

# "Exodus: Journey of Fulfillment"

## Week 1

Sermon Date 9/17/2017

### MY STORY

Each week this section titled *My Story* will look back to last week's study and ask questions about what our takeaways were and how we are applying what we are learning. Since this is week one, we will only have one question.

- 1) What are you hoping to see God do in your life through this study?

### QUICK REVIEW

This section is a review of Sunday's message.

- 2) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

### The Goal

Hi Leaders, welcome for the first time or welcome back! This section is for you as a leader to help you understand the direction of each week's study—that is why it is named *The Goal*. As always, I pray that God blesses your time together and you experience the presence of God. Sunday's message was primarily a set up for the series. Pastor brought us back to the story of Exodus and the Mountain of God and the newly freed Israelites. This week we will be unpacking the "Awe of God" and how it relates to freedom from slavery. When we understand who God is, we can better understand ourselves and how we are meant to live free. We will start this week with a review of the scene at Mount Sinai and then examine more closely what freedom from slavery looks like.

A note for new leaders: Pastor Craig preaches from the New Living Translation. These studies will use that version most of the time, but occasionally I will use different versions.

### DIGGING DEEPER

This week Pastor Craig brought us back to the scene with the Israelites and God at Mount Sinai where they experienced the "Awe of God."

Exodus 19:16-20 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup>On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram's horn, and all the people trembled. <sup>17</sup>Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. <sup>18</sup>All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on

it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. <sup>19</sup> As the blast of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply. <sup>20</sup> The Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So, Moses climbed the mountain.

- 3) Imagine for a moment you are an Israelite at the bottom of the mountain. What would this experience at the bottom of the mountain have been like? Keep in mind the Israelites had just been miraculously freed from slavery in Egypt through the plagues and the Red Sea crossing. They had experienced the power of God.
- 4) Why is it important to experience the "awe of God?" Keep in mind that the power of God and the awe of God are two different things.

The *awe of God* leads me to a place of wonder and amazement. He is so powerful and awesome which brings fear, yet so loving and kind which draws me in. His power brings respect, and His loving kindness makes Him approachable. We are meant to be drawn into His presence. Moses is a great example of it.

Exodus 33:18-23 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

<sup>19</sup> And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

<sup>21</sup> Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. <sup>22</sup> When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

- 5) Was Moses afraid of God? What did he do with that fear?

Even if he was afraid, he was more drawn towards God than away from him. This was supposed to be the response of the people. However, it was not.

- 6) What was God's response to Moses' request to see His glory?

"I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

From the Dictionary of Biblical Languages: God's goodness is defined as: the state of moral goodness with absolutely no evil.<sup>1</sup>

- 7) How does God's response impact the awe we have of Him?

God's glory is His goodness and His sovereignty. This is amazing if you think about it.

If we see the goodness of God we are seeing aspects of His glory. This is incredible news and is how I can find regular recognition of the *Awe of God*.

## TAKING IT HOME

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and they were camped at the base of Mount Sinai for a little over a year. They were supposed to experience the "awe of God" and let it transform them into the people of God and a royal priesthood. Unfortunately, they were stuck in a slave mentality.

8) What does it mean to be a slave of something?

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines slavery as: submission to a dominating influence.

9) What dominating influences control people today?

Fear, addiction, people (sex trafficking), etc.

10) How should the "awe of God" impact slavery?

It should give people hope and encouragement that freedom is possible and available to them in Christ.

11) Are there things in your life that you are a slave to? If so, are you willing to share them with the group?

Pastor Craig's theme verse for this series comes from Moses and his word to the Israelites before they crossed into the Promised Land. He was taking a look at the end of the story to give them perspective they were supposed to obtain at the base of the mountain. The commands Moses gave them were in the context of the awe and regular presence of God they experienced in the desert.

Deuteronomy 30:11 (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> "This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach.

12) Do you find encouragement in these words of Moses?

13) Is there something you think is too difficult for God to set you free from? If so, how can this lesson today change that perspective?

## CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Exodus 33 in different versions and meditate on the following questions.

14) What does God's glory have to do with me?

15) Where do I see God's goodness in my life?

16) In what areas am I a slave in my mind and heart? Do I have fears that are controlling me?

<sup>1</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).