

## **Group Discussion Guide for Week of 4/25/2022**

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Exodus 12:31-42 (NIV)*

<sup>31</sup> During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. <sup>32</sup> Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.”

<sup>33</sup> The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. “For otherwise,” they said, “we will all die!” <sup>34</sup> So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. <sup>35</sup> The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. <sup>36</sup> The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

<sup>37</sup> The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. <sup>38</sup> Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. <sup>39</sup> With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves.

<sup>40</sup> Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. <sup>41</sup> At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord’s divisions left Egypt. <sup>42</sup> Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.

### **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)

- Think of a time you anticipated something in an outsized way, but then it came and went in a blur. Does anyone have any ideas for how to live in and really experience the moment, even when in a hurry?

### **Exodus 12:31-42**

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: What contrasts do you observe between Pharaoh’s attitude and behavior now vs. his earlier encounters with Moses and Aaron? (12:29-32)

O: Describe the emotional state of the Egyptians (12:29-36). Why were the Israelites “driven out” of Egypt? (12:39)

I: How is God fulfilling his warnings and promises from Exodus 3:20-22 and 4:23? How would this impact Israel’s understanding of God’s character?

I: How are you both thankful and accountable to God for the freedom he gives you?

A: How have you found God’s warnings and promises to be true?

A: This week’s practice is remembering or preparing for baptism. If you haven’t been baptized, we encourage you to read the “Baptism in the Bible” document at [riversidecommunity.org/practices](http://riversidecommunity.org/practices) and talk about baptism with your home group leader, a pastor, an elder, or a trusted mentor or friend. If you are baptized, remember your baptism and the incredible gift it is and the salvation, cleansing, and freedom it signifies.

**-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: *<sup>6</sup> 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.