

THE STORY OF JUSTICE

Liberation: From Exodus to Exile | Discussion Notes

Firstly, a reminder that we have a 2 minute summary of the talk on our YouTube channel that you may want to play to the group.

This week we're looking at what we do when we're faced with huge, often systemic, injustices. Start by going around the group and ask people to give one word to describe their reaction to the big and sometimes seemingly insurmountable issues (i.e. hopeless, angry etc.)

Sam explained how the Israelites story of fighting against the injustice of Egypt gives us 1. a comfort, 2. a challenge, and 3. a caution.

EGYPT - A COMFORT

Read through Exodus 3:1-10. Sam explained that in this passage we hear that God not only hears the cry of the Israelites but is moved to act and liberate them.

- Why is this a comfort today?
- What difference does it make being reminded that God hears our cry?
- What can we do to remind ourselves of this truth today?

ISRAEL - A CHALLENGE

Read Exodus 19:1-7. Here God asks the Israelites to be a 'holy people' and a 'kingdom of priests'.

- What does it look like to be holy today, especially in the context of justice?
- How can we fulfil the priestly roll of being a mediator between humanity and God? What does that actually look like in practice?
- God gives Israel the challenge of 'hearing the cry of the oppressed and joining him in bringing liberation.' What stops you from hearing the cry of the oppressed in day-to-day life?
- What does bringing liberation look like? Have you ever experienced the feeling of partnering with God when it comes to justice?

JERUSALEM - A CAUTION

In 1 Kings 9:15 we see that King Solomon uses the wealth, power and privilege that he has, not to live out the command God gave Israel, but instead to enslave people to build his empire. This is a caution for us that if we just go along with the world we will end up contributing to injustice.

- Do you agree?
- What does it look like to actively live in defiance of systems of injustice? And why is this hard to do?

We all have situations and examples of large-scale injustice that we personally respond to. Ask each person in the group to share one issue that comes to mind and spend some time praying into those situations as a group. Also spend some time praying that we would be agents of change when it comes to systemic injustice.