



Exodus Devotional Series - "I Am who I am"

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

- Exodus 3:13-14

Summary:

What will you find in each devotional? You will find the scriptures for each devotional, a summary of the content of the scriptures. You will also find a sections titled "bottom line," key points, key scriptures, and self-reflection questions. Those sections are just to help guide you. They are what I got from the text, you might read the scripture and get something complete different. Thats ok! God will speak differently to you than He did to me. I would recommend that you go through the devotional with a notebook/piece of paper. Jot down notes of what's going on in the text, what are the key takeaways are, how God is speaking to you through the text, and answer the questions. You could read this online or print it out and write on it.

What is this for?

This devotional series goes hand and hand with our 8-week sermon series with the same title. This series covers all forty chapters of the book of Exodus. You can do it at your own pace, but if you start it on the second of December, you will finish it the day after we finish the sermon series. This is the first eleven devotionals, with the rest being release throughout December. This series is just a tool for your faith, use it! Be intentionally by spending time with the Lord to learn more about Him and how He works in our lives.

Devotional One

Exodus 1: 1-11

Main Points:

1. God honored his promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (v. 1-7)
 2. God can still honor his promises through our pain (v. 8-14)
 3. We should always fear God more than authority (v. 15-22)
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Key Verses:

(v. 5-7) The nation of Israel is developed.

(v. 10-12) Israel being oppressed.

(v. 18-21) Midwives feared God more than the pharaoh.

Self Reflection questions:

1. How can you be reassured that God fulfills His promises after reading this chapter?
2. What will it take to have the same kind of healthy fear of God like the midwives did?
3. How is or how has God honored his promises through your pain/growth?

Scriptures: Exodus 1:1-11 - "Israel as a Nation"

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: **2** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, **3** Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, **4** Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. **5** All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. **6** Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. **7** But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. **9** And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. **10** Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." **11** Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

Summary:

Jacob's descendants multiplied and multiplied and became a nation. That nation was under the rule of the Egyptian government. The Egyptian King treated the Hebrew people very harshly. He saw their mass population and made a decree that all baby boys were to be killed.

Bottom Line:

God is still present and moving in the midst of chaos. Even when we are slaves to things of this world. God is present. God is moving. Even when we feel like we are under enemy rule, God is present. God is moving.

Devotional Two

Exodus 2: 1-10

Main Points:

1. The Hebrew woman had to make a choice out of desperation. One that would lead to Israel's people being freed. (v. 3)

2. There are no coincidences, only God moving. (v. 5-8)

3. Moses was destined to draw out the Israelite people out of Egypt from the beginning. (v. 10)

Key Verses:

(v. 3-4) Moses was placed in the Nile river in a basket to die.

(v. 6) The Pharaoh's daughter takes pity on the boy.

(v. 9-10) The Pharaoh's daughter hires the boy's mother to take care of the baby and gives him his name, Moses.

Self Reflection questions:

1. Have you ever had to make a choice out of desperation, like Moses' mother?

2. Do you have a time in your life that feels like a coincidence but is just God moving in your life?

3. How can you take someone in from your sphere of influence and help them, like Pharaoh's daughter.

Scriptures: Exodus 2:1-10 - "Birth of Moses"

1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. **3** When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. **4** And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

5 Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. **6** When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." **7** Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" **8** And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. **9** And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. **10** When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Summary:

A Hebrew mother who had given birth to a baby boy under the decree that stated that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed had to make a choice out of desperation. She let the baby as long as it possibly could without being caught. When he became too old, she placed him in a basket and put him in the river. Now, who finds him? The daughter of the Pharaoh of course! She took pity on the child, took it in as her own, and hired the mother to nurse it. She named him Moses. Moses sounds like the Hebrew word to "draw out of"

Bottom Line:

This story feels like a coincidence, that the man who would lead Israel out of Egypt and was the first major leader of Israel was just found by the Pharaoh's daughter. This story is no coincidence, it is one hundred percent God moving in the life of Moses. Moses was handpicked to lead Israel before he was even born.

Devotional Three

Exodus 2: 11-25

Main Points:

1. Moses fled from the fear and guilt of his sins (v. 11-15)
 2. Moses defending the women at the well shows his true character (v. 16-20)
 3. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew. (v. 23-25)
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Key Verses:

(v. 15) Moses fleeing from his sin and shame

(v. 16-17) Moses helps the women at the well

(v. 23-25) Israel cried out to God.

Self Reflection questions:

1. What of some ways that you have fled from the guilt of your sins like Moses did?
2. Does your true character show through your actions? Why or why not?
3. In what ways have you felt God respond when you have cried out in anguish or pain?

Scriptures: Exodus 2:11-25 - “Moses flees and Israel’s groaning”

11 One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. **12** He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. **13** When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” **14** He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” **15** When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. **18** When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?” **19** They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.” **20** He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” **21** And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. **22** She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

23 During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. **24** And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **25** God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

Summary:

When Moses is older, he beats a man to death, and flees from his crime. He makes his way to Midian and marries one of the priest's daughters after helping them at the well and they start a family. Interesting to note here, they name their firstborn son, Gershom, because it sounds like the Hebrew word for sojourner, which Moses is in Midian. God felt the nation of Israel cry out to God in anguish. He felt the nation cry out and knew exactly how He was going to get them free.

