

# Group Discussion Guide for Week of 3/7/2022

## Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Exodus 6 (NIV)*

**6** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."<sup>2</sup> God also said to Moses, "I am the Lord. <sup>3</sup>I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself fully known to them. <sup>4</sup>I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. <sup>5</sup>Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant. <sup>6</sup>"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup>I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup>And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.'"<sup>9</sup> Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor. <sup>10</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, <sup>11</sup>"Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his country."<sup>12</sup> But Moses said to the Lord, "If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips?" <sup>13</sup>Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron about the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he commanded them to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>These were the heads of their families: The sons of Reuben the firstborn son of Israel were Hanok and Pallu, Hezron and Karmi. These were the clans of Reuben. <sup>15</sup>The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. These were the clans of Simeon. <sup>16</sup>These were the names of the sons of Levi according to their records: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. Levi lived 137 years. <sup>17</sup>The sons of Gershon, by clans, were Libni and Shimei. <sup>18</sup>The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. Kohath lived 133 years. <sup>19</sup>The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These were the clans of Levi according to their records. <sup>20</sup>Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, who bore him Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years. <sup>21</sup>The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg and Zikri. <sup>22</sup>The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan and Sithri. <sup>23</sup>Aaron married Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. <sup>24</sup>The sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah and Abiasaph. These were the Korahite clans. <sup>25</sup>Eleazar son of Aaron married one of the daughters of Putiel, and she bore him Phinehas. These were the heads of the Levite families, clan by clan. <sup>26</sup>It was this Aaron and Moses to whom the Lord said, "Bring the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions."<sup>27</sup> They were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing the Israelites out of Egypt—this same Moses and Aaron. <sup>28</sup>Now when the Lord spoke to Moses in Egypt, <sup>29</sup>he said to him, "I am the Lord. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you."<sup>30</sup> But Moses said to the Lord, "Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?"

### 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)

- What factors go into deciding whether or not to trust someone's promise made to you?

### Exodus 6

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: Chapter 5 ended with Moses and the Israelites feeling discouraged, but in Exodus 6:1-8, God makes 8 "I will" promises (in vs. 6-8) anchored by 4 declarations of "I am the Lord." In what ways might these words from the Lord bring hope?
- O: How do the Israelites respond to these "I will" statements conveyed by Moses? Why do you think this is?
- I: Moses mentions his "faltering lips" multiple times (6:12; 6:30), coupled with the question, "why would Pharaoh listen to me?" Let's take Moses' question at face value—why might Pharaoh listen to Moses? Or why not?
- I: The inclusion of a genealogy from 6:14-27 would be easy to gloss over, but why do you think it's included here? How does this genealogy function in the story? What might it signify?
- A: Give an example from your life when, like Moses, discouragement blurred the clarity of God's power and promises.
- A: As we see in vs. 6-8, the promises of the word of God can bring great hope in times of discouragement. At the end of this week's service, Keith encouraged us to take up a scripture memorization and meditation practice. For more resources for scripture memory, visit our practices page 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, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 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.