

Session 3: A Weak Leader, a Strong God (Ex. 4:18-7:5):

Read Ex. 4:18-31:

1. What is meant in Ex. 4:22 when the LORD calls Israel his firstborn son? What connection does this have, considering the final plague (spoiler alert!) when God kills all the firstborn sons (cf. Ex. 11:4-5, 12:29-32)?
 - a.
 - b.
2. What two promises are kept in this passage? See especially Ex. 4:31. After you think about it on your own for a moment, check out Ex. 3:18 and Gen. 50:24. What does God's promise-keeping say about him?
 - a.
 - b.

Resistance From the Foe:

Read Ex. 5:1-14:

1. Note how Pharaoh continues refusing things. See Ex. 5:2. Who was it that God said would listen to Moses? Check out Ex. 3:18. What did God promise about Pharaoh? See Ex. 4:21.
 - a.
 - b.
2. What does Pharaoh admit about the Israelites in Ex. 5:5? Recall Ex. 2:23. Is this the same Pharaoh from Ex. 1?
 - a.
 - b.
3. Note Ex. 5:4. Why do you think Pharaoh commanded Moses and Aaron to also join the Israelite slaves in their work? Didn't Pharaoh realize Moses was God's chosen instrument and Aaron was his mouthpiece?
 - a.
 - b.
4. How did things fare for Moses and Aaron when they did what God commanded? See Ex. 5: 6-9. What happened to the Israelites as a result of this (Ex. 5:14)?
 - a.
 - b.

Resistance From Friends:

Read Ex. 5:15-21

1. Notice what the foremen of Israel say to Aaron and Moses in 5:21. Remember what the Hebrew called Moses in 2:14?

- a.
- 2. Notice Moses' struggle especially when his own people resist him. See 5:22-23. Pharaoh blamed Aaron and Moses. Who does Moses blame?
 - a.

Reassurance From the LORD:
Read Ex. 6:1-8

- 1. Notice how God is revealing himself. How is this different from God's appearance to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? See Ex. 6:3.
 - a.
- 2. How else does God reassure Moses in the face of resistance? See 6:4-8.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
 - h.

Reminder of God's Multiplying Power and Promises:
Read Ex. 6:9-30

- 1. How many offspring are listed in Ex. 6:14-25? How is the first Pharaoh's plan going? Do you suppose God can faithfully multiply his people under Pharaoh as he did since Jacob bore Reuben? Did you notice how this connects God's promise to the patriarchs to Aaron and Moses?
 - a.
 - b.
- 2. That God's promise to multiply Abraham's offspring is fulfilled and such a genealogy is listed here is interesting considering Ex. 6:9. Hadn't God promised that the people would listen to Moses? But even as Moses struggles with this, how does God reaffirm him?
 - a.

God Reaffirms His Plan:
Read Ex. 7:1-5

- 1. To whom else did God make Moses like God? See Ex. 4:16. Why would God choose to speak through someone like Moses?
 - a.
 - b.
- 2. Notice how God is still multiplying, but how has it changed? See Ex. 7:3. Why would God harden Pharaoh's heart? Is it so simple as just God hardening Pharaoh's heart? What is he up to in doing this? See especially Ex. 7:5.

- a.
- b.

Take Away: (2 mins)

I urge you to consider two things this week:

1. Meditate on Moses' struggles and God's constant presence. God didn't always step in when Moses wanted him to, but God always came in his own time.
2. Meditate on your own struggles. Have you been groaning to God? How is God reminding you of his faithfulness even while you sin? Remember: just as God could handle the Israelite's and Moses' groaning, he can handle yours!

Closing Prayer: (2 mins)

Dear Heavenly Father, who else is like you? Who else would hear his groaning people -- even as they blame you? Who else would deliver and redeem such a people? Considering your great deeds for the Israelites, we are bold to ask you to act in our lives this week. Grant us confidence to pray to you because you have been faithful to so many sinners before us. Grant us your deliverance each day this week and the faith to trust that you are always faithful. In Jesus' name, Amen.