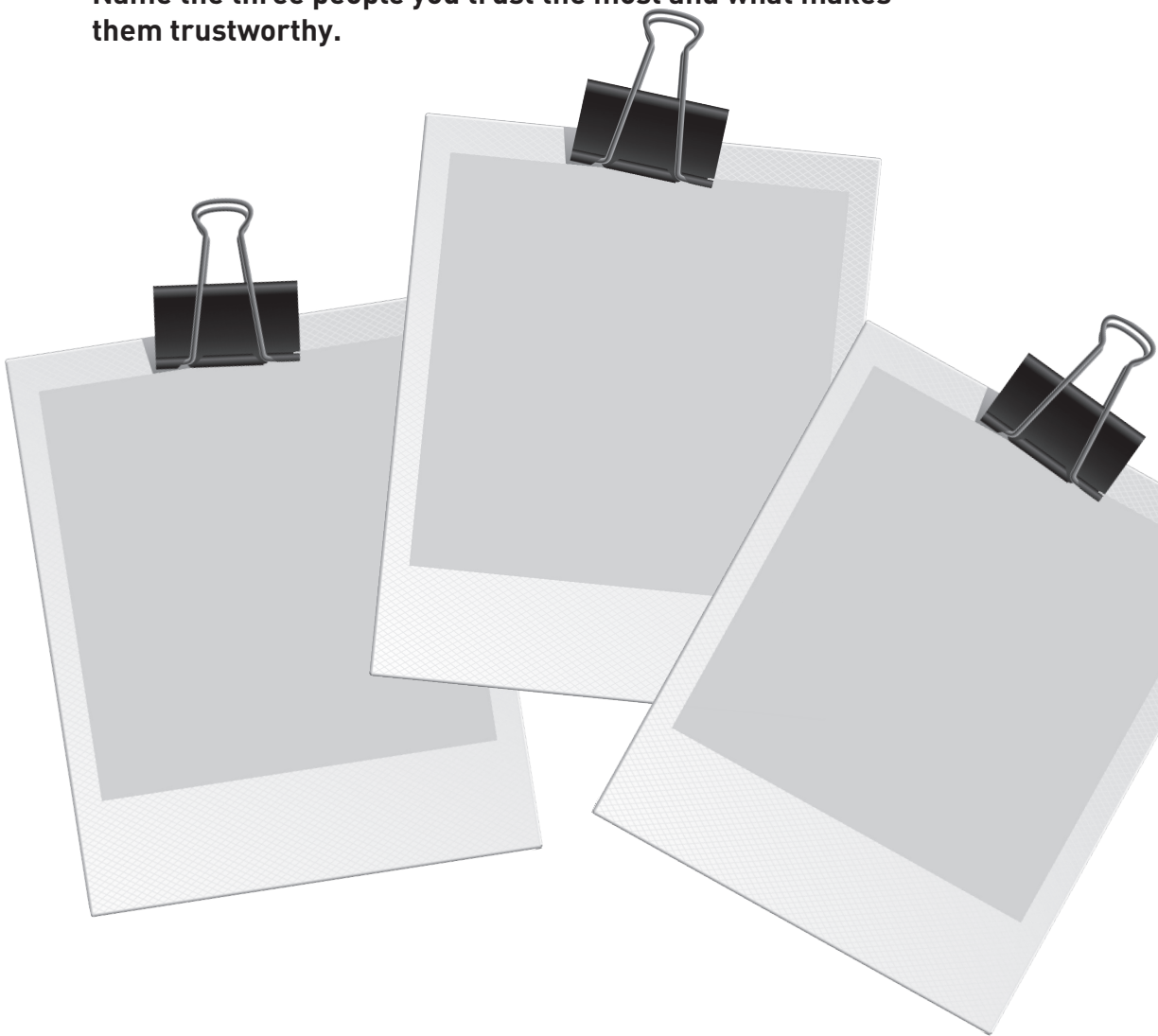


Study 11: Trust

EXODUS 13:20—14:31

Share

Name the three people you trust the most and what makes them trustworthy.