Bottom Line:

Moses sins but his true character is not defined by his sins, but by his actions after the fact. How he protected the daughters of the priest at the well from the shepherds and helped them get water for their father's flock, shows his true nature. He ran from his sin because of fear of death. Israel was hurting and cried out to God. And God knew just who He was going to use to save Israel.

Devotional Four

Exodus 3: 1-22

Main Points:

1. God can and will talk to us in extraordinary ways (v. 2-6)
2. There is nowhere we can hide from God and our sins (v. 1)
3. God handpicks us for roles within His kingdom (v. 7-12)

Key Verses:

(v. 14) "I am who I am"

(v. 8) God promises Moses a land filled with milk and honey for Israel.

(v. 19) The Pharaoh will only be convinced by a mighty hand.

Self Reflection questions:

1. In what ways have you felt God talk to you in an unexpected way? (ex. Nature, music, another person, etc.)
2. In what ways have you seen yourself be hesitant to answer God's call because you do not seem "fit for the job."
3. What handpicked role has God chosen you for?

Scriptures: Exodus 3:1-22 - "The Burning Bush"

1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. **3** And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." **4** When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **6** And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. **7** Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, **8** and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. **9** And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. **10** Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." **11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" **12** He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'" **15** God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. **16** Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, 'I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, **17** and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.'" **18** And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' **19** But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. **20** So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. **21** And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, **22** but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

Summary:

God speaks to Moses in an extraordinary way, through a burning bush. God has called Moses to go back to Egypt to save Israel from Pharaoh and the Egyptians. God promises to not only protect Moses and his people, but lead them to the promise land. A perfect place for the Israelites to reside. God tells Moses that this is no easy task but He will guide and provide.

Bottom Line:

God has chosen Moses as the person to save Israel from captivity, and lead them to the promise land. Moses is very hesitant and does not think he is the right man for the job.

Devotional Five

Exodus 4: 1-23, 27-31

Main Points:

1. God's power is revealed through our weakness (v. 1-5)
 2. God uses imperfect people (v. 10-12)
 3. God provides support when we have doubts (v. 13-17)
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Key Verses:

(v. 3-4) God's first sign to Moses

(v. 11-12) Who is the God of creation?

(v. 14-17) God tells Moses to go and use Aaron to convey the words that God gives him and use the staff for signs and wonders.

Self Reflection questions:

1. How has God equipped you through His calling?
2. In what ways has God given you support when you have had doubts?
3. Have you every felt that you were the wrong choice in God's plan? How did God prove to you that you were wrong?

Scriptures: Exodus 4:1-23, 27-31 - "God equips the called and Moses's return"

1 Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" **2** The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." **3** And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. **4** But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— **5** "that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." **6** Again, the Lord said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. **7** Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. **8** "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. **9** If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground." **10** But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." **11** Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? **12** Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." **13** But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." **14** Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. **15** You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. **16** He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. **17** And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

18 Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." **19** And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." **20** So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand. **21** And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. **22** Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, **23** and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son."

27 The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. **28** And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. **29** Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. **30** Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. **31** And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Summary:

God is calling Moses out from Midian and back to Egypt to save Israel but Moses does not think he is qualified to lead. He thinks he will be unable to convince Pharaoh to let his people go. God shows signs and wonders to Moses to prove to him that He will provide a way.

Bottom Line:

God equips the called, not the other way around. God will use us for His ultimate glory, even though we are not perfect. If God only used perfect people, there would be no-one for Him to use.

Devotional Six

Exodus 5:1-23

Main points:

1. We should not let other's ignorance stop us from honoring God's plan (v. 1-4)
2. Living a life that honors God will not be easy or without pain (v. 6-21)
3. When our people hurt, turn to God (v. 22-23)

Key Verses:

(v. 2) Pharaoh's denial.

(v. 6-9) Pharaoh made the Israelites work nearly impossible.

(v. 22-23) Moses' prayer.

Self Reflection questions:

1. Has there been someone who intentionally or unintentionally tried to stop you from doing what God called you to do?
2. When has living your life in a way that honors God been difficult for you?
3. Who is someone you could pray for because they are in a season of hurt right now? Pray for them.

Scriptures: Exodus 5:1-23 - "Bricks without straw"

1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" **2** But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go." **3** Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword." **4** But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens." **5** And Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!" **6** The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, **7** "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. **8** But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.' **9** Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words."

10 So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I will not give you straw. **11** Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.'" **12** So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. **13** The taskmasters were urgent, saying, "Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw." **14** And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?"

15 Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, "Why do you treat your servants like this? **16** No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people." **17** But he said, "You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.' **18** Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks." **19** The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, "You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day." **20** They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh; **21** and they said to them, "The Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

22 Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? **23** For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

Summary:

Moses and Aaron's first interaction with the Pharaoh does not go swimmingly. Pharaoh denies them and mocks God, Moses, and Aaron. Pharaoh then punishes the Israelites, and forces difficult labor onto them. By taking away the straw, which was a main ingredient to make bricks, it made making bricks almost impossible. It created more work for the Israelite slaves.

Bottom Line:

There will be people that will try to block out what God has planned for you. Yet, we have to persevere. There will be seasons of hurt and pain. Yet, we have to persevere. To answer God's callings for us, we have to persevere.

Devotional Seven

Exodus 6: 1-13

Main points:

1. When God makes a promise, He will deliver. (v. 6-9)
2. God doesn't view our "failures" as failures, but just as a part of the plan. (v. 10-13)
3. We fail to hear God properly when we feel broken (v. 9)

Key Verses:

(v. 2-8) God's Promise of deliverance.

