



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Lesson 1: The Story of Israel's Oppression—Exodus 1

ENCOUNTER—Community Discussion

After reading the passage, take time to journal through the questions below. Don't feel like you have to answer all these questions. Wrestle with the text, and be prepared to share with your community.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

PRAYER

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and rejoice in you;

I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

My enemies turn back;

they stumble and perish before you.

For you have upheld my right and my cause,

sitting enthroned as the righteous judge.

You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked;

you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

Endless ruin has overtaken my enemies,

you have uprooted their cities;

even the memory of them has perished.

The Lord reigns forever;

he has established his throne for judgment.

He rules the world in righteousness

and judges the peoples with equity.

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,

a stronghold in times of trouble.

Those who know your name trust in you,

for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Sing the praises of the Lord, enthroned in Zion;

proclaim among the nations what he has done.

For he who avenges blood remembers;

he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.

Lord, see how my enemies persecute me!

Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,

that I may declare your praises

in the gates of Daughter Zion,

and there rejoice in your salvation.

The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;

their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.

The Lord is known by his acts of justice;

the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.

The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,

all the nations that forget God.

But God will never forget the needy;

the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

Arise, Lord, do not let mortals triumph;

let the nations be judged in your presence.

Strike them with terror, Lord;

let the nations know they are only mortal.

(Psalm 9)

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Often when oppression comes, we feel powerless to overcome it, or to help others overcome. Remember that Jesus said to pray for those who persecute you. Taking the high road and staying faithful to God, even while enduring oppression, is held in high importance in God's sight.

Here are some key steps to walk through when you experience oppression:

- Pray for those involved, the oppressed and the oppressors; remember hurt people, hurt people.
- Pray for deliverance; deliverance comes from God, not by our own deeds.
- Share with others. Evil fears the light. Bringing issues into the open with others will help strip the perceived power from those who oppress.

Most of all cling to Jesus, find refuge in Him, for His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

BECOMING MY STORY

Genesis 50 Hebrews 11

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. In the context of Exodus 1, consider the following questions:

How is what's happening around you affecting what's happening in you?

How is what's happening in you affecting what's happening around you?

Consider other passages you might know related to Exodus 1 and read them this week, journaling as you go.