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Discover Your Bible Series

Revised  
Edition

*Discover*  
**EXODUS**  
LIFE LESSONS

**STUDY GUIDE**



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Part Two of a Two-Part Study

**STUDY GUIDE**

*Discover*  
**EXODUS**  
LIFE LESSONS



  
**FAITH  
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Christian Resources

Grand Rapids, Michigan

*And God spoke all these words:  
“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt,  
out of the land of slavery. . . .”* —Exodus 20:1-2

*The glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. . . .  
The cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day,  
and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the  
Israelites during their travels.* —Exodus 40:34, 38

We thank Carol Veldman Rudie for writing the original lesson material (1998) on which this revised study of Exodus is based. This edition incorporates suggestions by readers and small group leaders.

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# Contents

How to Study . . . . .	4
Map . . . . .	5
Introduction . . . . .	6
Glossary of Terms. . . . .	6
Lesson 1	
The Journey Continues. . . . .	10
Lesson 2	
God's Care for His People . . . . .	14
Lesson 3	
Fire on the Mountain . . . . .	18
Lesson 4	
Laws for Community Living. . . . .	22
Lesson 5	
The People Answer. . . . .	26
Lesson 6	
The Lord's Dwelling Place. . . . .	30
Lesson 7	
Specialized Servants. . . . .	34
Lesson 8	
More Worship Instructions . . . . .	38
Lesson 9	
Rebellion, Corruption. . . . .	42
Lesson 10	
Forgiveness . . . . .	46
Lesson 11	
Renewal . . . . .	50
Lesson 12	
The Lord with His People . . . . .	54
An Invitation and Prayer of Commitment . . . . .	59
Bibliography . . . . .	61
Evaluation Questionnaire	

# How to Study

The questions in this study booklet will help you discover for yourself what the Bible says. This is inductive Bible study—in which you will discover the message for yourself.

Questions are the key to inductive Bible study. Through questions you search for the writers' thoughts and ideas. The questions in this booklet are designed to help you in your quest for answers. You can and should ask your own questions too. The Bible comes alive with meaning for many people as they discover the exciting truths it contains. Our hope and prayer is that this booklet will help the Bible come alive for you.

The questions in this study are designed to be used with the New International Version of the Bible, but other translations can also be used.

**Step 1. Read each Bible passage several times.** Allow the ideas to sink in. Think about their meaning. Ask questions about the passage.

**Step 2. Answer the questions,** drawing your answers from the passage. Remember that the purpose of the study is to discover what the Bible says. Write your answers in your own words. If you use Bible study aids such as commentaries or Bible handbooks, do so only after completing your own personal study.

**Step 3. Apply the Bible's message** to your own life. Ask,

- What is this passage saying to me?
- How does it challenge me? Comfort me? Encourage me?
- Is there a promise I should claim? A warning I should heed?
- For what can I give thanks?

If you sense God speaking to you in some way, respond to God in a personal prayer.

**Step 4. Share your thoughts with someone else** if possible. This will be easiest if you are part of a Bible study group that meets regularly to share discoveries and discuss questions.

If you would like to learn of a study group in your area or would like information on training to start a small group Bible study,

- call toll-free 1-888-644-0814, e-mail [smallgroups@crcna.org](mailto:smallgroups@crcna.org), or visit [www.smallgroupministries.org](http://www.smallgroupministries.org)
- call toll-free 1-800-333-8300 or visit [www.FaithAliveResources.org](http://www.FaithAliveResources.org) (to order materials)

# Egypt and Sinai in Moses' Day



# Introduction

Part One of this study focused on Exodus 1-15, which reveals how God delivered his people from slavery—to show Egypt and all nations that the God of Israel is the one Lord over heaven and earth. The remaining chapters of Exodus (featured in Part Two) describe how God makes his people into a nation unlike any other—not for the purpose of being different, but ultimately to show God’s love to the world. In these chapters we see how Israel learns to trust in God, to believe that he will always take care of them and be with them. God has shown his faithfulness and great power in the ten plagues and in the crossing of the Red Sea (Ex. 7-14), and God will continue to provide for his people. But as the Israelites begin to learn important life lessons, God also begins to ask, “Will you now be faithful to me?”

The full narrative of Exodus mirrors the redemptive plan of God for his children, even today. It gives us a fascinating picture of God’s purpose throughout history—to provide a divine mediator, Jesus Christ, who came to free us from our slavery to sin and lead us into faith-filled, full life with God forever (John 8:34-36; 10:10).

## Glossary of Terms

**Abraham**—father of the Israelite nation, called by God to leave his homeland and begin a family of people who would be faithful to the Lord and live in the land of Canaan. Abraham is renowned for his faith in God’s promises (Gen. 12:1-7; 15:6, 13-16; Heb. 11:8-16). He is also called “the father of all who believe” in Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:11).

