

## Group Discussion Guide for Week of 2/21/2022

## Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Exodus 3:16-4:31 (NIV)*

<sup>16</sup>“Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.’ <sup>17</sup>And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’ <sup>18</sup>“The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.’ <sup>19</sup>But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. <sup>20</sup>So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go. <sup>21</sup>“And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. <sup>22</sup>Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.”

**4** Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you?’” <sup>2</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied. <sup>3</sup> The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. <sup>5</sup> “This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.” <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow. <sup>7</sup> “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh. <sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said, “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. <sup>9</sup> But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.” <sup>10</sup> Moses said to the Lord, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.” <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? <sup>12</sup> Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.” <sup>13</sup> But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.” <sup>14</sup> Then the Lord’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. <sup>15</sup> You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. <sup>16</sup> He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. <sup>17</sup> But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it.” <sup>18</sup> Then Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, “Let me return to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive.” Jethro said, “Go, and I wish you well.” <sup>19</sup> Now the Lord had said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you are dead.” <sup>20</sup> So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand. <sup>21</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. <sup>22</sup> Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son,’ <sup>23</sup> and I told you, ‘Let my son go, so he may worship me.’ But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.” <sup>24</sup> At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him. <sup>25</sup> But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son’s foreskin and touched Moses’ feet with it. “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,” she said. <sup>26</sup> So the Lord let him alone. (At that time she said “bridegroom of blood,” referring to circumcision.) <sup>27</sup> The Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him. <sup>28</sup> Then Moses told Aaron everything the Lord had sent him to say, and also about all the signs he had commanded him to perform. <sup>29</sup> Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, <sup>30</sup> and Aaron told them everything the Lord had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, <sup>31</sup> and they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

### General Question Bank

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

**Know** (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

**Together** (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

### Discussion/Topic Starter (Ice Breaker)

- Share “kicking and screaming” stories. When have you or someone you know gone into an experience kicking and screaming (perhaps literally)?

### Exodus 3:16-4:31

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

*\*\*\*Another way to ask: “Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you’re intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further.” Now share it with the group*

O: Last week we saw Moses’ first two objections to God’s call on his life. What reassurance does God give Moses related to these objections (3:12-22)?

- O: Moses was filled with fear, feeling he lacked oratorical skills (4:1, 10). How does God deal with Moses' perceived inadequacies (4:2-9, 11-12)?
- O: As the number of Moses' objections grows from two to five (4:1; 4:10; 4:13), what are Moses' reasons for stubbornness in the face of God's call?
- O: How do the events in 4:27-31 confirm the Lord's promises to Moses?
- I: When you are confident God is speaking to you, and that a specific "Yes, Lord" is expected of you, what other factors might influence your answer?
- I: What have you learned about God in this passage that encourages you to trust him in the face of seemingly impossible demands or difficulties?
- A: This week, schedule a time to pray with a friend who has overcome difficulties and/or spend time with Christians who have discovered the joy of obeying God's call on their lives. Bear witness to those who are doing mission with God.
- A: As you pray in your groups this week, consider using the prayer of examen handout again to pray through God's action and movements in your lives in the past 24 hours. Find that handout at <http://riversidecommunity.org/practices>

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

**Recommended Follow-up:**

Pray: Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He's in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him. Pray together, spend some time being silent.

Respond: Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's devotional guide.

## **An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides\*:**

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides. We believe the process for this transformation happens in community, hence the **“Together”** part of the Riverside mission as well.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”
- **“Together**, what is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on [Colossians 1:9-10](#), see below)

**Know** – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God.”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

**Be** – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

**Do** – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)*  
To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

### **Colossians 1:9-10, NIV**

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...*

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\* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide was created in consultation with *Echoes of Exodus*, Alastair Roberts and Andrew Wilson, 2018; *Exodus: Life Change Series*, The Navigators, 1989; *Exodus 1-19*, James Reapsome; and *Exodus: Knowing the Bible*, Matthew Newkirk, J. I. Packer.