



Studies 1-3

Get Free to Serve

EXODUS

Introduction to Exodus

Exodus is the riveting story of the foundation of the nation of Israel—their slavery in Egypt, the plague of death which ‘passed over’ the Israelites, their journey to freedom through the Red Sea, and their experience at Mount Sinai. These events defined who they were. As we read in Exodus 29:46, *They (Israel) will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.* However, this is not just a history of a nation, because in these events the LORD reveals who he is — the God who acts to fulfill his promises, to save his people, and to gather a people for and to himself.

On top of that, through Israel’s experience God reveals what we need to know about ourselves— our world is enslaved to false Gods and lies about the true God. We are helpless to free ourselves - but God himself, alone, has saved us.

In Exodus then, we see the pattern which is set for the rest of the Bible—the LORD brings salvation for his people through judgment. In Israel’s case they were saved, as Egypt was judged.

Exodus was therefore Israel’s ‘gospel’. It was the prototype of what we have now seen fulfilled in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has acted, alone, to save us. We are no longer slaves to sin and judgment, but have been given freedom to serve the living and true God, through his Son the Lord Jesus.

Exodus, then, is our book and challenges how we think about God, ourselves, and God’s work in the world. It encourages us to walk each day trusting the one who has made promises to us and has an unbroken record of keeping his promises no matter what circumstances around us may try to persuade us otherwise.

Term Outline

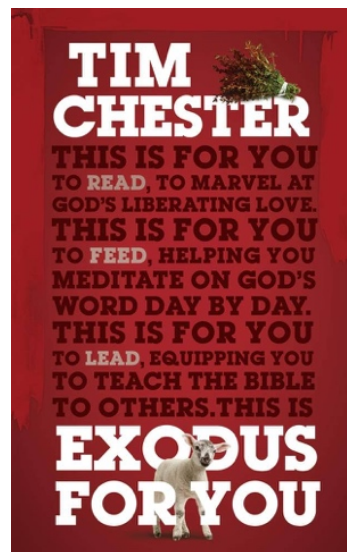
Sunday	Text	Title
27 th April	1-2	Can God deliver?
4 th May Greater Sydney Anglican Churches Day of Prayer		
4 th May	3-4:17	The LORD, and his deliverer
11 th May	4:18-7:7	In weakness the LORD is strong
18 th May	7-10	The LORD alone is God
25 th May	11-12	We've been passed over
1 st June	13:17-15:21	Our journey to freedom
8 th June	15:22-18:27	Trust in the LORD
15 th June	19-24	Set free to serve
22 nd June	32-34	Don't turn away from the LORD
22 nd June - GG Leaders meeting on Sunday at 11:50am		
29 th June	25-31:18, 35-40	The LORD among us

Resources

Exodus For You – Tim Chester

The *For You* series are great little commentaries to complement your Bible reading. They work through the text section by section and verse by verse so you don't miss a thing and gain a sense of how it all fits together.

They are short and simple enough to read through easily but also insightful and challenging in a way that helps you understand and apply the word of God to your life.



How To Read The Bible Better - Richard Chin



No matter how you feel about the world's bestselling book, we can all use a guiding hand to help us make the most of our Bible reading. In this short, readable book, pastor and preacher Richard Chin offers you a step-by-step guide to better Bible reading: how to make sense of the Scriptures, how to avoid the most common pitfalls, and how to let God's word shape your life.

We have also made a study booklet to go with this book to help you reflect on the things you are learning. Find it on the Grow What You Know book table.

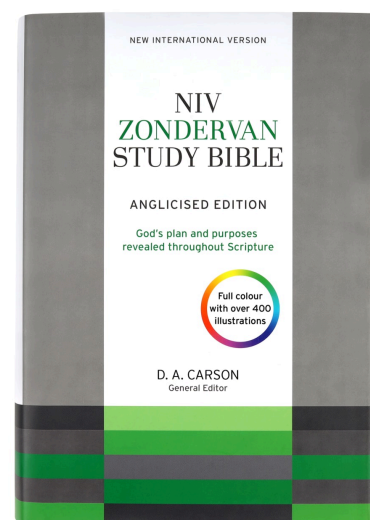
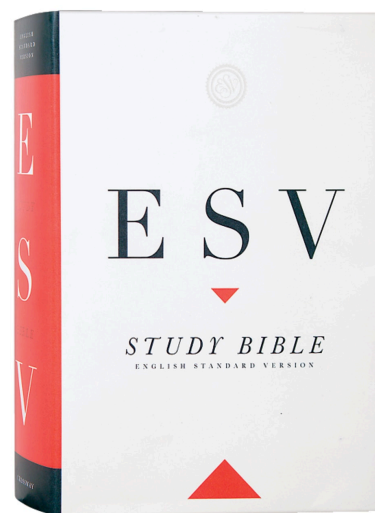
Study Bibles

A good study Bible is the no.1 discipleship tool in the Christian toolbox for people who want to look intently into the word of God and be transformed.

