



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 9.17.23

Exodus 2 // Pastor Joe Valenti

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)

- This week's sermon highlighted the idea of the hero in the context of the Exodus story. How do you define heroism, and who do you consider to be a hero in your own life?
- Some Christian scholars say that all stories point to THE story (the story of Jesus Christ). Share your favorite story and compare it to the story of Jesus.

## EXPLORE (45 MIN)

### Create Context (10 min):

1. Read Exodus chapter 2 out loud together.
2. Watch the weekly sermon recap video [HERE](#) (4:30)

### Study & Discussion (40 min)

- ➡ At the beginning of Exodus, the Hebrews are still enslaved – in what areas/ways are you or have you been enslaved and in need of saving?
  - Emotionally (anger, fear, doubt)
  - Physically (sickness, pain, etc.)
  - Spiritually (your own sin or the sins of others against you)
- ➡ Where in Scripture do we find God's response to these potential enslavements?
- ➡ As Pastor Joe mentioned, the word translated "basket" in verse 3 is also translated "ark" in Hebrew. It is used in one other story in the Old Testament – in Genesis 6 in the story of Noah and the ark. Read Genesis 46:1-4.
  - What is the significance of the biblical author using this word purposefully only here on the rest of the entire Old Testament?
- ➡ Read the following out loud together (if you've already read Exodus 2, just review) and note which details are the same and which are distinct to each retelling of the story:
  - Exodus Chapter 2
  - Acts 7:23-29
  - Hebrews 11:23-27



- ▶ Consider the surrounding context of Acts and Hebrews – why are the details about the story of Moses being shared in both of these books and how do the details assist us with understanding the book of Exodus more fully?
  - Reread Exodus 2:11-13. Pastor Joe mentioned that the narrator never makes a definitive statement as to whether Moses was justified in his actions.
  - Consider Stephen's retelling in Acts 7. What additional context does this give to the Exodus account?
  - Knowing that there is no one right answer (biblical scholars are split on this), what is your opinion of Moses' actions here? Was Moses in the right acting as an agent of justice; or was he in the wrong, overstepping his boundaries in taking someone's life?
  
- ▶ Read the following quote and answer the question about it below: “The prayers of the people of God have such a key role to play that the Bible can make it clear only by speaking of it in terms we can understand. It, therefore, depicts the unforgetting God as though he were capable of forgetting and depicts our prayers as having the marvelous effect of causing him to remember. Our prayers are so effective and so delightful in his ears, that God condescends to accommodate his eternal, sovereign, providential working to what we can understand, as though to say, 'Oh, thank you for reminding me.'” - J. A. Motyer
  
- ▶ Pastor Joe shared the quote above in his sermon on Sunday. In what areas of life have you been neglecting prayer because you don't believe it is this effective?

## Heavy Lifting

- ▶ Reading the Scripture descriptively means interpreting it as a historical or cultural record, describing events and practices without necessarily prescribing them as instructions for current behavior. Reading it prescriptively, on the other hand, involves taking Scripture as a source of moral, religious, or legal guidance, viewing its teachings as applicable directives for one's life today (for more information on prescriptive versus descriptive reading of Scripture, you can visit <https://www.gotquestions.org/descriptive-vs-prescriptive.html>). Some passages of Scripture were written by the author to be read descriptively, while other passages were written to be read prescriptively.
  - As diligent readers of the text of Scripture who are currently studying the book of Exodus, how are we to determine what to understand prescriptively as instruction and what we ought to simply read and understand as narrative, or story?

## 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 [cvconline.org/relate](http://cvconline.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.



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# EQUIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 9.17.23

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

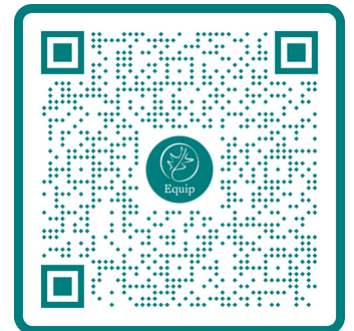
Are you ready to embark on a life-changing adventure of giving, purpose, and transformation? CVC's Generous Life Ministry would like to invite you to join us for the Journey of Generosity (JOG). Together, we'll explore the profound impact of generosity, the joy of giving, and the fulfillment that comes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

CVCYA Night of Worship // September 22nd

CVCYouth Collide Fall Fest // October 7th

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