Read and talk

Before God parted the Red Sea, Israel was out of slavery but they weren't yet out of danger, nor were they in their Promised Land.

What parallels are there between Israel then and Christians today?

Fill in the chart below.

	Israel	Christians
When were they out of slavery?		
What event finally defeated the enemy?		
Who did the hard work?		
Who deserves all the glory?		
Where is their Promised Land and when will they enter it?		

God used Israel as live bait, enticing Pharaoh to chase them (14:1–9). Israel was scared stiff and seemed to abandon all trust in God (14:10–12).

What can we learn from Israel's bad example when we face tough times?

Re-read 14:31. After God's saving act, how did Israel respond to God?

What does it look like for us to fear the Lord Jesus and put our trust in him? List ten things.

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Exodus 14 reminds us that God can always be trusted to finish what he starts, despite the obstacles. **Look up Philippians 1:6 and re-write it in your own words.**

... being confident of this,
that he who began a good
work in you will carry it
on to completion until the
day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

In your words:

Bring it home

Are you ever tempted to think that you will not remain a Christian for the rest of your life? If so, what causes this temptation?

What confidence does Exodus 14 and Philippians 1:6 give you that you will remain a Christian for the rest of your life?

The key question that drives the story of Exodus is the question Pharaoh asked in 5:2: 'Who is the Lord that I should obey him?'
Having studied Exodus 1–14, how would you now answer this question?



Pray

Praise God for all the things you have learned about him in Exodus.¹⁵ Thank God that he is fully trustworthy to save you and bring you home to be with him forever. Ask God to help you trust him in the hard times, when you feel under attack.

¹⁵ If you are super keen, you could read and pray through Exodus 15, which sums up pretty much everything about God in Exodus so far.

Note for Leaders

If you are looking for an alternative way to start these studies, you could try using *The Prince of Egypt* movie (produced by DreamWorks). Watch the relevant scenes from the movie (listed below) and then read the Bible passage and talk about the similarities and differences between the two.

Study			<i>The Prince of Egypt</i> segment
Study 1	Exodus 1	Kindness	0:00—3:06
Study 2	Exodus 2:1–10	Saviour	3:06—8:12
Study 3	Exodus 2:11–15	Choices	29:12—35:57
Study 4	Exodus 2:16–25	Rescue	35:57—42:07
Study 5	Exodus 3:1—4:17	Go	42:07—47:50
Study 6	Exodus 4:18–31	Worship	47:50—50:49
Study 7	Exodus 5:1—7:13	Listen	50:49—1:01:10
Study 8	Exodus 7:14—10:29	Known	1:01:10—1:08:02
Study 9	Exodus 11:1—12:51	Blood	1:08:02—1:16:53
Study 10	Exodus 13:1–19	Remember	1:16:53—1:22:19
Study 11	Exodus 13:20—14:31	Trust	1:22:19—1:29:08

Who is the Lord? There is no more important question in life, and it is one we all have to answer. But how can we know we've got the right response? In the breathtaking action and adventure of Exodus, through the disaster of Egypt and the miracle at the Red Sea, we see God's answer as he reveals himself as sender of judgement, but also as the trustworthy keeper of promises and the powerful saviour of his people.

About the author

Mike Everett is grateful to God for his saving grace, his wife, his family and his spiritual family at St Paul's Anglican Carlingford/North Rocks. Mike was disciplined as a young Christian and has himself been involved in discipling other young Christians for more than 20 years.

About the Youthworks Bible Study series

More than ever, young people today need answers to life's big questions. The Youthworks Bible Study Series is designed to challenge and encourage young people to be confident in their faith in Jesus in a changing world. The studies have been written by experienced youth leaders and are arranged into Old Testament, New Testament and Topical.



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