

SESSION 4

ESCAPING EGYPT

SESSION AIMS

To present an overview of the story of Moses and look at how it points ahead to Jesus, to reflect on both God's presence with his people and his power to rescue.

BIBLE REFERENCE

EXODUS 1-14

GAME: WHO AM I?

Before the session, prepare post-it notes, one for each person, with the name of a famous person or character written on each one.

To play the game, stick a post-it note on each young person's back. Their task is to identify the name they have been given by asking questions of the other group members. They can only ask questions that can be answered yes or no, for example, "Am I a man?", "Am I a singer?"

To get the group mixing, you could make the rule that they can only ask one question of any group member before moving on to talk to someone else.

You could provide a small prize for the first person to work out their secret identity.

WEEK 3 RECAP

Last week we saw the beginning of God's rescue plan set in motion. God chose one man – Abraham – and told him that he would make him into a great nation, that he would give him the land of Canaan for his descendants to live in, and that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed. What a promise! Abraham's descendants now number 70 and they live in Egypt on the best of the land. While the journey through the three generations to this point has been filled with turmoil, sibling rivalry and deceit, God's commitment to his promises never waver.

WHAT ARE WE COVERING THIS WEEK?

Today we're going to jump forward a few hundred years to the start of the second book in the Bible – the book of Exodus.

WATCH THE EPISODE

GROUP WORK

Discuss: What stood out to you from what we've heard today? Was there anything that was new to you, or are there any parts you have questions about?

Read Exodus 3:11-15 – this is part of the account of God's conversation with Moses at the burning bush.

How do you think Moses would have felt when God called him to lead the Israelites to freedom?

Surprised, scared, inadequate... In verse 11 he repeats the words, "Who am I?" He doesn't feel able to do the task.

What does this encounter teach us about God? How is Moses encouraged by this?

Try to draw out points such as God's power, his care for his people, the fact that he chose Moses even though Moses had made mistakes, and God's promise to be with Moses as he took on this task.

Draw attention to v14 where God reveals his name, "I Am," and try to draw out what this means – he is eternal and unchanging. He is the same God who made the covenant with Abraham, and his character is still the same. He will be faithful to do what he promised.

This must have given Moses confidence knowing that this God was with him and that God's power was far greater than Pharaoh's.

How can what we learn about God from the story of Moses encourage us today?

Remind the young people of the different parts of the story – the burning bush, going to Pharaoh, the plagues, the rescue at the Red Sea. Encourage them to think about how knowing God's presence and power to rescue etc. could help them in situations they might face today.

PRAY TO CLOSE