(v. 6-9) The people of Israel feel broken because of their suffering.

(v. 13) God gives support to Moses and Aaron because they feel like they have failed.

Self Reflection questions:

1. When is a time in your life that you felt like God was not taking no for an answer?
2. Has it been difficult to properly hear and obey God, when you feel broken and like you have failed?
3. How has God given you support when you have felt like you have failed?

Scriptures: Exodus 6:1-13 - "God's promise of deliverance"

1 But the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. **3** I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. **4** I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. **5** Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. **6** Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. **7** I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. **8** I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.'" **9** Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

10 So the Lord said to Moses, **11** "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land." **12** But Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?" **13** But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

Summary:

We see that Moses tries to tell God that he will be unable to help the Israelites who are in Egypt, that Pharaoh will not let his people go. But God has a different plan for Moses and Israel. The Israelites were too broken in their spirits and felt trapped in their slavery, so they could not properly hear what God had to say. We see how God has fulfilled his promises and covenant with all of Moses's ancestors through his genealogy and promises to the Israelites. God honored his promise to Abraham by having him be the father to many nations.

Bottom Line:

God will not take no for an answer, not from the pharaoh and especially not from Moses. God will chase after His chosen people. He chases after us. He does not want us to be in pain, to be lost. He does not want us to feel broken or feel like failures. We are not to sit in our past but let it fuel our future that God has planned for us.

Devotional Eight

Exodus 7:1-25

Main points:

1. God will continue to use us, even if we don't seem effective (v. 13-14)
2. Only the actions of God can heal hardened hearts (v. 3-4)
3. Through it all, Moses and Aaron stayed loyal (v. 10, 20)

Key Verses:

(v. 8-10) Snake and staff miracle

(v. 19-21) God turns the river Nile into blood

(v. 22-23) Pharaoh's heart was still hardened even after the miracles

Self Reflection questions:

1. What's something that you deem as a "failure" in your life that God just sees as a step in His plan?
2. Why do you think that Pharaoh's heart was hardened even after seeing the power of God?
3. Even when things go wrong, Moses and Aaron stay loyal to God. When have you stayed loyal to God even when things seem to go wrong?

Scriptures: Exodus 7:1-25 - "Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh and the first plague"

1 And the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. **2** You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land. **3** But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, **4** Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. **5** The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them." **6** Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the Lord commanded them. **7** Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh. **8** Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, **9** "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Prove yourselves by working a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'" **10** So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. **11** Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. **12** For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. **13** Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. **15** Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water. Stand on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that turned into a serpent. **16** And you shall say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness." But so far, you have not obeyed. **17** Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. **18** The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile.'" **19** And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'" **20** Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. **21** And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. **22** But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. **23** Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart. **24** And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the Nile. **25** Seven full days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

Summary:

The Lord has Moses and Aaron go back before Pharaoh but tells them that he will have a hardened heart but God will do signs and wonders to showcase his power. God turned Aaron's staff into a serpent and it eats the serpents that Egypt's wise men and sorcerers cast. Even after the miracle from God, Pharaoh's heart was still hardened. The Lord then, through Moses and Aaron, turned the River Nile into blood. This is the first plague that God sets on Egypt because Pharaoh is refusing to let the Lord's people go.

Bottom Line:

Just because our plans seem unsuccessful, does not mean that God is not working in the midst of our "failures." What we see as "failures," God sees as just another part of His plan. Moses and Aaron stuck by God, even though Pharaoh was refusing to give up the Israelites. Moses and Aaron knew God had a plan and were helping execute it, even if they didn't see the big picture.

Devotional Nine

Exodus 8: 1-32

Main points:

1. God has the power to create storms of animals and insects. (v. 6, 17, 24)
2. Even non-believers can see the power and works of God. (v. 19)
3. Pharaoh pleads with Moses and Aaron to get rid of the plagues and gets more than what he bargains for. (v. 8)

Key Verses:

(v. 19) The Egyptian magicians recognize the power of God

(v. 8) Pharaoh pleading with Moses and Aaron

Self Reflection questions:

1. How have you seen the power of God through nature?
2. Have you ever seen an unbeliever see the power of God but stay an unbeliever? They deny the power of God
3. Have you ever made a promise to God in exchange for something but, like Pharaoh, turned back on it?

Scriptures: Exodus 8:1-32 - "Frogs, gnats, flies. Oh My!"

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. **2** But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will plague all your country with frogs. **3** The Nile shall swarm with frogs that shall come up into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed and into the houses of your servants and your people, and into your ovens and your kneading bowls. **4** The frogs shall come up on you and on your people and on all your servants.'" **5** And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, "Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the canals and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt!" **6** So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. **7** But the magicians did the same by their secret arts and made frogs come up on the land of Egypt. **8** Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Plead with the Lord to take away the frogs from me and from my people, and I will let the people go to sacrifice to the Lord." **9** Moses said to Pharaoh, "Be pleased to command me when I am to plead for you and for your servants and for your people, that the frogs be cut off from you and your houses and be left only in the Nile." **10** And he said, "Tomorrow." Moses said, "Be it as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God. **11** The frogs shall go away from you and your houses and your servants and your people. They shall be left only in the Nile." **12** So Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord about the frogs, as he had agreed with Pharaoh. **13** And the Lord did according to the word of Moses. The frogs died out in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields. **14** And they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. **15** But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

16 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.'" **17** And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. **18** The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. **19** Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. **20** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. **21** Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. **22** But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. **23** Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.'" **24** And the Lord did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

25 Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land." **26** But Moses said, "It would not be right to do so, for the offerings we shall sacrifice to the Lord our God are an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice offerings abominable to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not stone us? **27** We must go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as he tells us." **28** So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you must not go very far away. Plead for me." **29** Then Moses said, "Behold, I am going out from you and I will plead with the Lord that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, tomorrow. Only let not Pharaoh cheat again by not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord." **30** So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the Lord. **31** And the Lord did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; not one remained. **32** But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.

