



KNOW HIS PRESENCE

Exodus 1-2

September 19-20, 2015

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WARMING UP

1. What are some of the ways that life is like a journey?
2. What does it mean to be “bound for glory”? How does this phrase apply both to the Old Testament Israelites and to New Testament believers like us?

DIGGING IN

3. What are some of the external circumstances that worked against the children of Israel (1:1-2:10)? Are there any influences outside your control that are coming against you right now? How do you respond when you face opposition through no fault of your own? How should you respond?
4. Moses was a murderer (2:11-15) and yet was used mightily by God to deliver his people out of Egypt, give them the law, establish their worship, and lead them to the edge of the Promised Land. Why do we often believe that—or live as if—God’s grace is insufficient to cover our past? What are the reasons? Are you haunted or hindered by your past? How does Psalm 103:10,12 speak to this?
5. Moses ended up in Midian (2:16-22) as a result of a very poor choice. What are some of the difficult places people end up because of rash and reckless decisions? Have you experienced this in your life? What difference does the gospel make in all of this?
6. Moses described himself as a “sojourner in a foreign land.” Why? Look up 1 Peter 2:9-11 and Ephesians 2:19. How are we likewise “sojourners” and “strangers” and “aliens” as followers of Christ in the world? What are the implications of this reality?
7. To this point in the Exodus story, given all of the crises, it seemed that God was essentially absent from the story—but that wasn’t the truth. Often we feel the same way. Why is this the case? Why do we struggle with the fact that God works on his own timeline and does things we think are illogical?
8. How specifically does God demonstrate his presence (2:23-25)? Why is his always being with us so crucial (see 33:16b)? What difference does it make that God hears, sees, knows, and loves? Which of these truths about God’s responsiveness impacts you the greatest? How so?

BREAKING OUT

9. Be reminded that one of the ways God demonstrates his own presence is through the presence of his people. How can you “be with” your fellow group members through whatever circumstances as a tangible expression of God’s constant presence?