

Week 6: Formation of a People

Fellowship

- **Eat:** Ask someone else to bring the snacks and drinks to provide hospitality.
- **Check-Ins:** In a large group or small groups of 2-3 do an emotional check-in—What does intimacy with God look like for you in this season? What could it look like? Pray for one another.

Adoration

- **Prayer:** As if anyone needs prayer for anything or for anyone else in their life. Spend time as a group praying for those needs. These could be prayers of intercession (appealing to God for change) or prayers of insight and encouragement (listening to God for his perspective).
- **Worship:** Spend time prayerfully speaking out the character of God you have observed through the God Story thus far! Have the group spend 1-2 minutes in silence meditating on one of these characteristics that really struck them. (*Bonus fun: Invite people to stand and lift their hands or kneel on their knees during this activity)

Learning

- **Scripture:**
 - *Consider giving a short summary of the second half of Genesis. (1) Abraham's almost sacrifice of Isaac, (2) Isaac's son Jacob who is renamed Israel because he wrestled with God, (3) Jacob's son Joseph who is abandoned and sold into slavery by his brothers, but rises in favor as a leader in Egypt, and (4) finally the growth and enslavement of Jacob's descendants in Egypt.
 - **Read Exodus 3:1-17** "Moses' Call to Liberation"
 - **Summarize** the exodus story. (1) The exchange of pleas to Pharaoh and plagues that demonstrate God's power to the Egyptians and to the Israelites, (2) the 10th plague was the firstborn dying and the Israelites action of sacrificing a lamb and smearing the blood over the door of their household which becomes known as "the passover," and (3) they escape into the wilderness.
 - **Read Exodus 19:3-6** "Israel's Identity as a People"
 - What phrases or words stood out? Can someone summarize what God has promised to Moses?
 - What patterns or characteristics are being revealed about God? Does God have a name?
 - What is God's vision for his people Israel?
- **Resources:**
 - Many people are familiar with the 10 Commandments. Consider engaging this topic through Greenslades reflection on them. Short excerpt from **A Passion for God's Story** by Philip Greenslade (pdf on Church @ Home tab or in the shared folder)
- **Dialogue Questions:**
 - What is striking you about the formation of Israel and the Exodus Story?
 - What do you think about the claim that Commandments can be "Tender"? How does this challenge your personal experiences with the Church?
 - What about the claim that creations' goal is "Rest"? How does this challenge the cultural values and practices that are all around you?
- **Implications:**
 - Are there any commands of Jesus that you have made a habit of disobeying or disregarding? Do an experiment this week and try obeying it strictly. Share next week what you experienced.