

OPTIONAL Supplemental Material
Opening Prayers and Introductory Notes for Leaders

Leaders: Use the provided questions as guides to your study of the text. You can choose which questions to focus on—some are better for groups who have new believers or first time bible study participants, others are for people who have a good knowledge of the Bible. You do not need to answer all the questions! Your role as the leader is to keep the conversation focused on the Bible passage or on the application of the passage to the lives of the members of your group. Prepare by choosing which questions to focus on.

Week 1 - When the group is gathered begin by praying this prayer or one of your own,

“Lord God, you supply us with life and with life abundant even when there seems to be death all around us. You alone can raise the dead and open our eyes to see your resurrection life in this world. Open up our hearts and minds to see your action and glory in your living word so that we might find hope in your action and care. In Christ’s name, Amen.”

Read Exodus 1:1-2:10 and then Goldingay pp. 6-11 aloud.

(Note for the leader: If you so choose, you can focus on Exodus 1.)

Week 2 - When the group is gathered begin by praying this prayer or one of your own,

“Lord God, you are free, just and true. You are holy, near and mysterious. You invite us into the joy and trembling work of being your people and living according to your name. Enable us this week to see how your freedom and your call enable us to be who we have been created to be. In Christ’s name, Amen.”

Read Exodus chapter 3 and then pages 17-21 in Goldingay aloud.

Week 3 - When the group is gathered begin by praying this prayer or one of your own,

“God of mercy and life, service to you is freedom and joy and peace. When we serve other masters we find that our toil is in vain and our energy is drained. Free us from false authorities that we might serve and adore you for your sake and for the life of the world. In Christ’s name, Amen.”

Read Exodus 5:1-6:1 and then pages 28-30 in Goldingay aloud.

Week 4 - When the group is gathered begin by reading this prayer or one of your own,

“God of power, mercy and might, your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and your dominion is over all the earth. Your care and action are specific, timely and strong.

Teach us how to relate to power and prayer, stubbornness and steadfastness so that we might live according to your providence and mercy. In Christ's name, Amen."

Read Exodus 8:8-32 and then Goldingay pages 37-40 aloud.

Week 5 – When the group is gathered begin by reading this prayer or one of your own,

"Our strong and gracious God, you declared war on the gods of Egypt and delivered your people from the hand of their oppressors. You have shown us the fullness of your victory in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Show us now how to live into your victory, your future, and your hope so that our lives might reflect your love, glory and power. In Christ's name, Amen."

Read Exodus 12:1-36 and then Goldingay 54-57 aloud.

Week 6 - Once the group is gathered begin by reading this prayer or use one of your own.

"Lord God, you will reign forever and ever. You will fight for us and keep us close to your heart. Nothing is too hard for you and nothing moves your heart more than the suffering of your people and the sin that has marred life in this your broken and beloved world. Keep us patient, we pray, that we might boldly hope in your redemption and trust in your care and sustaining love. In Christ's name, Amen."

Read Exodus 15:1-21 and then pages 64-67 in Goldingay aloud.

Week 7 - Once the group is gathered begin by reading this prayer or use one of your own.

"God of comfort, governance and truth, you have given us responsibilities and talents and with that comes pitfalls and pride. You have given us wisdom and truth, but these can be easier to understand and acknowledge than to practice and live. Help us to heed your voice and adjust our lives according to our human limits and in response to your care, correction and love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen."

Read Exodus 18 and then pages 72-74 aloud.

Week 8 - Once the group is gathered begin by reading this prayer or use one of your own.

"God of freedom and love, you have liberated us from all false powers and have directed us away from paths that do not lead to you. Instead, you lead us beside quiet waters in gentleness and trust that we might serve you and live according to your ways of wholeness, joy and delight. Teach us to live into your glory and your love so that our lives together, and as individuals, might reflect the reality of your reign and the truth of your gospel. In Christ's name, Amen."

Read Exodus 20:1-18 and then Goldingay 78-82 aloud.

Week 9 - Once the group is gathered begin by praying this prayer, or use one of your own.

“Lord God, you are righteous in all your ways and loving toward all you have made. In you and in your love we live and move and have our being. Forgive us, Lord God because we are quick to turn away from your commands. We are hesitant to fulfill our vows; we are caught up in our own little worlds and forget that you are enthroned on high. Teach us to dwell in your love, to meditate on your ways and to bask in your care so that even our failures and faults might be times to know your grace and truth more fully. In Christ we pray, Amen.”

Read Exodus 32 and then Goldingay 113-116 aloud.

Week 10 - Once the group is gathered begin by praying this prayer or use one of your own.

“Lord God, we know you because you have revealed yourself to us through your Son Jesus Christ. We believe in you because you have given us the gift of faith through the power of your Holy Spirit. We thirst for you because we have tasted your goodness and know something of your love. Satisfy us, we pray, but make us hungry again so that in our hunger for you and your ways we may be continually drawn back to you and your abundant goodness and mercy. In Christ we pray, Amen.”

Read Exodus 33 and Goldingay 117-122 aloud.