

# EXODUS 2 : 11-25

*I HAVE SEEN THEIR SUFFERING*

## BIBLE STUDY



### STARTER:

If you asked your non-Christian family, friends, colleagues or neighbours what they think God is like, what do you think they might say?

### Read Exodus 2 : 11-25 and then re-read verses 23-25

- The Israelites were oppressed by the Egyptians for a 'long period' (v23) - probably several decades later.

*How must they have been feeling about God and his promises (of being a great nation, in the promised land, enjoying his blessing) at this point?*

- We're told that when the 'king of Egypt died' the 'Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out...for help' to God. Presumably they hoped that the new king would be different - but he continued to oppress them and so they cried out.

*Why is it good for us to know that we can cry out to God when we are suffering?*



- Is there anything you want to cry out to God about?

*Please feel able to be honest in your group so that we can cry out to God together when we come to pray later.*

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There are four verbs that are used to describe God's character in verses 24-25. What are they?

1. God **heard** their groaning'
2. God **remembered** his covenant  
*Note: 'he remembered his covenant' does not mean that God had forgotten it. Rather, it means that he was ready to take the next step.*
3. God **looked** on the Israelites
4. God was **concerned** about them'  
*(literally he 'knew' them and their suffering))*



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IN VERSES 11-22, WE SEE TWO MOMENTS OF DELIVERANCE WHICH ARE PICTURES OF HOW GOD IS GOING TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT

Moses 'saw' the affliction of his 'own people', just as God 'has seen the affliction' of his people in Egypt

(Exodus 3:7 and 3:9)

Moses 'saved' ('comes to the rescue') Reuel's daughters from the shepherds. The same word is used about God bringing his people out of slavery - 'The LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians'

(Exodus 14:30)

How do these pictures of deliverance show God caring for his people in the ways verses 24-25 describe?

*(God remembers his covenant by raising up Moses to be the deliverer for his people. This shows us that God is not distant from the world. He cares about the details of our lives. We know this most of all because he sent his Son Jesus as the promised deliverer for us)*

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How might you use verses 23-25 to answer a non-Christian who says that God must be a distant or uncaring God because of the suffering in the world?

### Read Hebrews 11:24-27

Explain to your group that this shows us how Moses chose to identify with the people of God in their suffering and therefore lost all the privileges of his royal status. He left behind 'the fleeting pleasures of sin' in order to be faithful to God.

*(If anyone asks about verse v 27, it's helpful to know that this probably refers to when Moses bravely comforted Pharaoh and brought the people out of Egypt, not to when he fled to Midian after killing the Egyptian)*



Are there any areas in your life where you need to leave behind 'the fleeting pleasures of sin'? Why do these sometimes seem more permanent than the promises of God?

*(If people in your group are comfortable to talk about this together, great, or suggest that they dwell on them quietly for themselves)*

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## REFLECT & PRAY

- If any members of your group are struggling with suffering at the moment, spend some time 'crying out' to God together.
- Praise God for his character shown to us in verses 23-25.
- Pray that you would be willing to forsake any fleeting pleasures of sin that are a struggle for you

