

Hey Liberty Students Connect Group Leaders!

I pray that you're more excited than ever about the direction of Liberty Students as we're going through the whole Bible in a **GOSPEL**-centered way to **SEND OUT RELATIONAL** students who can make **DISCIPLES** on **MISSION** with Jesus!

Thank you so much for joining me last week for our monthly training as we focused on Disciple Making in Student Ministry. If you didn't make it, please go to this link where you can find my notes, slides, and mp3 of the session. I desperately want to make sure that each one of us has heard this as we move forward together as a team in this direction. Please remember, Disciple Making Groups are always encouraged but never enforced. <http://youthgrouptruth.com/2016/03/17/disciple-making-in-student-ministry-leader-training/>

Connect Group Leaders, please let me continue to encourage you to raise up your connect group students with the goal of sending them out by **facilitating discussion and conversation** rather than spending most of your time personally teaching and lecturing. One of the best ways to do this is by not reading the curriculum to them during Connect Group, but being prepared to ask questions that lead to the point we are trying to make.

As always, please never hesitate to let me know what we can do for you personally, your family, or your ministry! We love yall!

Only by His grace,
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Series: Straight Outta Egypt

Date: March 20, 2016

Lesson: Plagues, Passover, and the Gospel

Connect Group Introductions (10 min)

- **Welcome** and personally speak to every student.
- Give special **attention** to any first timers or guests.
- Ask about one special thing that happened in **their** week.
- Also tell them one special thing that happened from **your** week.
- **Fill out the “Off-Campus Connect Group or Discipleship Groups”** form by writing the names of your students who were involved in either off-campus connect groups or discipleship groups this past week.
- **Go over the Newsletter** and **Daily Devos** on your table with your students.
- **Pray** to begin the morning together.

Large Group by Lead Teacher #1 (5 min)

Story: Lead Teachers, tell a story when you rescued (or watched someone rescue) someone who was in some kind of danger. Pastor Chip told a story of evacuating some friends between waves of tornadoes in Alabama. It could be a small, big, short, or even funny story of a rescue, but rescue is our theme for this morning. Tell your story!

Point: As Liberty Students, we are continuing to journey through the book of Exodus together in our series Straight Outta Egypt. At this time, Israel (God’s People) are still in Egypt. This morning will be all about how God went all out, spared no expense, and did whatever it took to rescue His people! This is a story that teaches us about God’s love for His people, God’s hatred for sin, and God’s power displayed to rescue His people from slavery.

Intro into Discussion: Turn to Exodus now, and enjoy your Connect Group discussion together.

Connect Group Discussion #1 (20 min)

Leader Note: The purpose of this first Connect Group time is to see how God used the Plagues to display both His power and love in the rescuing of His people. ***Please study this lesson, internalize it, pray through it, and own it so that you don’t have to just read the answers or the teaching points from this curriculum. I realize you will***



need to read the questions of course, but the more the students hear the answers and the teaching points from your heart, the more they will want to memorize it as well and let it sink deeply into their hearts!

- **Whats the best book you've ever read or movie you've seen that is about someone getting rescued?**

Talking about media and entertainment is always a great way to get students discussing.

- **Do you (including leaders) have any personal stories about rescuing someone from danger? What all did it take to rescue them? What else would you have done?**

Talking about personal stories is also a great way to get students discussing.

- **Starting from Genesis 1, how many details can you share from memory from the beginning of Creation to now where we find Israel in Egypt before they are rescued?**

This is a great way to get others hungry about knowing the storyline of Scripture.

- **Read these three different passages and come up one sentence that would summarize why God wanted to rescue His people from Egypt. (Exodus 6:5-6, Exodus 7:5, Exodus 8:1).**

God rescued His people by the plagues to show His power to the world and to rescue His people to serve Him.

- **Quickly read about each of the 10 different Plagues from God on Egypt. Feel free to comment on them. What would it have been like? Possibly pick out a couple to focus on. Which one would have been the worst, the grossest, the scariest, etc? Interact and discuss about the Plagues.**

1. **Water to Blood (Exodus 7:14-25).** Aaron struck the Nile with his staff. It and all other sources of water for 7 days which caused all fish life to die and all of Egypt to stink.

2. **Frogs (Exodus 8:1-15).** Frogs came up from the Nile and swarmed the people everywhere including their bedrooms, beds, and even food. Frogs died, and the land stunk even worse.