Summary:

Pharaoh continues to have a hardened heart when it comes to letting the Israelites go. So, the Lord hits Egypt with three plagues. He first covered Egypt with frogs. The Pharaoh begged Moses and Aaron that the frogs would be taken away, and Moses tells him to be careful what you wish for. God then kills all of the frogs and has the stench covered the land. This hardened Pharaoh's heart. The next plague to hit Egypt is hordes and hordes of gnats that covered all the animals and people of Egypt. Even the magicians of Egypt knew that this was God but the Pharaoh's heart continued to be hardened. The next plague was swarms of flies. Pharaoh asked Moses and Aaron to make sacrifices to God on his behalf to stop the plague. Moses did it on the condition that Pharaoh would let his people go, but Pharaoh went back on his word and did not let the people go.

Bottom Line:

Our God is almighty, we should see that. Our God is the God of creation and rules over the earth. There is nothing He can't do. I would want to be on the side of a God who has the power to control hordes of frogs, gnats, and flies, not be the one begging for them to be taken away.

Devotional Ten

Exodus 9: 1-35

Main points:

1. God protects his people (v. 6-7)
2. We cannot fully trust man to honor their promises but we can trust God. (v. 34-35)
3. Our God have command of all aspects of nature, including weather (v. 22-23)

Key Verses:

(v. 4-7) God did not harm Israel's livestock but wiped out Egypt's livestock

(v. 34-35) Pharaoh breaks another promise

(v. 22-23) God summons hail, rain, wind, fire, and thunder

Self Reflection questions:

1. Even through seven plagues, Pharaoh's heart is still hardened. Has your heart in the past been hardened by your experiences in life? How did God soften it?
2. Have you ever been burned by someone who went back on a promise?
3. How do you find comfort in our Lord who does not go back on His promises?

Scriptures: Exodus 9:1-35 - "Plagues, why does it always have to be plagues!"

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. **2** For if you refuse to let them go and still hold them, **3** behold, the hand of the Lord will fall with a very severe plague upon your livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks. **4** But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that belongs to the people of Israel shall die.'" **5** And the Lord set a time, saying, "Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land." **6** And the next day the Lord did this thing. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one of the livestock of the people of Israel died. **7** And Pharaoh sent, and behold, not one of the livestock of Israel was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go. **8** And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from the kiln, and let Moses throw them in the air in the sight of Pharaoh. **9** It shall become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and become boils breaking out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt." **10** So they took soot from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh. And Moses threw it in the air, and it became boils breaking out in sores on man and beast. **11** And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils came upon the magicians and upon all the Egyptians. **12** But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

13 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. **14** For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. **15** For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. **16** But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. **17** You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go. **18** Behold, about this time tomorrow I will cause very heavy hail to fall, such as never has been in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. **19** Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them.'" **20** Then whoever feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh hurried his slaves and his livestock into the houses, **21** but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the Lord left his slaves and his livestock in the field. **22** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, so that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, on man and beast and every plant of the field, in the land of Egypt." **23** Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt. **24** There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. **25** The hail struck down everything that was in the field in all the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And the hail struck down every plant of the field and broke every tree of the field. **26** Only in the land of Goshen, where the people of Israel were, was there no hail. **27** Then Pharaoh sent and called Moses and Aaron and said to them, "This time I have sinned; the Lord is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. **28** Plead with the Lord, for there has been enough of God's thunder and hail. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer." **29** Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will stretch out my hands to the Lord. The thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know that the earth is the Lord's. **30** But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God." **31** (The flax and the barley were struck down, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. **32** But the wheat and the emmer were not struck down, for they are late in coming up.) **33** So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and stretched out his hands to the Lord, and the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain no longer poured upon the earth. **34** But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. **35** So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

Summary:

For the fifth plague God kills all of the Egyptian livestock. None of Israel's livestock were harmed. The next plague that hit Egypt was boils and sores breaking out all over the people and every beast. Even after all six plagues so far, Pharaoh's heart was still hardened and he refused to let the people go. God then sent a horrible hail to Egypt. Before God sent the hail, fire, rain, and thunder, He had Moses tell all of Pharaoh's servants to get the livestock and get to shelter. Anyone who did not believe was afflicted with the severe weather. Pharaoh pleads with Moses again to get the plague to stop and promises to exalt the Lord's name and honor him, and Moses pleads with God and God stops the weather. Pharaoh then goes back on his promise again. Are we even surprised at this point?

Bottom Line:

Men lie, women lie, and kids lie. All three break their promises. But God doesn't. God does not lie, does not break a promise, and does not let us wander aimlessly. We should find comfort in a God who is willing to do everything in his power to get us back. He leaves the ninety nine to get us.

