



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 9.10.23  
Exodus 1 // Pastor Rick Duncan

Please note that this guide does not need to be used as-is. Please view the items below as a toolbox as opposed to a road map. You don't have to follow these steps exactly in order or for the allotted amount of time to have a successful LifeGroup study. You may not even have time to get through all of the questions. However, we do think this is pretty good stuff and we hope it's helpful.

## CONNECT (10 MIN)

- In this section, we're looking to develop 1-2 quick ice-breakers to get people talking.
  - Celebrate the highs and sympathize with the lows of each others' lives from this week.
  - What stood out to you in Pastor Rick's sermon this weekend?

## EXPLORE (45 MIN)

### Create Context (10 min):

1. Read Exodus chapter 1 out loud together.
2. Watch the weekly sermon recap video [HERE](#).

### Study & Discussion (40 min)

- ➡ Where, when, and how have you experienced injustice, oppression, or exploitation in your own life or in the lives of others?
- ➡ Pastor Rick mentioned 5 characteristics of oppressors from the text (see list below):
  - Us-them thinking, a desire for security, using others for personal gain, fear of losing control, a lack of empathy.
  - He asked us this question: How am I guilty of oppressing others in my own life explicitly or implicitly?
  - Is there anywhere in your life where you need to repent from oppressing others?
- ➡ Genesis closes with Joseph's Father (Jacob) and his family moving to Egypt. Exodus chapter 1 paints a sad picture of the situation of Jacob's descendants.
  - Read Genesis 46:1-4 and then read Exodus chapter 1 together, out loud.
  - What are some observations about these texts that you find interesting or confusing?
- ➡ Several generations of Israelites die in Egyptian slavery and do not experience deliverance from oppression and slavery. Sometimes deliverance does not come in the way that we expect or want – How do we practice hopeful prayer while at the same time trusting God's delays or denials?



- ▶ We're not explicitly told that Jacob shares this information (God's promise to bring Israel out of Egypt), but given the oral nature of the culture, we can presume that he might have. If the Israelites are anything like the present-day church, they had an opportunity to trust in the promise of God to bring them out of Egypt. At times we can be tempted to cry out to God for help – or to give us answers – while at the same time forgetting to remember and trust in the promises that God has already given us.
  - Take some time in your group to find and share some of the promises of God that you may need to trust in and pray in your season of life.
  
- ▶ Read back through vv. 15-21. In two places we see that their “fear of God” is what caused the midwives to behave in the way that they did.
  - Pastor Rick quoted Charles Buck – giving his definition of fear of the Lord (see quote below).
  - “Fear of God is that holy disposition or gracious habit, formed in the soul by the Holy Spirit, whereby we are inclined to obey all God’s commands; and evidences itself by a dread of his displeasure, desire of his favor, regard for his excellences, submission to his will, gratitude for his benefits, and conscientious obedience to his commands.”
    - How should a healthy fear of God be displayed in our lives?
  
- ▶ Rick’s final point in the sermon this week was a call to “get busy”. The midwives stepped up and fought against injustice in the position and context where God had put them. How is God calling you and/or your group to stand in the gap for the oppressed for the sake of the gospel today?

### Additional Resources

Paul Carter – [Is It Ever Ok For A Christian To Lie](#)

### APPLY (20 MIN)

We want to ensure that LifeGroups are always a place where obedience to truth can be practiced and where people can be lovingly held accountable to their decisions.

#### “I Will” Statements

As a result of what I’ve learned this week and what the Holy Spirit is impressing upon my heart, I will respond in obedience by \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Accountability

Depending on the time, rhythm, and makeup of the group, this can be done together or by separating into smaller groups (if the group is large) or by gender (if the group is mixed).

We suggest using 2-3 of the accountability questions found at [cvonline.org/relate](http://cvonline.org/relate) each week.

### PRAY (15 MIN)

During your time of study and application, there may be prayers that rise to the surface for individuals or the group. Take those things collectively to the Lord in prayer. We would also encourage your group to make a list of people that you are praying for to trust Jesus as the leader and forgiver of their life. Pray for the list often and hold one another accountable to share the good news as the Holy Spirit provides and prompts.



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# EQUIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 9.10.23

Please take a moment to share these announcements with your group.

More information on each item can be found by scanning the QR codes.

## CVCKIDS

### Team Members

Are you ready to invite children to new life in Christ? Join our team of passionate volunteers and embark on a journey filled with laughter, learning, and lasting connections. By dedicating just a few hours a week, you can make a profound impact on the spiritual growth and development of our precious children. CVCKids is inviting people to serve in our nursery, toddler, 2's, and 4th or 5th grade classes during our 9:30 AM or 11:15 AM services.



## GENEROUS LIFE

### Journey of Generosity

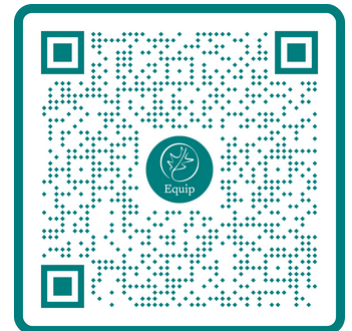
Are you ready to embark on a life-changing adventure of giving, purpose, and transformation? CVC's Generous Life Ministry would like to invite you to join us for the Journey of Generosity (JOG). Together, we'll explore the profound impact of generosity, the joy of giving, and the fulfillment that comes from aligning your resources with your deepest values.



## JOB OPENING

### Next Gen Admin Assistant

CVCYouth and CVCYoung Adults are looking for a full-time administrative assistant. If you are interested or know someone who might be,



## SAVE-THE-DATES

Indispensable Karaoke Night // September 16th

CVCYA Night of Worship // September 22nd

CVCYouth Collide Fall Fest // October 7th

Generous Life Tax-Smart Giving Workshop // October 17th