**acacia**—a type of tree in the Sinai region that grew to a height of about twenty feet. Its wood was hard, durable, and close-grained.

**Amalekites**—a nomadic people who lived in the Sinai peninsula and were often a threat to the Israelites wandering through the desert. Descendants of Amalek, a grandson of Esau (see Gen. 36:12), they were distant cousins of the Israelites.

**angel (of the Lord)**—a special agent from God who represents, brings a message from, and is sometimes identified with God.

**anointing**—an application of oil or ointment (by pouring or sprinkling) for consecration to God. People were anointed to a special task or office, such as the priesthood (Ex. 29:7), and objects were anointed for special use in the worship of God (29:21, 36).

**ark of the covenant**—a wooden chest overlaid with gold and placed in the innermost room (Most Holy Place) of the tabernacle. It



symbolized the presence of God among his people, wherever they traveled, because it rested in the place where God would meet with them (see Ex. 25:10-22; 40:36-38).

**Asherah poles**—wooden poles used by Canaanites in their worship of Asherah, a goddess of fertility (see Ex. 34:13; Deut. 7:5).

**atonement**—from the Hebrew word meaning “to cover over”; implies a sacrifice that made amends for wrongdoing. In the Lord’s covenant with Israel, an animal sacrifice served as atonement for sin (see Ex. 29:36). After Jesus came as “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29) and sacrificed his own perfect life to cover human sin, no other sacrifice for sin was necessary (Heb. 9-10).

**Canaanites**—the inhabitants of Canaan (see map), the land the Lord promised to give to Abraham and his descendants.

**cherubim**—angel-like creatures usually represented as winged figures. God instructed Moses to make cherubim statues that faced each other on the atonement cover of the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:17-22). Cherubim are most commonly associated with God’s throne, as guardians and as throne-bearers (see Ps. 18:10; 80:1; Ezek. 1:4-24; 10:1-22; 28:14).

**consecrate**—to set apart for holy purposes; to dedicate to God.

**covenant**—a mutually binding agreement between two parties; usually both parties agree to accept certain responsibilities.

**cubit**—distance of about 18 inches (46 cm) from the tips of an average man’s fingers to his elbow.

**Desert of Sin**—a wild area of sparse grassland in the Sinai peninsula (Ex. 16:1); the word “Sin” here probably derives from “Sinai.”

**ephod**—a garment to be worn by the high priest for service to the Lord in the tabernacle. The details about its construction and design are not precisely clear (see Ex. 28:6-14). The *NIV Study Bible* notes that an ephod is “sometimes a holy garment associated with the priesthood (Ex. 28:6-30; 39:2-26; Lev. 8:7) and at other times a pagan object associated with idols” (see Judg. 8:27; 17:5; 18:14-17). Archaeologists have uncovered statues of gods clothed in a rigid sheath-like garment that appears similar to the ephod prescribed for use in the Lord’s tabernacle.

**exodus**—exit, departure, literally “the road out” (from Greek, *ex* + *hodos*).

**fear of God**—To fear God means to respect and honor God with awe and humble devotion (see Ex. 1:17; 14:31).

**Feast of Unleavened Bread**—celebrated by the Israelites to remember their deliverance by the Lord from slavery in Egypt (see Ex. 12:17-20).

**Hebrew**—a general term for the descendants of Abraham, a descendant of Eber. The *NIV Study Bible* states that Eber “is the origin of the Hebrew word for ‘Hebrew’” (see Gen. 10:21, 25; 11:10-12:9) and that Egyptian and Canaanite correspondence from around 1375 B.C. (about 75 years after the exodus) refer to an ominous fear of people called “Habiru” (or “Apiru”), a word probably referring to the Hebrews.

**high priest**—The high priest represents God to the people and the people to God, serving as a mediator. All who served in the Lord’s tabernacle were priests, and they were led by the high priest. It was the high priest’s role to make the offering for all the sins of the people once each year on the Day of Atonement. That role pointed to the work of Jesus Christ, the ultimate High Priest (and mediator), who made an offering of himself for human sin “once for all” so that “sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary” (see Lev. 16; Heb. 9:6-7, 11-14; 10:1-18).

**holy**—to be set apart for special service to God (see Ex. 16:23; 19:6, 23; Lev. 20:26).

**Holy Spirit**—the Spirit of God (see Ex. 31:3). The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, who comes to live in believers’ hearts today to guarantee that they will receive all of God’s promises and to empower them to live holy lives (see Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38; 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 3:17-18; Heb. 9:8).

**Isaac**—Abraham and Sarah’s son, who inherited all the promises God made with Abraham.

**Israel**—another name for Jacob (Ex. 1:1). Later the name is used to refer to the nation of Israel that descended from Jacob’s twelve sons.

**Jacob**—Isaac’s son whom God renamed Israel (Gen. 32:28). The descendants of Jacob’s twelve sons became the twelve tribes of the people of Israel.