Devotional Eleven

Exodus 10:1-29

Main points:

1. God shows us signs and wonders to prove that He is Lord (v. 1-2)
2. Do not make a promise to God that you are not willing to keep. (v. 16-20)
3. Pharaoh was to release all of Israel, people and livestock, but was refusing. (v. 8-11, 24-26)

Key Verses:

(v. 7) Pharaoh's servants complain about the destruction caused by the Pharaoh's inability to let Israel go.

(v. 8-11) Pharaoh argues with Moses and Aaron on who would get released

(v. 24-27) Pharaoh argues with Moses and Aaron on if they were to get to keep their livestock.

Self Reflection questions:

1. Why do you think Pharaoh continued to argue with Moses and Aaron about who will be released after seeing the power of God and Egypt was in ruin?
2. How has God reminded you that He is Lord?

Scriptures: Exodus 10:1-29 - "Locusts and Darkness"

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, **2** and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord." **3** So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me. **4** For if you refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country, **5** and they shall cover the face of the land, so that no one can see the land. And they shall eat what is left to you after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field, **6** and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day they came on earth to this day.'" Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

7 Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?" **8** So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. And he said to them, "Go, serve the Lord your God. But which ones are to go?" **9** Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old. We will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks and herds, for we must hold a feast to the Lord." **10** But he said to them, "The Lord be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind. **11** No! Go, the men among you, and serve the Lord, for that is what you are asking." And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

12 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left." **13** So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts. **14** The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again. **15** They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt. **16** Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. **17** Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the Lord your God only to remove this death from me." **18** So he went out from Pharaoh and pleaded with the Lord. **19** And the Lord turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt. **20** But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go. **21** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt." **22** So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. **23** They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived. **24** Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Go, serve the Lord; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind." **25** But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. **26** Our livestock also must go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve the Lord our God, and we do not know with what we must serve the Lord until we arrive there." **27** But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. **28** Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me; take care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die." **29** Moses said, "As you say! I will not see your face again."

Summary:

God brings swarms of locusts for the eighth plague. They destroyed the land. Destroyed the trees and the crops. Pharaoh argues with Moses and Aaron on who they would be able to take if he released Israel. Once again, Pharaoh goes to Moses and Aaron and begs that they plead to God to end the plague of Locusts. They oblige and God ends the plague. But since Pharaoh still refuses to let all of Israel go, God hits Egypt with a plague of darkness. It was pitch black for three whole days. Pharaoh agrees that all people can be freed but continues to argue with Moses and Aaron over the animals and livestock. Pharaoh sends them away in anger.

Bottom Line:

God did not send Moses to free some of Israel. God sent Moses to free the men, the women, the children, and all of the animals of Israel. God will prove to us again and again that He is Lord via sign and wonders, miracles, and his love. If He didn't love us, He would not have sent Moses to free all of his people from Egypt, and He would have not sent His son to die on the cross for us.

Devotional Twelve

Exodus 11:1-12

Main points:

1. Moses is an example on how God develops leaders (v. 3-8)
2. Moses gives Pharaoh the final warning to let Israel go (v. 8)
3. Pharaoh was to release all of Israel, people and livestock, but was refusing. (v. 9-10)

Key Verses:

(v. 3-4) These verses show Moses' growth as a leader and as a follower of the Lord.

(v. 10) Pharaoh's heart was hardened even through all of the signs, wonders, and plagues.

Self Reflection questions:

1. How have you seen God develop you as the leader?
2. How do you view this final threat from God? Does it seem too harsh?
3. Similar to verse seven, how can you today see a difference between Christians and unbelievers?

Scriptures: Exodus 11:1-10 - "God's final threat"

11:1 The Lord said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. **2** Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry." **3** And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

4 So Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, **5** and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. **6** There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. **7** But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.' **8** And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, you and all the people who follow you.' And after that I will go out." And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger. **9** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

10 Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

Summary:

God tells Moses that He will bring one more plague upon Egypt and Pharaoh will finally let Israel go. God gives Moses some instructions on how to plunder Egypt. Moses then goes before Pharaoh and tells him about the final plague that will hit Egypt.

Bottom Line:

God develops us into just who He wants us to be. Just like with Moses, our experiences help shape us into who God planned us to be. This chapter shows the intentionality that the Lord had in the story of Moses and Exodus.

Devotional Thirteen

Exodus 12:1-32

Main points:

1. We are called to have obedience to God's instructions (v. 12)
2. The lamb represents more than just an offering (v. 21-23)
3. God honored His promise of deliverance and freedom (v. 31-32)

Key Verses:

(v. 14-19) God laying the foundation for the Passover as a memorial holiday

(v. 28) Israel's obedience

(v. 31) Pharaoh finally letting Israel go.

Self Reflection questions:

1. How has God called you to be obedient to His calling?
2. To the Israelites, the Lamb was a sign of faith. What is your sign of faith?
3. What has God deliver you from recently?

Scriptures: Exodus 12:1-32 - "The lamb"

12:1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, **2** "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. **3** Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. **4** And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. **5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, **6** and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

7 "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. **8** They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. **9** Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. **10** And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. **11** In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. **12** For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. **13** The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. **15** Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. **16** On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. **17** And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. **18** In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. **19** For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. **20** You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread."

