

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD...

EXODUS 1-20 | YEAR TWO | FALL QUARTER



SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR YOUNG ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

SS02F-E

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LESSON SEQUENCE

FALL QUARTER

The Lesson Sequence gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

LESSON ONE	Exodus 1:1–2:10
LESSON TWO	Exodus 2:11–3:22
LESSON THREE	Exodus 4
LESSON FOUR	Exodus 5:1–6:13
LESSON FIVE	Exodus 6:14–7:25
LESSON SIX	Exodus 8:1–9:12
LESSON SEVEN	Exodus 9:13–10:29
LESSON EIGHT	Exodus 11:1–12:42
LESSON NINE	Exodus 12:43–13:22
LESSON TEN	Exodus 14:1–15:21
LESSON ELEVEN	Exodus 15:22–16:36
LESSON TWELVE	Exodus 17–18
LESSON THIRTEEN	Exodus 19–20

WINTER QUARTER Exodus 21–40,
Leviticus

LESSON ONE

EXODUS 1:1–2:10

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Q&A

2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

The Pentateuch

5 mins.

W.O.W!

Exodus

5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline

2–3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Exodus 1:1–2:10

20–30 mins.

LESSON-AT-HOME

Psalms 9:9

2–3 mins.

OVERVIEW

The Book of Exodus opens with a short review of the end of the Book of Genesis. The great famine brought Joseph's family to Egypt. Joseph was already in Egypt (by the providence of God and the jealousy of his brothers) in order to save Israel from early destruction. Then, Joseph and his brothers and all that generation, died.

Centuries have now passed as we enter into the Book of Exodus. The new Pharaoh does not remember Joseph; instead, he fears the Israelites. He enslaves God's people, attempting to wipe them out with hard labor. But God continues to bless and protect His people. Pharaoh moves to "Plan B" and instructs the Egyptian midwives to kill all the Jewish baby boys. This plan is foiled, as the midwives fear God more than they fear Pharaoh. Finally, the king of Egypt calls on all of his people to throw the Hebrew baby boys into the Nile to drown them.

It is into this context that Moses is born. Moses' mother seeks to protect her boy by putting him in a small ark in the Nile to see who would rescue him. Irony of ironies, it is Pharaoh's own daughter who saves Moses and raises him as her own. She disobeys her father's decree and thereby delivers Moses from death.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on the first two chapters of Exodus this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Teaching God's Word should be exciting to you! These stories in the Book of Exodus are dramatic and riveting, and must invoke an amazing awe of our God. There is no way you can tell these stories in a dry, dull and lifeless way—they are just too incredible. Your children will be drawn into these stories of God's power and providence as you share them in a passionate way. Don't let the familiarity of some of these readings keep you from experiencing their richness. Enjoy yourself and enjoy God's Word as you teach through this marvelous book of the Bible.



WELCOME

THE WELCOME SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET THE CHILDREN AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH QUESTIONS OR AN ACTIVITY THAT WILL ENGAGE THE CHILDREN AND HELP THEM THINK ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD.

DRILL TIME GIVES THE CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST—AT HOME, SCHOOL AND/OR CHURCH.

THIS ELEMENT ALLOWS THE INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... CURRICULUM TO COVER MUCH MORE BIBLICAL "GROUND," SINCE TIME IS NOT EXPENDED REPEATING THE SAME BIBLE STORIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

Greet the students. Welcome visitors.

Say: *I have a couple of questions for you. Who made you? [God.] What else did God make? [God made everything else.]*

How do you know that God made you and everything else? Allow answers. That's right, the Bible tells us so.

We learn the truth about who God is and what He has done for you and me only from the Bible. That's why we get together and study it each week. Are you ready to learn today?



DRILL TIME

Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME. This is our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.

Show the students your Bible. *Who can tell me the two major divisions of the Bible? Now, a tougher question: What are the names of the first five books of the Bible? Now, a last question: Who wrote the first five books of the Bible?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. Old Testament and New Testament.
2. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.
3. Moses.

