BRIARCLIFF CHURCH Small Group Study Guide: Exodus Week of September 10 (Week 1) Luke 24:1-53



Sermon Overview

The story of Exodus is the journey of God's people from slavery to freedom. The author of Exodus consistently returns to the theme of freedom – personal, national and spiritual.

In the Jewish tradition, the Exodus is the defining moment of faith, and Moses the chief of prophets. But the liberation of the nation of Israel is much more than an ancient Bible story; it was a preview or signpost to the main event to come. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate exodus of every tribe, tongue and nation. Jesus is the liberation from the power of sin and the punishment of death. Without the atoning death of Jesus, the exodus Moses led would have no lasting meaning. Everything Moses lived for and wrote about depended on the coming of Jesus: the perfect passover lamb.

Throughout this sermon series we will find connections between the journey of God's people as the ancient nation of Israel and our own journey as God's people today. And, the connections we find will be more than thematic representations. We will see our own journey from the slavery of sin to the freedom found in belonging to Christ.

Starting with God

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- 1. Our study of Exodus begins with the resurrected Jesus in Luke's gospel. It may seem odd to begin the story of the liberation of a Jewish nation with events that happened hundreds of years later, until we see the words of Jesus himself. Read Luke 24:14-27. What does Jesus reveal about himself to the disciples on the road to Emmaus? What does Jesus say about the necessity of his death? And, what does Jesus' death bring to Jesus?
- 2. Imagine for a moment what it means that the life of Moses and the nation of Israel gave God's people a preview of a Greater Deliverer. What does this tell us about history and the future — and who is in charge and how it will turn out? What does it tell us about the Bible?

Living God's Word

- 3. Moses said, "a prophet like him" would come from the nation of Israel and he should be listened to. The truth is that it can be challenging to tune out the voice of the world to be able to truly listen to Jesus. What do you think is going to be key for you to be able to truly listen and hear what God wants to say to you through this study of the writings of Moses over the coming weeks?
- 4. The words and events of Luke 24 can challenge our understanding of the rest of the Bible. However, it's important to challenge our preconceived notions when we read the Bible to let God's word speak freely to us. What reading and prayer commitments can you make during this study to help safeguard your time of Bible study and reflection?
- 5. Read John 17:20-24. John 17 is Jesus' prayer to God the Father shortly before he was crucified. What does this prayer tell us about eternity past and future. How can this prayer help you define and find resolve in our faith as followers of Jesus?
- 6. Consider information you know about Moses his actions, leadership, obedience, failures, courage, etc. How was Jesus a greater and perfected Moses in each of the areas you listed?

Prayer

Father God, help us see your redeeming hand and glorious Son through all of scripture that we may find greater joy in submitting our lives to you. Amen.

Some of the material above adapted from: Guthrie, Nancy. The Lamb of God. Crossway.