21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. **22** Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. **23** For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. **24** You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. **25** And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. **26** And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' **27** you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

Summary:

God gives Moses clear instructions on how to have the Israelites avoid the last plague, the death of the first born. God instructs Moses to create it a yearly event to remember when God provided protection and granted deliverance from the land of Egypt.

Bottom Line:

God repeatedly promised that the nation of Israel would be free. God saw that His people were hurting and exercised His power to deliver His people back to safety and God does the same exact thing with us. He hears our cries, our hurts and He does everything in His arsenal to help us and save us. He sent His son as the ultimate sacrifice to deliver us from our own sins.

Devotional Fourteen

Exodus 12:33-51

Main points:

1. The Lord provided, just as He said He would (v. 34-36)
2. Israel were in captivity for 430 years (v. 41)
3. More than just the Israelites left Egypt (v. 43-49)

Key Verses:

- (v. 36) Plundering of Egypt.
- (v. 43) Institution of the Passover.

Self Reflection questions:

1. How has God answered a promise or prayer in a timing or that you did not expect?
2. What are you currently waiting on God to answer?
3. Why do you think foreigners or sojourners could not observe the passover?

Scriptures: Exodus 12:33-51 - “Mass exodus and creation of the Passover”

12:33 The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” **34** So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. **35** The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. **36** And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

37 And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. **38** A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. **39** And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

40 The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. **41** At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. **42** It was a night of watching by the Lord, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the Lord by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

43 And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner shall eat of it, **44** but every slave that is bought for money may eat of it after you have circumcised him. **45** No foreigner or hired worker may eat of it. **46** It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. **47** All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. **48** If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. **49** There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you.”

50 All the people of Israel did just as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron. **51** And on that very day the Lord brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts

Summary:

After the events of the passover, the Pharaoh had the Israelites leave hastily. They left with their unleavened bread and their rewards for plundering the Egyptians. They travel from Rameses to Succoth, which is 110-120 miles. It is revealed that they were in captivity in Egypt for over 430 years. The institution of the passover was then created. Only the Israelites could observe it, not any foreigners or sojourners that came with them out of Egypt.

Bottom Line:

God answered the cries of His people. He honored His promise to lead Israel out of Egypt. Every single thing that God promised came to fruition. God saved Israel just in the way and timing that He intended. The Israelites had no idea how God was going to save them from captivity and many probably had doubts since they had been slaves for 430 years. Yet God still provided.

Devotional Fifteen

Exodus 13:1-22

Main points:

1. The first born of every family and beast was to be declared the Lord's (v. 1-2, 11-15)
2. Moses reminds the people about the Holy land that God has promised (3-5)
3. God guided Israel's path and protected them (v. 17-22)

Key Verses:

(v. 1-2) Consecration of the firstborns of Israel.

(v. 16) Moses tells Israel to create a marker that reminds them of the Lord's power

(v. 21-22) The Lord provided Israel the means of a guide to the promise land.

Self Reflection questions:

1. What does it mean to consecrate for God? What does it mean to give your life fully to Christ?
2. What serves as a reminder of God's power in your life?
3. What is something or someone that God provided as a guide in your spiritual life?

Scriptures: Exodus 13:1-22 - "Feast and Pillars"

13:1 The Lord said to Moses, **2** "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

3 Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. **4** Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. **5** And when the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this service in this month. **6** Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the Lord. **7** Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen with you, and no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory. **8** You shall tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' **9** And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt. **10** You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

11 "When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, **12** you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. **13** Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. **14** And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. **15** For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' **16** It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt."

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." **18** But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. **19** Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here." **20** And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. **21** And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. **22** The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Summary:

In this chapter, we see Moses take charge of the people. He reminds them of how God fulfilled His promise to save them from Egypt. Moses then reminds them where they are going, to a land promised by God. A land filled with milk and honey. Moses institutes the Feast of Unleavened Bread as a reminder of God's power. God guided Israel with pillars of Cloud and fire.

Bottom Line:

We need to have reminders in our lives that God is who He says he is. He provides and protects us and we need to celebrate that. God will make a way for His plan, no matter what he has to do. He sends us guides to follow His path.

Devotional Sixteen

Exodus 14:1-31

Main points:

1. God hardened Pharaoh's heart once more to showcase His power. (v. 1-5)
2. Moses has developed into a leader who is not afraid of speaking his mind. (v. 13-14)
3. Israel develops a healthy fear of the Lord and trusts in God and Moses. (v. 30-31)

Key Verses:

(v. 11-12) Israel doubt God when the Egyptians come after them.

(v. 13) Fear not.

(v. 31) Israel feared the Lord and believed in Him and Moses.

Self Reflection questions:

1. Why do you think the people of Israel wavered when they saw the Egyptians? Was their potential might greater in the minds of the Israelites than God's?
2. What does a healthy fear of the Lord look like?
3. How have you seen God provide a way in your life?

Scriptures: Exodus 14:1-31 - "The Red Sea"

14:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, **2** "Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. **3** For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, 'They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' **4** And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord." And they did so.

