

RESCUE SUNDAY

God Responds to Injustice



GOD RESPONDS TO INJUSTICE

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Study 3:

God Responds to Injustice

Last week, we sat with the magnitude of injustice and evil, both during the time of Noah in the Bible and in our world today. Today's text focuses on one of the most significant events that shaped God's people. The Israelites are enslaved, suffering under the oppressive rule of the Egyptian empire. This story of liberation foreshadows the ultimate liberation God will bring for humanity through Jesus, but we'll get to that later!

While slavery might seem like an injustice in the past, it has taken on various forms in our world today. A victim of slavery might find themselves in bonded labour, sexual exploitation or even flesh farming! It's estimated that human trafficking is now the second-largest trade in the world today. Here is a short story from a survivor whom our Destiny Rescue Agents rescued;

Asada, like all too many children in Zimbabwe's slums, found herself faced with a terrible choice: starve or sell her body for food. She was just 13 years old when the exploitation began. Now, however, her life is much different. After rescue, Asada completed her EMPOWER trauma resilience training, equipping her to move forward through life without being crippled by the abuse she's endured. And moving forward is just what she's done.

Asada has thrown herself into her hairdressing apprenticeship, part of our economic empowerment programming to help her stay free. She works full-time and has amassed a bank of regular, satisfied clients. She's even attending a photography course so she can promote the business.

Her grandmother says that Asada can't wait to go to her apprenticeship. The kind woman, who now acts as Asada's guardian, has never seen her granddaughter so happy. Asada agrees. "I have always longed for a family, and now I have it," says the vibrant survivor. "I am now happy that I am doing what I love most."

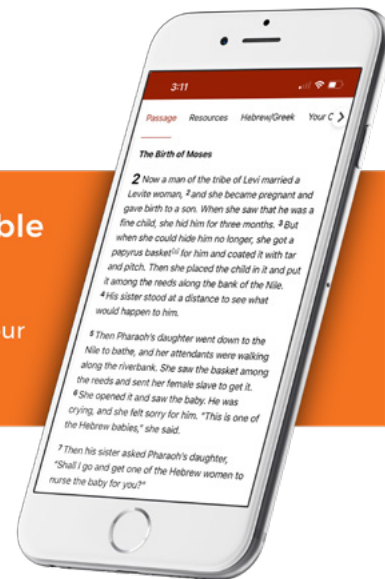
DISCUSS:

- What does God have to do with the injustice we see in the world? Do you think God is affected by the injustice in the world?
- How, if at all, have you ever experienced God's presence or help in the midst of pain and challenge?

Evil and violence increase on the earth, and God promises never to destroy the world again (Gen 9). We see a hint of God's ultimate plan to save humanity when God makes a promise to a man named Abraham: I will turn your family into a great nation (people); I will give you a good land (place); I will be with you (presence)—all for the purpose of being a blessing (Gen 12). Generations later, the Israelites (descendants of Abraham) resettled in Egypt because of a famine. Their immigrant community grew, and the Egyptians enslaved them. Moses was supposed to be killed in a mass genocide of Hebrew baby boys. Because of some fearless women, he is instead adopted into Pharaoh's household and raised as Egyptian royalty. Everything changes after he murders an Egyptian guard for beating a Hebrew slave, one of his own people. Moses flees and settles in Midian. (Exodus 1-2)

READ:
Exodus 2:23-3:1-12

**Grab your Bible
and open to
Exodus 2**
or look it up on your
mobile device



DISCUSS:

- What verbs describe God's actions in the text?
- Why does God talk to Moses? What do you notice about their interaction?
- Describe God's plan to rescue the Israelites and Moses's role. How does this further shape our understanding of God's response to injustice?

Additional questions;

- What repetition, contrasts, or imagery do you see in the text?
- What is the difference between Moses' and God's perspective in the story?
- Why might it be significant to the Israelites that God sees, hears, and responds to their cries of slavery?
- Moses doesn't feel qualified to be used by God, yet God still chooses him and assures him of God's presence. In what ways are you tempted to feel unqualified for being used by God to pursue justice for our world?

SUMMARY + REFLECTION:

God is not a passive bystander to injustice. God sees, hears, and comes down to rescue the Israelites from the oppressive hand of the Egyptians to bring them to a land where they can flourish. Through Moses, Hebrew by birth but raised Egyptian, belonging to both cultures yet at home in neither, God brings liberation. Had Moses not noticed the burning bush and followed his curiosity, he would have missed a powerful encounter with God. God's plan to rescue the Israelites will work not only because of who Moses is, but also because of **how God responds to injustice**.

When we cry out to God, we are not yelling into a void. God sees, hears, and responds to us. Last week, we had a window into God's emotions in response to injustice. This week we see that God takes action. God chooses to bring shalom by using unlikely people like us.

Have we heard God calling out to us to go and seek shalom for those around us who are crying out to God for justice and liberation? Have we responded? What if some injustice continues because we're not listening? Take a minute to pause and listen; replay the interaction between God and Moses in your mind. Where do you place yourself in the story? (e.g. tending to the flock, curious about the burning bush, hearing God calling to you, wondering if you are qualified, etc.) How might God be speaking to you?



APPLY:

Spiritual Practice: Intercession

Intercession is prayer that helps us have eyes to see the world the way God does and pray accordingly. What cries for justice have you read about or seen in the last few weeks? Spend 5-10 min each day praying on behalf of others.

Reflect + Share

Journal your responses to these questions, then share them with your group.

- Where are you in the story? How is God speaking to you?