

DETROIT CHURCH LIFE GROUPS



Know the story

WEEK 9 // SUFFERING SLAVES &
STUTTERING SPEAKERS





DETROIT CHURCH



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OUR VISION

VISION. MISSION. VALUES

VISION > *WHAT IS OUR OPTIMAL DESIRED FUTURED STATE?*

ALL THINGS NEW. While Jesus is busy making everything new, we also want to be busy developing new and meaningful relationships to help people connect with Him.

MISSION > *WHAT ARE WE ULTIMATELY TRYING TO DO?*

Awaken Detroit to the greatest adventure of all time. We believe that is the adventure of following Jesus. LIFE Groups exist to help us all become better followers of Jesus.

VALUES > *WHY ARE WE DOING IT?*

- BELONG BEFORE YOU BELIEVE.
Romans 5:6-11
- SEE THE UNSEEN.
2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- LOOK UP.
Hebrews 12:2
- JUSTICE IS AN ACTIVE, RELENTLESS PURSUIT.
Micah 6:8
- EMBRACE, THE ULTIMATE ARTIST WITHIN.
Exodus 35:30-33



STRATEGY > *HOW WE DO IT*

SHOW UP TO ENCOUNTER Our gatherings will be all about helping people encounter Jesus through creative inspiration and the preached word of God.

MOVE INTO RELATIONSHIPS We believe that true growth results from life change that happens in intentional communities. Detroit Church exists to establish these communities of accountability where beauty can emerge and everyone can belong.

GO OUT AND IMPACT Church is more than a building and the Great Commission is not just for ministers. Our impact groups will be all about getting into the marketplace and transforming the culture from within.



SETTING THE TONE

- We are here to learn and change (not just a social time, but we also desire to grow closer and build community).
- Have fun, and keep things moving and participatory.
- Welcome a challenge from me or others in the group (give each other permission to challenge us—probe, ask questions, etc.).
- Strive to be honest and vulnerable, and we should honor that by keeping what is shared in confidence.
- We are going to try and answer questions as much as possible from within the story found in the Bible. Everything we need to learn about God and humans can be found right here in His story!
- Let's try and stay "in the story." Even when tempted to go "out of the story", lets call it out.

WEEK NINE - SUFFERING SLAVES & STUTTERING SERVANTS

(Guide the group as they give an overview of previous stories and retell the last story.)

PRE-STORY SETUP

Q: Have you ever had your eyes opened to the condition of those around you? We've all felt the tempting tug to be apathetic and just focus on our personal situations. But what happens when God opens our eyes to what's going on around us? How should we respond to the great I AM?



STORY 9: SUFFERING SLAVES & STUTTERING SERVANTS

Story from Exodus 1-4

(Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)

The family of Israel had moved to Egypt and was enjoying the blessings God had given to Joseph. Years passed, and Israel's family multiplied so quickly they began to fill Egypt! Soon a new king ruled Egypt who didn't remember how Joseph had saved them from the great famine. This king, called Pharaoh, told his people, "The Israelites are becoming a threat to us. There are too many of them! If we don't stop them now, they could join our enemies and fight against us."

The Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves and treated them horribly. Pharaoh even gave an order to have every newborn son of the Israelites killed by drowning them in the Nile River.

One Hebrew family put their baby son in a basket and floated him down the Nile in hopes of saving his life. Pharaoh's daughter discovered this baby crying in the basket and felt sorry for him. Moses' sister, who followed the basket from a distance, offered to help Pharaoh's daughter find a mother to nurse the baby. Pharaoh's daughter agreed, but she didn't know that she was hiring Moses' own mother to take care of him! The princess took the baby home to raise him in the king's palace and named him Moses (which means "to draw out").

Many years later, after Moses had grown up, he went to where his own people were and watched them being forced to work as slaves. He witnessed an Egyptian beating one of the Hebrews. Moses looked around to see if anyone was watching, then killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. When Pharaoh heard about this he tried to have Moses killed, but Moses escaped to the wilderness and started a new life as a shepherd.

Several years later a new Pharaoh came into power and continued to punish the Israelites in slavery. The people of Israel cried out to God for help and deliverance. God heard their cries and felt deep concern for them. He did not forget the covenant promise He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. One day while Moses was tending sheep he noticed a bush that was on fire, but it wasn't burning up. He said to himself, "That's amazing! I've got to go over and see this."

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God called out to him from the bush, “Moses, Moses!”

“Yes, here I am!” Moses answered.

“Don’t come any closer,” God told him. “Take off your sandals because you are standing on holy ground.”

Moses hid his face in his hands because he was afraid to look at God. Then God told him, “I have heard my people’s cries for deliverance and have come to rescue them. I have chosen you to meet with Pharaoh and lead my people out of Egypt.” But Moses begged God to send someone else saying, “Who am I? I’m not a good speaker. I’m clumsy with my words.”

But God said, “Who created mouths? Who gives people the ability to speak, hear, and see? I will help you speak clearly, and I will tell you what to say. But be prepared—Pharaoh is stubborn and will not listen.” God allowed Moses to bring his brother Aaron with him to help him speak to Pharaoh.

Then Moses asked, “Who should I tell them has sent me?” God replied, “I AM WHO I AM. Tell them that I AM has sent you—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is my name for every generation.”

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the God of Israel says: ‘Let my people go!’”

√You won’t believe what happened next. . . .

RETELL THE STORY

(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story.)



(CONTINUED)

DIALOGUE: SUFFERING SLAVES & STUTTERING SERVANTS

(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story.)

- 1. How did the Israelites get into Egypt? How were they treated when they first arrived? How did that change?**
- 2. Why did Moses remove his sandals when he talked to God?**
- 3. Why do you think Moses was afraid to look at God?**
- 4. What did God call Himself in the story? What do you think this means?**
 - I will always be—before you and after you.
 - God cannot be contained in a name—too amazing for words.
- 5. What do we learn about Moses from this story?**
 - Moses was a sinner and a murderer, but God still chose to use him.
 - He felt weak, but God used him anyway.
 - What is Moses' relationship like with God? With the people of Israel?
- 6. Did you hear anything that reminded you of previous stories? What connections did you make?**
- 7. What does this story teach us about God?**
 - He keeps His promises.
 - He cares for people.
 - He is able to deliver and protect all who cry out to Him.
 - He desires to use people to represent Him.
 - He allows suffering.
 - His ways are sometimes hard for us to understand at first.

APPLICATION

(Optional questions that also work well in smaller groups)

- **What did you notice from the story for the first time?**
- **How did the story challenge or encourage you?**
- **Has God ever used you when you were afraid or unsure of yourself? How? What did you learn?**
- **How might suffering benefit us?**