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" **6** So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, **7** and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. **8** And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly. **9** The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

10 When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. **11** They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? **12** Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." **13** And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. **14** The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

15 The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. **16** Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. **17** And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. **18** And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

19 Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, **20** coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. **22** And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. **23** The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. **24** And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, **25** clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." **27** So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. **28** The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. **29** But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. **31** Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Summary:

The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart once more and Pharaoh sent a massive army after Israel. They fear the worst but Moses reminds them of their all powerful God. God uses Moses to part the Red Sea, so Israel can cross properly and uses the Pillars of clouds and fire to create separation. God then closed the Red Sea on the Egyptians and not one survived. Israel seeing God's power helped in their fear of the Lord and their trust in Him and Moses.

Bottom Line:

Israel waver slightly in their faith before Moses snaps them back to reality. Moses knows that God can overcome every situation that is thrown at Israel. God parted the seas and protected Israel from the Egyptians. God does the same exact thing with us, God makes a way for us to overcome what we face.

Devotional Seventeen

Exodus 15:1-27

Main points:

1. Lift up our praises to God through it all (v. 1-22)
2. When we are close to God, that's when we are tested (v. 22-24)
3. When we listen to the Lord, He blesses us abundantly (v. 25-27)

Key Verses:

(v. 2,6) Praises up to God.

(v. 25-26) God's new rule about listening diligently

Self Reflection questions:

1. How do you worship God after His good works in your life?
2. How could you better worship God in all aspects of your life?
3. How can we not have an attitude like the Israelites right after they finished worshiping the Lord and hit a hardship?

Scriptures: Exodus 15:1-27 - "Song of Redemption"

15:1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;

the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. **2** The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. **3** The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name. **4** "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. **5** The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. **6** Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. **7** In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. **8** At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. **9** The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them. **10** You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. **11** "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? **12** You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. **13** "You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode. **14** The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. **15** Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. **16** Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O Lord, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased. **17** You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. **18** The Lord will reign forever and ever."

19 For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. **20** Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. **21** And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea." **22** Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. **23** When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. **24** And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" **25** And he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a log and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the Lord made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, **26** saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer." **27** Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.

Summary:

After the events at the Red Sea, Moses and the people of Israel sang out a song to the Lord in worship. They sing about the Lord's glorious triumph over Egypt, how they will exalt and praise their God. They sing about the Lord's eternal reign.

Bottom Line:

Moses and the people of Israel take a moment to lift up their voices up to the one who has provided a way time and time again. They come together to worship their God of creation. We should do the same, we always need to take a moment to glorify the Lord that provides. We need to worship during the highs and the lows, when we are celebrating and when we are going through difficult seasons. Worship is a big part of a healthy spiritual life, someone who can worship in all aspects of their lives is spiritually mature in their walk.

Devotional Eighteen

Exodus 16:1-36

Main points:

1. God provided a way for the Israelites to eat (v. 4)
2. The Israelites did not listen to Moses and tried to hoard the manna (v. 19-20)

Key Verses:

(v. 3) Israel complains about the lack of food

(v. 20) The manna rots due to Israel ignoring God's instruction

Self Reflection questions:

1. How have you complained to God in the past? And how did He respond?
2. Why was it important for Israel to not save the manna overnight?

Scriptures: Exodus 16:1-36 - "God is faithful in the wilderness"

16:1 They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. **2** And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, **3** and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. **5** On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." **6** So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, **7** and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" **8** And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord."

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.'" **10** And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. **11** And the Lord said to Moses, **12** "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

13 In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. **14** And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. **15** When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. **16** This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer] according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" **17** And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. **18** But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. **19** And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." **20** But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. **21** Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

22 On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers each. And when all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, **23** he said to them, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the morning.'" **24** So they laid it aside till the morning, as Moses commanded them, and it did not stink, and there were no worms in it. **25** Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. **26** Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none."

27 On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. **28** And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws? **29** See! The Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Remain each of you in his place; let no one go out of his place on the seventh day." **30** So the people rested on the seventh day.

31 Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. **32** Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" **33** And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the Lord to be kept throughout your generations." **34** As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept. **35** The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan. **36** (An omer is the tenth part of an ephah.)

Summary:

Israel is wandering around the wilderness 30 days after about 56 days of wandering. The people are hungry and have no real source of food or water. They complain that they would have rather died as a slave in Egypt than died of hunger. God hears their complaints and provides clear instructions on how to gather and eat the food He provides.

Bottom Line:

We should not grumble or complain against the Lord, He has a plan to provide for us. He will make way for us. It was incredibly unwise for Israel to complain about God after everything that they had been through.

Devotional Nineteen

Exodus 17:1-16

Main points:

1. Israel complains about God again - (v. 1-2)
2. God provides water to drink - (v. 5-6)
- 3.. God provides victory - (v.11-13)

Key Verses:

(v. 6) God provides water

(v. 11-13) God causes Israel to victorious in battle

Self Reflection questions:

1. Why do you think Israel continued to gripe and grumble when God proved over and over that He will provide?
2. Who in your life can help lift you up to help avoid defeat?

Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-16 - "Protector and Provider"

17:1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" **3** But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" **4** So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." **5** And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. **9** So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." **10** So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11** Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. **12** But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. **13** And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." **15** And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The Lord Is My Banner, **16** saying, "A hand upon the throne of the Lord! The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Summary:

After the people of Israel just got finished complaining about the lack of food, and God providing, the people complain once again. They complain that there is not any water. Once again, God provided the means to survive by having Moses hit a rock that spewed water. Afterwards, Israel gets into a conflict with a nearby nation. God helped Israel win when Moses arms were lifted up. Aaron and Hur lifted up his arms and helped Israel win.

