

St John's – Small Groups

God Saves: A Captive People



Review: We've heard how God creates and began his solution for mankind with the call to Abraham and his people. Genesis ends with the death of Joseph following the migration to Egypt of Jacob, his line and household. The covenant between God and his people is intact. About 400 years pass before the opening of Exodus, which sees a new Egyptian Pharaoh in place and the Israelites now perceived by him as an unwelcome threat, rather than as a blessing.



Discuss:

- Why do you think that the Exodus story (from captivity to the verge of the Promised Land) is seen as so critical :
 - by Jewish readers, past and present
 - by contemporary Christians?
- Read and review Exodus 1. Why were the Israelites perceived as a threat and what were the main features of Pharaoh's retribution?
- God's response to the Israelites predicament is summarised in Exodus 3:7. What did this tell the Jews about God's character? What does it tell us?
- How relevant is it to view "captivity" as applying to us in 21st Century Britain? What types of captivity do we experience? Explore the themes, and how the gospel message of Jesus addresses them. How could we use our understanding to make Jesus' love real for others?



Pray: . Pray for brothers and sisters in Christ round the world who are not free to worship, declare his name, and spread the gospel. Pray for those in Britain and elsewhere held captive by oppression, unjust economics, discrimination, racism or other forms of evil influence. Pray with thanksgiving for God's saving work in history and in our own lives....that he is a God who sees our trials and hears our cries. Pray for freedom from those things that are obstacles to a full love of Jesus for us personally. Give thanks for each other and your joint mission in Christ, praise God!