

The Village Church – Rancho Santa Fe
Week #4 – Adult Bible Study – 2025 & 2026

Discovering the Bible

September 30 & October 1, 2025

Review

1. The Promise
 - a. The story of the beginnings of the Hebrews as a distinct people
 - b. God’s call to Abraham...and to his family
 - c. Covenant – God’s promise (which God will keep!) to Abraham and Sara to make of them a great nation
 - d. Abraham and Sara are faithful...and doubtful
 - e. The family – Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
 - f. And all the family issues – old age, treachery, rivalry, betrayal, famine
 - g. And...God is faithful to his promise

The Exodus

2. Exodus 3:1-20
 - a. God calls Moses
 - b. The burning bush
 - c. The voice of God
 - d. Holy Ground
 - e. This is the God who spoke/promised to Abraham
 - f. God pays attention to his people: he does not forget
 - g. Who is God? YHWH – unpronounceable name – “I Am”
 - h. To know the name is to know the character/essence of the one so named
 - i. God will rescue his people
3. Exodus 4:1-17
 - a. Moses gets power from God
 - b. Moses knows that in himself he does not have the ability to accomplish God’s plan
 - c. Signs of God’s power with Moses:
 - i. Staff and Snake
 - ii. Hand – healthy and withered
 - iii. Nile water that becomes blood
 - d. Public speaking – the assistance of brother Aaron – No single person – save for Christ Jesus – has all it takes to accomplish God’s will
4. Exodus 5:22 – 6:13
 - a. God’s Plan
 - b. Moses’ initial attempt to persuade Pharaoh is met with resistance and further suffering of the slaves
 - c. So, Moses complains to God
 - d. God reaffirms his promise to the Hebrews
 - e. God restates his intention to use his power to accomplish his plan of deliverance
 - f. Upshot: “I am God – who can resist me?”
5. Exodus 12:1-36
 - a. The Passover – when God “passed over” the Hebrews

- b. The Sacrificial Lamb
 - c. Note evidence of development of the story and the liturgical use of this material
 - d. The blood of the lamb(s) becomes the sign by which God will save the Hebrew sons from death
 - e. A day of remembrance, a festival
 - f. “When your children ask you...” – transmittal of the faith from generation to generation
6. Exodus 12:37-42 & 13:17-22 (*not on original schedule*)
- a. The Hebrews depart from Egypt
 - b. They leave in a hurry – with no time to leaven the bread
 - c. After 430 years, “hundreds of thousands” of Hebrews depart
 - d. They go toward the Red (Reed?) Sea
 - e. Joseph’s bones go with them
 - f. God is with them – pillars of cloud and fire
7. Exodus 14:1-31
- a. Crossing the Red Sea
 - b. Deliverance “through waters”
 - c. God “hardens” Pharaoh’s heart
 - d. The people are afraid, but Moses reassures them of God’s power to save them
 - e. God separates the waters, the Hebrews escape
8. Exodus 19:1-8
- a. Camping at Mt. Sinai
 - b. For now, the people are safe
 - c. Through Moses, God reminds the people of what they have just experienced
 - d. Therefore...the people are called to respond, by their faithful obedience to God’s covenant
 - e. The people promise to live in the Way that God has established
 - f. But...will they?

Questions for Your Life Today

- A. The Exodus is often regarded as the most important event of the Old Testament because through it, the Hebrew people are formed as a nation and a people with a special purpose. Is there a single event in your life that has similarly influenced everything else about you?
- B. How does God speak to you?
- C. How does God empower you to fulfill the tasks he gives you?
- D. Is it possible to thwart or deny God’s ultimate plan and power? Defend your “yes” or “no” answer.
- E. What “bones” (like Joseph’s) do you take with you wherever you go?
- F. Have you ever been up against the wall (the sea) and found a way out (or through)? What happened?
- G. Why is camping out with God an important aspect of our lifelong journey?

Notes by The Rev. Dr. Jack Baca, Senior Pastor, The Village Church, Rancho Santa Fe, California

Primary Source: Discovering the Bible: A New Generation, published by The Kerygma Program, Pittsburgh, PA. Boyd Lien, author.