**Jethro**—Moses’ father-in-law and priest of Midian; also known as Reuel (Ex. 2:16-18; 4:18; 18:1).

**Joshua**—a military leader in Israel, first mentioned in Exodus 17:9; he was Moses’ aide (Ex. 24:13; 33:11) and became the leader of God’s people after Moses (see Josh. 1:1-9). Moses gave this name to him; Joshua was formerly known as Hoshea (see Num. 13:16). The name *Joshua* means “the LORD saves,” and the Greek version of this Hebrew name is *Jesus* (see Matt. 1:21 and its footnote).

**Midian**—desert region east of Egypt and south of Canaan, inhabited by nomadic shepherds (see map). The Midianites were descendants of Abraham through his wife Keturah (Gen. 25:1-4), whom he married after Sarah died (Gen. 23).

**Moses**—the man chosen by God to lead his people out of Egypt and as they lived in the wilderness before entering the promised land of Canaan. Moses received from God and taught Israel the laws that would govern them as God’s chosen people.

**Passover**—annual festival celebrated by the Israelites to commemorate their deliverance from slavery in Egypt (Ex. 12).

**Pharaoh**—the title used by kings of Egypt. The Egyptians believed their kings were sons of their gods.

**priests**—officials who served in the Lord’s tabernacle and belonged to the tribe of Levi. See also **high priest**.

**redeem**—to buy back; to deliver or set free through a ransom payment or other provision. The firstborn sons of the Israelites were redeemed from the plague of death in Egypt by the blood of the Passover lamb (Ex. 12:1-13, 21-23; 13:12-16). The Passover pointed to redemption from spiritual death, paid by the blood of Jesus Christ through his death on the cross for all who believe in him as Savior, the one who delivers us from our slavery to sin (John 8:34-36; Heb. 9:27-28; 10:10).

**Sabbath**—a day of rest at the end of each week, designated as a special gift to the people of Israel (see Ex. 16:23-30; 20:8-11; 31:12-18; 35:2-3).

**sanctuary**—a holy place set aside for God and his worship.

**shekel**—a unit of weight in gold or silver used in the barter economy of the ancient world.

**Spirit of God**—see **Holy Spirit**.

**tabernacle**—the large, decorated tent built at the Lord’s direction as the place where he would live among his people and meet with them (Ex. 25-31).

**Urim and Thummim**—marked stones worn in a pouch over the high priest’s heart and used as sacred lots to discern God’s will (Ex. 28:30; Num. 27:21).

# Lesson 1

## Exodus 16

### The Journey Continues

#### Introductory Notes

The dramatic story of the Israelites' release from slavery, covered in the first fifteen chapters of Exodus, leaves an unorganized group of former slaves at the edge of a barren wilderness. As we will see in the remaining chapters of Exodus, these people will be gradually transformed into a recognizable nation whose unity is rooted in trusting in the continuing presence of the Lord. The people experience great hardships as they travel through the desert, and when problems arise, they often become fearful and anxious. But in each case the Lord resolves the problem and leads his people to deeper trust in him—at least for a while.

1. *Exodus 16:1-5*

a. How do the people respond to their situation?

b. What does the Lord promise?

c. What is God's purpose in testing the people?

**2. *Exodus 16:6-12***

a. Against whom do Moses and Aaron say the people are grumbling?

b. How does the Lord reveal himself to the people, and why does he promise to help them?

**3. *Exodus 16:13-20***

a. What does the Lord provide for food?

b. What requirements are associated with the provisions of food?

**4. *Exodus 16:21-30***

a. What is different about the seventh day? Why?

b. What pattern of disobedience is repeated on the seventh day?

c. How does the Lord respond to this?



# Discover Your Bible Series

## *Bible Studies for Small Groups*

**I**n Part Two of this study of Exodus, the people of Israel receive God's law for their nation, and they learn how to honor, worship, and live for their Lord. Through Moses they receive the Ten Commandments and a system of sacrifices, and they learn to make beautiful furnishings for worship. Despite the people's rebellion at times, God constantly guides and provides for them along their way to the promised land.

As in Part One of this study, all these things reveal God's powerful work and faithfulness among his people so that they can be a blessing to all nations. In this way God continues working out his plan to deliver people of all nations from their slavery in sin to enjoy new life, through Jesus Christ, his one and only Son.

*Discover Exodus: Life Lessons* is the second part of a two-part study of the book of Exodus. Part One, titled *Discover Exodus: Special Delivery*, features 12 lessons covering Exodus 1-15, and Part Two features 12 lessons covering Exodus 16-40. This material is intended for small group Bible study, but it can also be used profitably for personal study. Guides for leaders and students are available.

The approach to Bible study in this series emphasizes discovery (the reader discovers what the Bible has to say by asking questions and seeking answers from the passage studied). This is an effective and enjoyable way to study God's Word.

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