

# "Exodus: Journey of Fulfillment"

## Week 2

Sermon Date 9/24/2017

### MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) How does wrestling with the "awe of God" impact our identity?

### QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

### The Goal

This week we will be unpacking more about our identity. Last week we discussed the awe of God and how it shapes our identity by understanding who God is. This week we will take a quick peak at Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and how these ancestors demonstrate different facets of our identity in Christ. These men represent parts of our identity that God wants us to trust and lean into. The goal is to understand how belonging to God and to His family helps set me free from slavery to sin.

### DIGGING DEEPER

Exodus 3:14-15 (NLT)

<sup>14</sup> God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you." <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. <sup>i</sup>

- 4) This week Pastor explained that the Israelites had history with God. From the passage above, who does God identify Himself as the God of?  
[The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.](#)
- 5) These three men have significance because each of them represent a different facet of our relationship with God. Abraham was a friend of God, Isaac was the promise fulfilled and Jacob represents God's mercy. Of the three, which has the most significance to you personally and why?
- 6) How does the understanding of these men impact our identity?

[They show us that God wants us to draw near and be inspired to worship out of awe of Him. They also demonstrate that God fulfills His promises and He can be trusted. Lastly, it is](#)

for everyone. Jacob was a liar and a thief, and yet He blessed Jacob and changed his name. We need to wrestle with God's love for us.

Next, we will unpack the idea of belonging to God.

John 1:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,<sup>ii</sup>

In the verse above the apostle John is referring to Jesus.

7) According to the verse, what qualifies people to become children of God?

John 8:31–37 (ESV)

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,<sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."<sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

<sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.<sup>iii</sup>

8) What qualification did the Pharisees have that made them think they were not slaves?

9) What similar qualifications do we find ourselves relying on to think we are not slaves?

10) From the passage, how does one become free?

By abiding in the Word of God, and by knowing the truth and having the truth set us free.

11) What do the words, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples" mean to you and your life?

12) What does it mean to "practice" sin?

The idea of "practice" is to do something intentionally with repetition to become more proficient at it.

[A note on this passage from \*The Bible Knowledge Commentary\*](#)

Jews who had believed Him indicates that some paid attention to Jesus' words without necessarily committing themselves to Him personally. It was possible to "believe" in the message of repentance and the coming kingdom without being born again. Continuing in the truth is the sign of true followers and learners (disciples). If they really grasped His message, they would find salvation truth. Knowing this salvation truth would liberate them from their bondage in sin.<sup>iv</sup>

## TAKING IT HOME

Romans 7:15–25 (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. <sup>16</sup> But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

<sup>18</sup> And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. <sup>19</sup> I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. <sup>20</sup> But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

<sup>21</sup> I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. <sup>22</sup> I love God's law with all my heart. <sup>23</sup> But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. <sup>24</sup> Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? <sup>25</sup> Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.<sup>v</sup>

13) From the passage above, what does Paul struggle with? In what ways can you relate to his struggle?

Doing what he doesn't want to do. In a very real way he is feeling like a slave to the taskmaster of his flesh, or the sin that lives in him.

14) Slavery or taskmasters come in many shapes and forms. What taskmasters have you found freedom from?

15) What taskmasters have you seen others struggle with?

This is just about keeping the conversation positive. Many folks will have some current struggles that they are feeling enslaved to. These are ok to share. Sharing past success can bring encouragement and hope to those who are struggling and may feel uncomfortable to share. This is about going first as a leader and creating a space for others to feel safe to share.

16) Paul is an apostle and a mature believer. What does his struggle reveal to us about ours?

That this is something we will wrestle with for a long time on this side of heaven.

17) Who does Paul point to for the solution of the problem?

18) What comfort does Paul's struggle give you?

Romans 8:1-6 (ESV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you, free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things

of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.  
<sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.<sup>vi</sup>

- 19) When looking back at the story of Israel and the mountain of God we see the law being given to them. What do the above verses say God did through Christ?
- 20) According to Romans 8, where do we need to set our minds, and how do we do that?

### **CHAIR TIME TOOL**

Read Romans Chapters 7-8 and meditate on the following questions.

- 21) Is there anything in your life that you are a slave to?
- 22) What is our hope from these chapters?
- 23) How do these chapters bring a fresh awareness of the awe of God?

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<sup>i</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Ex 3:14–15.

<sup>ii</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Jn 1:12.

<sup>iii</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Jn 8:31–37.

<sup>iv</sup> Edwin A. Blum, “John,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 304–305.

<sup>v</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Ro 7:15–25.

<sup>vi</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016) Romans 8:1-6