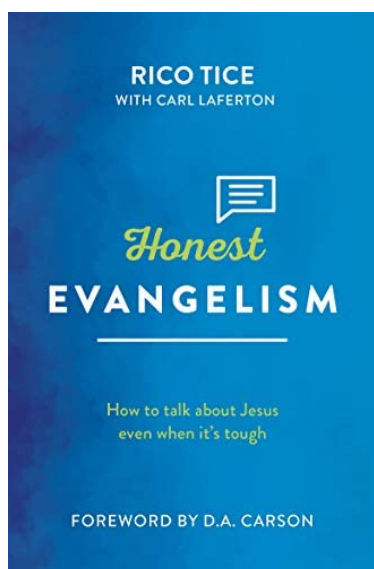
The best feature of Study Bibles are the notes on every page and every part of Scripture to help the reader understand what God is saying. They are also full of maps, pictures, and charts, as well as articles on doctrine and Christian living.

They can be expensive but are absolutely worth the cost.

Recommendations are *ESV Study Bible*, *NIV Zondervan Study Bible*, or the *NIV Study Bible*. You can purchase from good Christian book stores or from the *Grow What You Know Table*.



Honest Evangelism - Rico Tice



Hostility and hunger - they're the responses to the message of Jesus. The first is painful, the second is wonderful, and Rico Tice is honest about both.

Short, clear, realistic and humorous, this book will challenge you to be honest in your conversations about Jesus, help you to know how to talk about him, and thrill you that God can and will use ordinary people to change eternal destinies.

Discipleship Goals Bookmark

This bookmark is a great tool to help us grow mature in Christ. Every year we encourage everyone to write down 3 discipleship goals.

Here are some ideas:

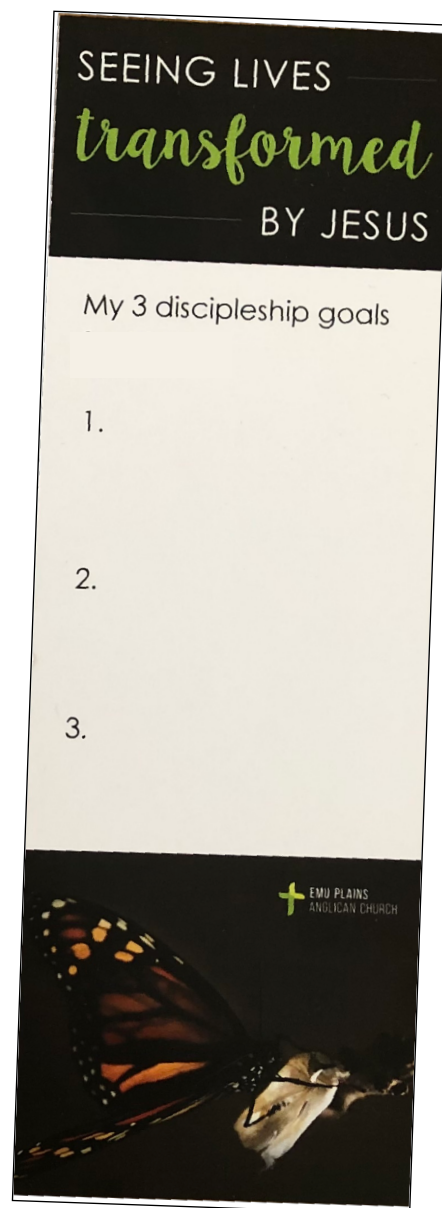
- Growing in a spiritual discipline like Bible reading, praying, gathering at church, serving, giving, or evangelism.
- Putting off sins like pride, greed or lust etc.
- Putting on Christ in growing humility, patience, or self-control.
- Deepening knowledge and conviction of the Christian faith through reading, studying, and reflecting with the help good books.
- Developing a ministry gift like explaining the gospel, reading the Bible with someone, or leading a small group.

Share your discipleship goals with your growth group so you can keep one another accountable by regularly asking how you are going and pray about them together so we might grow as disciples.

On the flip-side of the bookmark is 3 people

I'm praying will come to trust Jesus. These are 3 people God has placed in your life who don't know Jesus. You are praying they would come to trust Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. This will mean praying for growth in your relationship, for opportunities to teach the gospel, and asking for God's grace through the Spirit to bring them to repentance and faith in Christ.

Not sure what to pray? Search *'18 prayers to pray for unbelievers'*



Week 1 Sermon Notes: Can God deliver?
Exodus 1-2

Something that struck me from God's word to share with GG...