Bottom Line:

God will provide. God provided Israel with a food source, a source of water, and provided victory over Amalek. No matter the situation, the Lord can and will provide.

Devotional Twenty

Exodus 18:1-27

Main points:

1. Do not overstretch yourself and experience burnout (v. 17)
2. Put leaders in situations to be successful (v. 25-26)
3. Moses listened to advice from someone who has more experience than him. (v. 24)

Key Verses:

- (v. 6) God provides water
- (v. 13) Moses helping settle agreements.
- (v. 17-23) Jethro's advice.

Self Reflection questions:

1. Why do you think Moses had sent his family home?
2. Not all advice is good advice, how do you discern when that advice is something you need to take?
3. Do you have a Godly mentor who you can turn to?

Scriptures: Exodus 18:1-27 - "Jethro's wise advice"

18:1 Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel his people, how the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt. **2** Now Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, had taken Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her home, **3** along with her two sons. The name of the one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land"), **4** and the name of the other, Eliezer (for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh"). **5** Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was encamped at the mountain of God. **6** And when he sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her," **7** Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent. **8** Then Moses told his father-in-law all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had come upon them in the way, and how the Lord had delivered them. **9** And Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the Lord had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians.

10 Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. **11** Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people." **12** And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

13 The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. **14** When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" **15** And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; **16** when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws." **17** Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. **18** You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. **19** Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, **20** and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. **21** Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. **22** And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. **23** If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace."

24 So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. **25** Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. **26** And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. **27** Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.

Summary:

Jethro, Moses' father in law, gives Moses some advice and encouragement. He tells Moses that if he continues to heed the requests of every person and help settle every dispute, he will get burnt out. He tells Moses to find men that fear God, who are trustworthy, and do not take bribes. Place them in charge of groups of people and they will judge and help settle every dispute. Moses puts that advice into practice. They handle the small stuff and Moses handles everything else.

Bottom Line:

Jethro, Moses' father in law and priest of Midian, gives Moses important advice on how to avoid burnout. Moses listened because Jethro had more life experience and more experience being a leader. Surround yourself with a Godly mentor who can help guide you.

Devotional Twenty One

Exodus 19:1-25

Main points:

1. Mt. Sinai is where Moses would talk with God (v. 3)
2. God showcased His power to the people of Israel (v. 16-19)
3. The people of Israel were not to go up Mt. Sinai (v. 12)

Key Verses:

(v. 3, 14,20) God talking with Moses at the top of the mountain.

(v. 5-6) God's call for obedience.

(v. 16-19) God's power showcased.

Self Reflection questions:

1. Where is a spot that you constantly hear from God at?
2. How do you live a life of obedience like you are called to do?
3. Why do you think God showcased His power at the mountain in front of the Israelites?

Scriptures: Exodus 19:1-25- "Mount Sinai"

19:1 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. **2** They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, **3** while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: **4** 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. **5** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; **6** and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. **8** All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. **9** And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."

When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, **10** the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments **11** and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. **12** And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. **13** No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." **14** So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments. **15** And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman."

16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. **17** Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. **18** Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. **19** And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. **20** The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

21 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. **22** Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them." **23** And Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it!'" **24** And the Lord said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest he break out against them." **25** So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Summary:

God calls Moses to the top of Mount Sinai and tells him to remind the people of Israel about what He has done for them. God then tells Moses to tell them that if they obey His voice and keep their covenant that they will be the Lord's treasured possessions and be a holy nation.

Bottom Line:

We are called by God into a life of obedience. We see in verses five and six that we are called to honor our covenants to God and obey His voice. When we do that we are blessed beyond measure.

Devotional Twenty Two

Exodus 20:1-26

Main points:

1. Israel had a healthy fear of the Lord (v. 18-21)
2. Obey God's commands to honor him (v. 3-17)
3. God gives clear instructions on how to build altars. (v. 22-26)

Key Verses:

(v. 3,-17) The 10 commandments

(v. 19) The people of Israel are afraid to talk with God, only want to talk to God through Moses.

Self Reflection questions:

1. What commandment are you least familiar with?
2. What does it look like to have a modern day idol?
3. What does it mean to covet? Do you struggle with it?

Scriptures: Exodus 20:1-26- "Ten Commandments "

20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying,

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **3** "You shall have no other gods before me. **4** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **5** You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, **6** but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. **7** "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. **8** "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. **11** For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. **13** "You shall not murder. **14** "You shall not commit adultery. **15** "You shall not steal. **16** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **17** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's." **18** Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off **19** and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." **20** Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." **21** The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

22 And the Lord said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven. **23** You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold. **24** An altar of earth you shall make for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you. **25** If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stones, for if you wield your tool on it you profane it. **26** And you shall not go up by steps to my altar, that your nakedness be not exposed on it.'

Summary:

God starts off by reminding Israel that He is their Lord, that he brought them out of Egypt and slavery. He then gives the commandments on how to follow Him and how to live their lives in a way that honors Him. Do not have any other gods before the Lord. Do not worship any idols. Do not say the Lord's name in vain, keep the sabbath. Honor your mother and father. Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, and do not lie. And do not succumb to jealousy. God ends this section by giving instructions on how to build altars to worship Him.

Bottom Line:

We are given these commandments to live our lives in a way that honors God. These are more than just rules or a moral code, these are commands from the God of our creation and salvation.
