

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 5

How does the Book of Genesis end? What is the significance of Jacob's (Israel's) final words to his sons (Genesis 49:1-27)? What do Jacob's words foretell about the destiny of the Hebrew people that will follow after him?

What do Joseph's brothers fear will happen to them after their father's death? Why? How does Joseph calm those fears? What do we learn about God from Joseph's response to his brothers? (Genesis 50:15-21)

How many years (approximately) have gone by between the end of the Genesis story (time of Joseph and his brothers) and the beginning of the Exodus story? What has happened to the Hebrew people in Egypt during this time? (Exodus 1)

Who are Shiphrah and Puah? What were they ordered to do by Pharaoh? Why? What did they do instead? How did their actions change the fate of the Hebrew people? (Exodus 1:15-22)

Where do you see God working in and through the birth narrative of Moses? (Exodus 2:1-10)

Why does Moses flee from Egypt? Where does he go? What happens to him there? How would you describe Moses' personal and moral character at this point in his life? (Exodus 2:11-22)

How does Moses first experience God? Why do you think God took this form? What does God ask Moses to do during this encounter? How does Moses respond? How do you think you would have responded to God in that situation? (Exodus 3:1-12)

Why do you think God self-identifies as "I AM" in Exodus 3:13-15? What does that mean? What does it tell us about the character of God?

How is Moses supposed to free the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt? How does God help Moses with this plan? Why do you think God hardens Pharaoh's heart against the Hebrews leading to the wave of plagues against the Egyptians? What do you think the plagues signified to the Egyptians and the Hebrews? (Exodus 5-11)

What is Passover? What were the Hebrew people supposed to do with the blood of the lamb from the Passover meal? Why? Why is Passover such a significant event in the life of Jewish people? What significance does it have for Christians? (Exodus 12)

How does God deliver the Hebrew people from the hands of Pharaoh? What does God promise to do for the Hebrew people? What does this tell us about God? (Exodus 13-15)

What was the attitude of the Hebrew people while they were traveling through the wilderness (desert)? Why? What does this tell us about the nature of human beings? What is manna? Why was it a significant gift from God to the Hebrews? (Exodus 15-16)

What is the advice that Jethro gives to his son-in-law, Moses, in Exodus 18:13-23? How did it help Moses? What did it allow him to do?