

# Contents

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<b>1</b>	<b>Oppression: The Background and the Birth of Moses—June 28–July 4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>The Burning Bush—July 5–11</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Rough Start—July 12–18</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>The Plagues—July 19–25</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Passover—July 26–August 1</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Through the Red Sea—August 2–8</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>The Bread and Water of Life—August 9–15</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Covenant at Sinai—August 16–22</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Living the Law—August 23–29</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>The Covenant and the Blueprint—August 30–September 5</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Apostasy and Intercession—September 6–12</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>“Please, Show Me Your Glory”—September 13–19</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>The Tabernacle—September 20–26</b>	<b>163</b>

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## Exodus: Journey to the Promised Land



The God revealed in the book of Exodus is the loving Lord who, at the appointed time and with His mighty actions, brought salvation and deliverance to His people (*Gen. 15:12–16*). The exodus from Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea were pivotal and unique events—God’s spectacular and marvelous acts. No greater or more glorious event ever happened in the history of ancient Israel before the Cross. It is the gospel, but according to Moses.

God miraculously and repeatedly arose to demonstrate His care and protection for the Hebrews, despite their constant backsliding. His mercy surpassed all their understandings and feelings. With His outstretched arm, the Lord led His people to freedom. It was an unprecedented act. This unexpected series of divine interventions was the beginning of their renewed journey with God, a journey from Egypt to (eventually) Canaan.

Though Moses plays an important role in Exodus, this book is not about Moses but about God—the God of love, truth, justice, freedom, and forgiveness, the God who ultimately went to the cross for us. By studying Exodus, we get a unique look at what our God is really like.

And what is He really like? He is a God who was faithful to His people despite their unfaithfulness. He was constantly for them, even when they were against Him. Again and again, He showed them His mercy, bringing encouragement, correction, and divine instruction. Leading them in the best possible way, He wanted them

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voluntarily, out of love for Him and His character, to worship and obey, all for their own good.

The God of Moses is the God of relationships. The most important objective of God was not to accomplish something or to fulfill an agenda; instead, His prime objective was to create a meaningful relationship with His chosen people, Israel. He led them to Sinai in order to establish this deep fellowship.

The apostle Paul teaches that what happened to God's people in the past is an object lesson for us so that we could learn from their mistakes and faithfully follow the Lord today: "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come" (1 Cor. 10:11, ESV). These past events should

*The exodus from Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea were pivotal and unique events—God's spectacular and marvelous acts.*

be a warning and a source of unforgettable instruction for us now. We should read them, study them, and learn from them, because no matter how different the circumstances, the spiritual principles behind them remain the same.

Our plan for studying the book of Exodus during these 13 weeks is transparent. The book is divided into weekly chapter readings of various lengths (divided thematically for convenience): (1) slavery in Egypt, the birth of Moses, and Moses' first 40 years (*Exodus 1–2*); (2) commission of Moses (*Exodus 3–4*); (3) complications: when life becomes worse (*Exodus 5–6*); (4) the first nine plagues (*Exodus 7–10*); (5) the tenth plague and the celebration of the Passover (*Exodus 11–12*); (6) the liberation from Egypt and the Red Sea experience (*Exodus 13–15*); (7) the journey to Mount Sinai (*Exodus 16–18*); (8) the gift of God's Covenant and the Decalogue (*Exodus 19–20*); (9) God's law applied (*Exodus 21–23*); (10) the Covenant confirmed and the blueprint of the tabernacle (*Exodus 24–31*); (11) the golden calf apostasy and Moses' intercession (*Exodus 32*); (12) God's self-revelation and the radiant face of Moses (*Exodus 33–34*); (13) the tabernacle built and dedicated (*Exodus 35–40*). Each week we focus on key passages and events from indicated chapters.

May our gracious Lord bless us as we study this pivotal book that reminds us of how God wants to lead His people from slavery to freedom, from death to life, and from the wilderness to the New Jerusalem (*Heb. 12:22*).

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# How to Use This Teachers Edition

**“The true teacher is not content with dull thoughts, an indolent mind, or a loose memory. He constantly seeks higher attainments and better methods. His life is one of continual growth. In the work of such a teacher there is a freshness, a quickening power, that awakens and inspires his [class].”**

**—Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 103.**

To be a Sabbath School teacher is both a privilege and a responsibility. A privilege because it offers the teacher the unique opportunity to lead and guide in the study and discussion of the week’s lesson so as to enable the class to have both a personal appreciation for God’s Word and a collective experience of spiritual fellowship with class members. When the class concludes, members should leave with a sense of having tasted the goodness of God’s Word and having been strengthened by its enduring power. The responsibility of teaching demands that the teacher is fully aware of the Scripture to be studied, the flow of the lesson through the week, the interlinking of the lessons to the theme of the quarter, and the lesson’s application to life and witness.

This guide is to help teachers to fulfill their responsibility adequately. It has three segments:

- 1. Overview** introduces the lesson topic, key texts, links with the previous lesson, and the lesson’s theme. This segment deals with such questions as Why is this lesson important? What does the Bible say about this subject? What are some major themes covered in the lesson? How does this subject affect my personal life?
- 2. Commentary** is the chief segment in the Teachers Edition. It may have two or more sections, each one dealing with the theme introduced in the Overview segment. The Commentary may include several in-depth discussions that enlarge the themes outlined in the Overview. The Commentary provides an in-depth study of the themes and offers scriptural, exegetic, illustrative discussion material that leads to a better understanding of the themes. The Commentary also may have scriptural word study or exegesis appropriate to the lesson. On a participatory mode, the Commentary segment may have discussion leads, illustrations appropriate to the study, and thought questions.
- 3. Life Application** is the final segment of the Teachers Edition for each lesson. This section leads the class to discuss what was presented in the Commentary segment as it impacts Christian life. The application may involve discussion, further probing of what the lesson under study is all about, or perhaps personal testimony on how one may feel the impact of the lesson on one’s life.

**Final thought:** What is mentioned above is only suggestive of the many possibilities available for presenting the lesson and is not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive in its scope. Teaching should not become monotonous, repetitious, or speculative. Good Sabbath School teaching should be Bible-based, Christ-centered, faith-strengthening, and fellowship-building.