Week 1 Can God deliver?

Exodus 1-2

Getting Started:

What events do you remember surrounding the Exodus from Egypt?

Pray for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

You may feel familiar with the events described in Exodus, but let's take this opportunity to consider them more carefully and feel their weight.

Read Genesis 12:1-3 & 15:1-6

Read Exodus 1

Abram had a son Isaac, and he had a son Jacob (also called Israel). How has God kept his promises to date?

Note in the table the episodes revealing God's promise being kept, and likewise their progress under threat

<i>Being kept</i>	<i>Under threat</i>
1:1-7	1:8-14
1:12	1:15-16
1:17-21	1:22

Read Exodus 2:1-10

How does God meet the latest threat to fulfilling his promises?

Describe the ironies you notice here in how God progresses his plan against such incredible threats?

Moses grew up, fled Egypt, married and had a son such that a long time passed.

Read Exodus 2:23-25

What do these words reveal about Israel, and God, and what is unfolding?

Why is God saying this?

What does God show us about his ability and willingness to deliver on his promises?

Consider the experience of Israel in Egypt. How does their need point to ours, God's power to meet them in that need reflect how he does ours, and God raising up Moses point to him raising up Jesus?

Consider the time frame over which these events unfolded. From Genesis 12 to Exodus 1, and Exodus 1 till the end of chapter 2. How does this assist or challenge how you think about trusting God's promises to us now?

Prayer Starters

- Thank God that he remembers his promises
- Praise God that he is willing and able to deliver on his promises
- Ask God to enable us to trust him and his timing, even as we experience suffering now, in hope of his promises to come

Growing Growth Group Suggestion

Plan to call or catch up with someone from the group during the week to check in with how they're going. Or plan to pray for your group and let them know when you have done it.

Are there any people I should follow up this week?

Week 2 Sermon Notes: The LORD, and his deliverer
Exodus 3-4:17

Something that struck me from God's word to share with GG...

Week 2: The LORD, and his deliverer

Exodus 3-4:17

Getting Started:

How do you get to know other people and what they're like?

Pray for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

Read Exodus 3:1-4:23

How does God gain Moses' attention and what does this encounter reveal about God in 3:1-6?

What is God's plan for his people, Egypt and Moses in 3:8-12?

God reveals himself in a new way to Moses and Israel here, by his name. How does this unfold and what might it mean?

What does the ultimatum to Pharaoh in verses 3:18-20 reveal about how the LORD's people should respond to him, how Pharaoh should respond, how Pharaoh will respond and finally how the LORD will act (see also 4:22-23)?

Cast your eye again over each time Moses speaks to the LORD. What do you notice about his response to the LORD here?

Why is God saying this?

How does John's gospel in particular show Jesus identifying with the LORD's name given here, and Moses' role, and the place of signs?

How has this passage helped you understand the character of God and how we relate to him? And challenges you still feel?

Prayer Starters

- Praise God he is the LORD
- Thank God that he has revealed himself to us fully and finally in the Lord Jesus and all he has done
- Pray that God by His Spirit would enable us to have our expectations of the LORD shaped by what he has revealed about himself

Growing Growth Group Suggestion

Share with one another a ministry you are involved with and prayer suggestions for it (either one at church or beyond) and pray together. You may have time for one or two, but can do others in the future.

Are there any people I should follow up this week?

Week 3 Sermon Notes: In weakness the LORD is strong
Exodus 4:18-7:7

Something that struck me from God's word to share with GG...

Week 3: In weakness the LORD is strong

Exodus 4:18-7:7

Getting Started:

Share examples of something we usually view as strong.

Pray for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

Read Exodus 4:21-23

What plan does the LORD tell Moses?

Read Exodus 5:1-6:5

How does Moses first visit to Pharaoh play out and what is the effect?

How strong is Moses shown to be in the face of Pharaoh's strength?

How do the Israelites respond?

How does Moses?

And the LORD?

Why is God saying this?

Divide up in your group one of each of these reading Mark 8:31-33, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Philippians 2:5-11.

How does Moses' and the Israelites' experience foreshadow Jesus own experience?

What expectations then should we have, united with Christ?

How might our 'emptiness' apart from the LORD's 'fulness' shape how we live as disciples of Christ each day?

Prayer Starters

- Thank the LORD for his power shown in 'weakness'
- Ask God by his Spirit to deepen us in our appreciation of Jesus' humiliation, suffering, and vindication
- Ask that we may be enabled to endure through hardship in faithfulness through the power of God at work in us

Growing Growth Group Suggestion

Why not plan a catch up with one another over a meal for some time this term. When will it be, and what arrangements need to be made?

Are there any people I should follow up this week?



EMU PLAINS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sharing life