Say: *The first five books of the Bible are also called "The Pentateuch." This quarter, we will be studying the second book of the Old Testament—the Book of Exodus. Moses wrote the Book of Exodus, and he is also the main character of this second book of the Bible. And remember, God inspired all of the writers of the Bible, so the Bible is God's Word!*

THE **W.O.W!** IS THE WORD OF THE WEEK. THIS ELEMENT IS INCLUDED TO HELP THE CHILDREN BUILD THEIR THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLICAL VOCABULARIES. THESE WORDS ARE VITAL TO THE CHRISTIAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS WORLD.

EACH WEEK, THE BIBLE LESSON WILL BE PLACED IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT BY USE OF A TIMELINE.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE CHILDREN LEARN HOW THE STORY OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY FITS TOGETHER. BIBLE STORIES MUST NOT BE VIEWED AS DETACHED SCENES—THEY ARE TO BE SHOWN AS A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER PICTURE. THE TIMELINE IS A USEFUL TOOL TOWARD THAT END.



W.O.W!

Each week in this class, we will learn a new word. Who here likes learning new words? I do! God has blessed us with the ability to speak and to learn wonderful words about Him.

*Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **EXODUS**. Write the word on the board.*

This is the name of the second book of the Old Testament—the Book of the Bible we will be studying this quarter. Does anyone know what this word actually means?

An EXODUS is a departure—actually a departure of a large group of people. The word literally means “the road out.” An EXODUS occurs when a lot of people leave some place to go to another place.

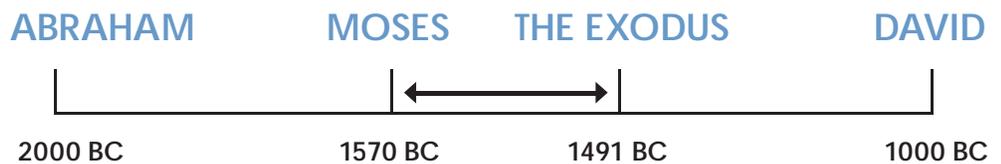
So the Book of Exodus is a Book of Departure. It is about how God’s people came to be able to leave Egypt. Some of you may know a few of the stories in the Book of Exodus. All of us will learn them a lot better as we read this great Bible book!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

As you move to studying these chapters in the Book of Exodus today, draw this timeline on the board. The students need to understand God’s Word in its historical context.

This Week’s Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

THE BIBLE INVESTIGATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT PLUNGES THE STUDENT DIRECTLY INTO GOD'S WORD, NOT SIMPLY A PARAPHRASE OF A BIBLE STORY.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS.

THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Have the students seated where they can all see the board. Use flannelgraph figures or pictures to illustrate the story.

Introduction: *The first chapter of the Book of Exodus reminds us of what happened back in the Book of Genesis. Genesis ended with Joseph dying in the land of Egypt. All of Joseph's family, including his brothers and their families, were in Egypt because of the worldwide famine. Do you remember how God used Joseph to save all his family from starvation? We now pick up the story of the Israelites living in Egypt—away from their homeland.*

Read Exodus 1:1–5.

¹These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ²Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt.

Discussion: *How many sons did Israel (Jacob) have? [Twelve.] When they settled in Egypt, they numbered seventy in all—including their wives and children. Why was Joseph already in Egypt? [His ten older brothers had sold him into slavery.] Joseph ended up saving his family, as we said.*

Let's read on. **Read verses 6–7.**

⁶Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

Discussion: *Look at how God had blessed the Israelites! This is simply God keeping His covenant promise to Abraham. Remember that promise? Abraham was promised descendants that would be as numerous as the sands on the seashore and the stars in the sky. The promise is being fulfilled here! Israel has become a great nation. Let's read what happens.*

Read verse 8–11.

⁸Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and



THE GREY SIDEBAR FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION WILL ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR.

fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

Discussion: *Joseph was the “old” Pharaoh’s second-in-command. How could Egypt forget about Joseph, after he had saved the entire country from starvation? Well, a long time had passed; that’s for sure—hundreds of years. This new Pharaoh decided to make the Israelites into slaves. Why?* [Because he was afraid of them. He thought they would fight against Egypt.]

Application: *Throughout history, God’s people have been persecuted. One day, you will be persecuted too—if you put your faith in Jesus Christ for your salvation. Christ Himself said that all who follow Him will have to suffer for Him. The Israelites were suffering simply for being God’s people. Let’s continue.*

Let’s continue. Read verses 12–14.

¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. ¹³So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

Discussion: *Does it surprise you to hear that the more the Israelites suffered, the more they multiplied and spread? This is the exact opposite of what the Egyptians wanted! God was gracious to His people, multiplying them even through suffering. Yet their lives became even worse. The Israelites were not just slaves—they were subjected to extremely hard labor.*

Let’s read on. Read verses 15–16.

¹⁵Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶“When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.”

Discussion: *So, Pharaoh’s first plan didn’t work. He tried to wipe out the Israelites by making them slaves and working them hard. Now comes “Plan B.” What is it? [Kill all the baby boys.] Yes, the king of Egypt commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill all the baby boys*



APPLICATION POINTS ARE WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF THE DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN BEING LEFT TO THE END OF THE LESSON.

right after they were born. How horrible! This would certainly wipe out the Israelites if all the males were killed! Let's see what God created next.

Application: *Many horrible things go on in our world today—just like this. Can God stop these things from happening too?*

*Let's see what happens. **Read verses 17-19.***

¹⁷But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.”

Discussion: *Wow! These Hebrew midwives feared and worshipped the LORD God. Isn't that amazing? God stopped Pharaoh's hand of death by working in the hearts of the Hebrew midwives. So these midwives were bold enough to disobey the most powerful man in the world!*

Application: *These midwives lied to Pharaoh when he asked them why the boys were still alive. But this is not the sort of lie like you and I tell. We lie to protect ourselves. They were lying to protect Israelite babies. More importantly, they were disobeying a man so they could obey God. Some day, you will have to decide if you are going to obey God or obey a person who wants you to disobey God. God will give you the strength to obey Him.*

*And look at how God blessed the midwives. **Read verses 20-21.***

²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

Discussion: *What did God give these midwives? [Families of their own.] What a blessing! They obeyed God and received a reward. God used these midwives to protect His people. The Israelites continued to multiply. Pharaoh's evil “Plan B” failed.*

*What will he try next? **Read verse 22.***

²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”



Discussion: *Pharaoh's third plan is even more wicked. Instead of relying on the midwives to do his dirty work, he commands ALL of the Egyptians to kill all the Israelite baby boys. How were they to kill them? [By drowning the boys in the Nile River.] How horrible! Do you think God can stop this from happening? Or will the Israelites have to continue to suffer for being God's people?*

Application: *God can stop all the suffering in the world. Yet, He allows much suffering for many different reasons. He is in total control, so everything works according to His good plan. This should bring you comfort even when troubles are happening in your life.*

Let's read on in Chapter Two. This story might be somewhat familiar to you.

*Listen closely. **Read Exodus 2:1-4.***

¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

Discussion: *This Israelite mother didn't want her baby boy to be drowned in the Nile, did she? Would God protect this baby from death?*

*Let's see what happens. **Read verses 5-9.***

⁵Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.



Discussion: *That’s pretty amazing, isn’t it? God not only saved this baby, but the baby’s mother was able to take care of him for a few years. How funny it is that this is Pharaoh’s daughter? Pharaoh’s own daughter is disobeying Pharaoh’s evil command!*

Let’s finish our reading. **Read verse 10.**

¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “Because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

Conclusion: *So here we have the story of the birth of Moses—the one who wrote this Book of Exodus. Moses was saved by God in an amazing way. He was now going to be raised as an Egyptian prince. How do you think God will use Moses in this difficult time for God’s people? We will just have to keep reading to find out!*



LESSON-AT-HOME

THE LESSON-AT-HOME SECTION IS THE CLOSING TIME EACH WEEK. BOOKMARKS ARE GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS THAT INCLUDE THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE AND A LESSON REVIEW. THE LESSON REVIEW CONTAINS WORDS AND PHRASES THAT CAN SPARK MEMORIES AS WELL AS CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS.

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 9:9) together.

Psalm 9:9 (ESV)

⁹The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Say: *The Israelites certainly were oppressed by the Egyptians. Pharaoh made them slaves, gave them hard labor, and attempted to kill all their baby boys. Where do we find safety in our times of trouble? In the LORD! He is stronger than the king of Egypt. He is our powerful protector.*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.