3. **Gnats (Exodus 8:16-19).** Aaron struck the dust of the ground with his staff and it became gnats covering all the people and animals.
4. **Flies (Exodus 8:20-32).** Swarms of flies came, covered, and ruined the land of Egypt.
5. **Livestock (Exodus 9:1-7).** All of the livestock of Egypt died, but none of Israel's died.
6. **Boils (Exodus 9:8-12).** Moses threw dust in the air which became boils breaking out on all people and animals.
7. **Hail (Exodus 9:13-35).** Heavy hail with thunder and fire rained down upon Egypt killing everything left outside. Moses stretched out his staff, and hail came down to kill men, beasts, and plants.
8. **Locusts (Exodus 10:1-20).** A swarm of locusts filled Egypt making, completely covering the land, and ate all their remaining food crops. The locusts even filled their houses.
9. **Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29).** Pitch black darkness fell over the land of Egypt for three days so that no one could see each other or go anywhere. But there was light in Goshen where Israel lived!
10. **Firstborn Death (Exodus 12:29-32).** Lastly, the death of all the first born.

Large Group by Lead Teacher #2 (5 min)

The point of this story is God's passionate love for His people. God does whatever it takes to rescue His people. God is not being unfair toward Egypt. Remember, God's people lived in Egypt at this time for 430 years. Egypt knew about the one, real, true God of Israel! Instead of repenting to God, Egypt enslaved God's people. God did whatever it took to rescue His people out of the slavery of Egypt because of His passionate love for His people.

God does the same thing for us and His people all over the world. God has gone to the furthest extent to rescue His people from not just human slavery, but a far worse slaver, the slavery of sin. God doesn't just want to rescue us from bad rulers and leader, but God has eternally rescued us from Satan who wants to enslave us in sin all the way to hell with him forever. God had to go to greater measures than plagues to rescue the world from sin. God had to pour out judgment on Himself to rescue us eternally.



Turn to Exodus 12 and prepare to discuss with your Connect Group.

Connect Group Discussions #2 (15 min)

Leader Note: The purpose of this section is for our students to see the Gospel as God's greatest, final, and sufficient rescue effort for the people of the world. As well, because God did whatever it took to rescue His people, we must do whatever it takes to tell others about God wanting to rescue them from sin!

- **Exodus 12 describes the Passover that God commands Israel to obey in order to live through the “Passing Over” of His Death Angel of the first born. Read the following passages together and discuss how they relate to the Gospel and teach us more about the Gospel.**

Discuss Exodus 12:5 “A lamb without blemish.”

Jesus had to be both perfect and sinless to be an acceptable sacrifice for our sins. (Hebrews 4:15)

Discuss Exodus 12:7 “Take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses.”

Jesus' death does not automatically save us, but we must give our lives to Jesus through the Gospel so that His blood cleanses us from all our sin. (1 John 1:7-9)

Discuss Exodus 12:8 “They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire.”

Jesus died for us so that He can live through us. At salvation, Jesus comes into our very lives. He is in us, and we are in Him! (Col. 1:27)

Discuss Exodus 12:5 “A lamb without blemish.”

Jesus had to be both perfect and sinless to be an acceptable sacrifice for our sins. (1 Corinthians 5:7)



Discuss Exodus 12:12 “I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt.”

Even though Jesus died for the whole world, those who don't give their lives to Jesus through the Gospel will be eternally judged by God in hell.

Discuss Exodus 12:13 “The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.”

When Jesus comes back and judges His enemies, His people who follow Him will be spared of His judgment (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8)

Discuss Exodus 12:14 “You shall keep this day as a feast to the Lord.”

God has given us Gospel-reminders like daily Bible reading, weekly church services, disciple making groups, worship songs, and The Lord's Supper. These are to remind us of the Gospel because our sin makes us forget so quickly and easily. (Luke 22:14-23)

- **Connect Group Teachers Point:** God's greatest extent to save His people wasn't the Plagues or the Passover, but it was when He poured out His greatest judgment on His own Son, Jesus. That act was how God showed He would do whatever it took to save the world (Romans 5:8).
- **Our last discussion of the day:** If God went to the greatest extent to rescue the world from sin in order to grant us salvation, then what can we do as His people to play our part in His rescue movement? In other words, to what extent can we go **THIS WEEK** to share the Gospel with anyone and everyone in the world? Think up 5 ways together your Connect Group can individually go to a greater extent this week to share the Gospel of Jesus! (2 Corinthians 5:11, 13-15, 18-21).

Closing Remarks and Announcements by Lead Teacher (5 min)

Students, here is your take-home: God poured out His plagues on Egypt to put His power to rescue on display for all the world to see. Remember that God has gone to an even greater extent to save you by pouring out His worst judgment on His Son Jesus with the cross. Jesus has risen from the dead so that we can live out the Gospel with Him as we reach more to be rescued. Next week we will learn how God leads His



people Straight Outta Egypt toward the Promised Land. But this week, do whatever it takes and go to every extent to spread the Gospel of Jesus to a world who needs rescuing!

