

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Exodus 5

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **The Narrative**
- **The Prayer**
- **The Application**

I. The Narrative

Read Exodus 5:1-9

- How is it encouraging to see that God’s choice of Aaron and Moses was not based on who they were or what they had done?
- **Read Exodus 5:1.** What in this verse shows the confidence both Aaron and Moses had going to Pharaoh? How was that confidence shattered in verse 2?
- How is the question Pharaoh asked in verse 2 a good question? What do you think his motivation was in asking it? Can a good question be asked with bad motivations? Explain your answer.
- In what ways is Pharaoh being portrayed as the “seed of the serpent?” Read Genesis 3:15 to help answer this question.

Read Exodus 5:10-14

- Compare Exodus 5:10 with Exodus 5:1. How does Pharaoh’s response in verse 10 set up a showdown between Yahweh and Pharaoh? Read the following quote to help answer this question.

- *The critical issue to be settled is nothing less than who is in charge, who has the authority over the people of Israel and ultimately over all nations and all of creation: the God of Israel or the gods of Egypt, manifest in Pharaoh. – Goran Larsson*
- How does verse 14 show the severity of the situation the Israelites now find themselves in?

Read Exodus 5:15-21

- Why did the Israelites turn against Moses and Aaron so quickly (5:19-21)? What couldn't they see? If you had been in their place, how would you have responded?
- The people of Israel persistently complained about God's will and criticized His leaders. Why do you think these are such common sins among God's People?
- Have you ever seen someone who is suffering become bitter, turn against the church and its leaders, and appeal to other sources for relief? How can you encourage such a person to remain true to God?
- When have you been tempted to think that not following God would be easier or better?

II. The Prayer

- Why do we cry out to God when we find ourselves in trouble? How does prayer assume God's power and sovereignty over our situation?
- How have you seen God's sovereignty demonstrated in the past? Which is more encouraging for you, remembering such events or reading the promises in the Bible?

Read Exodus 5:22-23

- How does Moses' prayer show his confidence in God's sovereignty and power?
- How does Moses' prayer expose his doubt in God's love and wisdom?
- How did Moses' expectation get in the way of his trust in God?

- Have you ever had unmet expectations that have hurt relationships in the past? Have unmet expectations ever distanced you from God?

Read Mark 4:35-41

- What in this story proves the disciples' belief that Jesus was powerful?
- What were they questioning when they woke up Jesus from his sleep?
- How is Jesus' love proven in this story? **Read Philippians 2:5-8 and Hebrews 4:15** to help answer this question.
- Compare verse 37 with verse 41 and pay attention to the word *great*. What do you think the disciples learned from this experience?

III. The Application

- Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you questioned the love of God or the wisdom of God? What did you do?
- Why is praying to God always the right answer?
- How was Moses' prayer honest? Was it good that he was honest with God?
- Do you agree with the following comment?
 - *(Moses' Prayer) is not atheism or even rejection of God, but a baring of the emotions to the Almighty.... This is the biblical way of dealing with anger and frustration, rather than suppressing it. - Godfrey Ashby*
- Read Palm 88 and discuss why God would have inspired someone to write this Psalm.