

Chapter 5 - Study Guide -The Path

Exodus 1:8-11, 13-22

Exodus 2:1-15

Exodus 3:1-20

Exodus 4:1-17, 20-23, 28-31

Exodus 7:14-24

Exodus 11:4-10

Exodus 12:1-32, 50-51

Reflective Questions

- What was surprising (or interesting or exciting) to you in this week's chapter?
- What challenges you about this week's story?
- Was there anything that you found confusing from this week's chapter?
- Where does this story connect with your life? Where do you hear God speaking in this story to you as an individual? Where is God speaking to us as a community?
- Moses is one of the most important biblical figures, yet one of the first things we learn about Moses is that he killed an Egyptian and hid the body. How does this fit with your childhood image of Moses? What might we learn from this part of Moses' life story?
- Moses is taking his usual, daily walk with his sheep when God appears to him in the burning bush. The Bible tells us that Moses had to "turn aside" to see and encounter God. What might this say to us about how we see and encounter God? Have you ever had to step off your normal path in order to experience God more fully? What was that like?
- Moses has an amazing encounter with God, but he still doesn't feel "good enough" to answer God's call. Moses worries that he isn't eloquent in speech, and he asks God to send someone else. Have you ever felt "not good enough" to serve God? How might God's response to Moses speak to you?
- Throughout the story of the plagues, the Bible tells us again and again that Pharaoh's "heart was hardened." What do you think that means?
- Sometimes it is Pharaoh himself who hardens his heart, and sometimes the Bible says that God hardens Pharaoh's heart. What do you think the difference might be between those two descriptions? What are the effects of a hardened heart in the Bible? What effects do you see today of hardened hearts?
- This chapter tells of the first Passover, and the institution of the Passover meal that Jews observe to this day. You may see some similarities in this story to that of Jesus' final days. The Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples was likely a Passover meal (Mark 14:12-25), a branch of hyssop is used to feed Jesus sour wine when he is crucified (John 19:29), and Jesus is referred to in John 1:29 as the Passover Lamb. How might we understand those parts of the life of Jesus in light of this story?