

## Small Groups @ TBC

### Sermon Discussion Notes

**Date of Sermon:** April 8th 2018

**Speaker:** David Lawrence

**Title:** Exodus: Getting the Story Straight

**Introduction:** This was the first talk in a new series based in Exodus. The talk gave an overview of the whole book, whereas this study is based in the opening few verses: however, some of the context of the bigger picture given in the talk may be useful to this discussion, so....

**Review:** Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

**Read:** Exodus 1:1-14

**Reflect :**

- In verses 1-5, we read that all Jacob's family had moved to Egypt to escape a famine. Where might they have expected to be - Genesis 15:7?
  - How might they have felt, being driven from the land of promise by a famine?
  - Have you ever been in the position of having to give up something you felt was God's gift to you? How did that feel?
- In verses 6-7, we read that even though they were not in the land of promise, God's promises to Israel were still being fulfilled! (Read Genesis 12:1,2; 15:5; 46:1-4). In fact the Hebrew used here "the land was filled with them" echoes God's blessing of Adam (read Genesis 1:28). God's initial blessing of humankind was being fulfilled in the unlikely setting of Egypt! Apparently God would accompany Israel into Egypt (46:4)!
  - What does this say to us about our own moments where we feel life has not turned out how we expected, or in circumstances that we thought God had directed us? (Read Psalm 139:7-12. In what ways do these verses fit the Israelites experience? And how do they speak to you?
  - How easy is it to believe that even in a place that we might consider to be 'second best', God is present and can still fulfill his purposes through us?
- Read verses 11-14: the Israelites moved from being displaced to being distressed - yet amazingly God's promises were still being fulfilled (12). It seems that for many years (see Exodus 12:40, for just how many) Israel had been relatively comfortable in Egypt: but they were not in the land God had promised them. The hardship described in vs 11-14, became the catalyst for God setting them free to return to their own land. God turns the oppression to be a trigger for liberty!

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**Leaders:** feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

**Don't feel you have to use all of the material**, but  
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond  
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

## Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- It is clear that it is the Egyptians, *not God*, who is oppressing the Israelites, but can you see a sense in which God *uses* this oppression to initiate something better for the Israelites (see Genesis 50:20)? How might this transform or own senses of reversal, difficulty and opposition?
- How does God work, and what does he expect of us, in the tough times? See: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5; 1 Peter 2:18-23; Romans 8:35-39?

### And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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