

EXODUS

GOD'S GOT IT

Exodus 6:1–13

In the same year, I transitioned from homeschooling to high school, my brother left for college, and, for some reason, for the first time in my life, I decided I was going to try playing basketball.

It was a rough season. I missed my brother, I wasn't getting good grades, and I was a terrible basketball player. Everything felt different. My life was being disrupted, and I wasn't sure what God was doing or why things felt so hard.

Looking back, I can see that God was doing things in my life that I couldn't see at the time. But in the moment, I didn't have that perspective. I just knew that life had changed, and I didn't understand why.

At this point in Exodus, Israel was learning some of the same lessons, though admittedly in far greater ways than my high school self ever did. In Exodus 5, God was shaking things up for His people in Egypt. He had bigger plans than they could see, but in the moment, things seemed to be getting worse instead of better. Their suffering increased so much that Moses cried out to God, asking why He had brought all this trouble on His people.

Then, in chapter 6, we see God's response. He doesn't explain everything that is happening. Instead, He reminds Moses and Israel of who He is, what He has promised, and what He is going to do.

Israel couldn't see what God was doing, so God reminded them to trust who He is.

And I think that's something we all need to learn. Sometimes God is working in ways we can't see, and when we don't understand what He is doing, our confidence doesn't come from having all the answers. It comes from knowing the God who does.

ICEBREAKER

What's something you were really skeptical about until you saw it actually work?

DAILY DEVOTIONS—DAY 1

READ IT

Read Exodus 6:1–13.

EXPLORE IT

1. **What does God remind Moses that He has already done in verses 2–5?**
2. **What does God promise that He will do for Israel in verses 6–8? Make a list of the “I will” statements you find.**
3. **How do the Israelites and Moses each respond to what God says in verses 9–12?**
4. **What reasons does the text give for their responses?**
5. **What does God command Moses and Aaron to do in verse 13?**

DAY 2—TODAY’S THEME: ALWAYS ADVANCING

Read Exodus 6:1–5.

God was prepared to act. The same God that made a promise to their fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the same God who was now going to follow through on those promises. “Now you shall see what I will do...” God says to Moses. The affliction and suffering experienced by God’s people was real and it was great, but it didn’t mean God’s plans had failed. Instead, it was setting the stage for one of the greatest displays of God’s power.

“You know, when we get into a pickle, usually what we want is a way out. We want a plan. We want a strategy. We want to see light at the end of the tunnel. We want something practical, you know, something nuts and bolts that will get us from A to Z, out of the mess that we are in. Isn’t it interesting that in this pickle, God stops and He says, ‘Moses, let me tell you about Myself.’ And my friends, that is exactly what God wants us to know. When we get into a pickle,

The point is, salvation begins with knowing who God is and so when He is preparing to do a great work, He begins by teaching His people about Himself. That is why the most important thing that you could learn in your Bible study is who your God is.”¹

- ¹J. Ligon Duncan III, “Revelation of the Divine Name,” sermon on Exodus 6:2–9, January 21, 2001, Reformed Theological Seminary, <https://rts.edu/resources/revelation-of-the-divine-name/>.

DAY 3—TODAY'S THEME: YES, HE WILL

Read Exodus 6:6–8.

As we've seen, first God reminds Moses of who He is. Then God makes seven promises marked by seven "I will..." statements:

I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

I will deliver you from slavery to them.

I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.

I will take you to be my people.

I will be your God.

I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

I will give it to you for a possession.

Now God's people would come to know Him not only as the promise maker, but as the promise keeper. By reiterating His promises to Israel, God was giving them firm ground for faith even in their greatest moment of affliction. Their hope could not rest in themselves. It could not rest in Moses or Aaron. Their hope had to rest securely in God. They were learning that faith rests not in the performance of God's servants, but in the promises of God Himself. It is God who remembers. God who acts. God who redeems. God who saves His people.

10. Look at the promises God has made to Israel (see above). Which one stands out to you most? Why?

11. What's the difference between trusting what God has promised and expecting God to do whatever you want?

12. What is something people sometimes believe God has promised when He actually hasn't? How can knowing God's Word help us know what He has really promised?

DAY 4—TODAY'S THEME: FROM BAD TO WORSE

Read Exodus 6:9–12.

Have you ever had a really bad day where one thing goes wrong, and then it feels like everything is going wrong?

Like, for me, I'll have days when I wake up late, rush out the door, and then spill my entire cup of coffee on my drive to work. For you, maybe you get in trouble at school, then you lose your homework (or just forget about it), and then you get into an argument with your friend. And pretty soon, you're not just upset about one thing; your whole day feels terrible.

That's exactly where we find the Israelites in Exodus 6, except not for a day, but YEARS. God has given them incredible promises, but they are so crushed by their suffering that they struggle to even listen to them.

As we move into verse 9 we come across a sad scene. Moses does as God tells him to do and he shares God's promises with Israel. Surely in our greatest moments of anguish and affliction we will take hold of God's promises, right? Not so much for the people of Israel. We are told that they didn't listen to Moses because of their "broken spirit and harsh slavery." Everyone was losing heart!

Even Moses has bought into the despair of the people when God sends him before Pharaoh, wrestling with the fact that if even Israel wouldn't listen to him, why would Pharaoh? If God's own people are so overwhelmed with their suffering that they struggle to even hear the good news, why would Pharaoh even bat an eye?

13. What are some warning signs that discouragement is beginning to shape the way you see God and your circumstances? Which do you recognize most in yourself?

14. If you were walking alongside someone whose suffering had left them struggling to even hear God's promises, how would this passage shape the way you cared for them?

DAY 5—TODAY'S THEME: NO CODDLING ALLOWED

Read Exodus 6:13.

I graduated high school and almost immediately started working for a plumbing company. I was 17 years old, and honestly to this day, it is still one of the toughest environments I have ever worked in.

I was a shop boy (basically a plumber's assistant), and the way I would get yelled at was actually crazy. There was one objective: get the job done. The time for coddling was over. I wasn't in high school anymore. I was a big boy, and man, I was treated like it.

I remember my first day. I was standing in this huge trench, laying underground pipe. There was no orientation. No "Hey, welcome to the team." No training session. I was just there. I was getting yelled at, being told what needed to get done, and trying to figure everything out as I went. It was rough.

And honestly, there was something I had to learn pretty quickly: sometimes, being given a job means being given a job. You don't always get to choose the conditions. You don't always get to understand the whole plan. Sometimes, you just need to trust the person who gave you the assignment and get to work.

Notice here in verse 13 how God responds to Moses' objection. He doesn't coddle Moses. He doesn't back off because Moses is discouraged. Instead, God gives Moses and Aaron a charge. He commands them to bring the people of Israel out of Egypt. God wasn't asking them what they thought about the plan. He was telling them what He was going to do. The people weren't listening. Moses was discouraged. Everything seemed to be getting worse. But none of their discouragement was going to derail God's deliverance.

God had given Moses a command, and God was going to accomplish what He had promised.

15. What's the difference between being responsible for obeying God and being responsible for making sure everything works out?

16. What is the difference between honestly wrestling with God and turning away from God?

This study was written by Ethan Wentzlaff based on the adult lesson by the VBC pastoral team.