Week 2

Confirmation: Bible

Icebreaker

Team Snake and Team Sea

Count off into 2’s

Team 1 is team snake. Team 2 is Team sea. Each team should choose a warrior. The rest of the team must prepare a statement. Why is our team going to win? Imagine announcing the warrior in a boxing ring. How will your introduce yourselves? What will you declare about the warrior?

Once your statement is ready---make up a team dance that reflects some of your claims or team name.

What do you remember about the book of Exodus? Who are some of the central characters?

What English word sounds the same and means the same as Exodus?

Exodus is often understood as the story of a grand struggle between great humans: Moses, an ordinary guy and Pharoah, powerful ruler of the Egyptians. We might wonder why God chooses sides. Why does God stack the deck against Pharaoh and his people? Why does God act kindly to the Israelites?

Pharoah—means “great house.”

Sometimes we use a triangle or a pyramid as a representative of power. Who is on the bottom of the pyramid? Who is in the middle? Who is on the top? Where would you want to be.

YHWH—means “I am.” Traditional Jewish believers do not pronounce the name of respect for God. Only God can speak God’s name. Yahweh made a promise to Abraham and Sarah (remember that one?) and he intends to keep it!

Read Exodus 3:7-10

**7**Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, **8**and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. **9**The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. **10**Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

The showdown between Pharoah and God includes a lot of death and destruction. What this really the only way for God’s people to become free?

The Way to Freedom

--The Egyptians believed Pharoah, who was both the political and religious ruler of the land, was on the same level as the gods. He expected to be treated like a divine being.

--As if slavery wasn’t bad enough, angry Pharaoh made the work more difficult. Work with a partner and read Exodus 5:4-9, What did Pharoah do? What did Pharoah call his people?

--Once, while Moses was off talking with God, things got out of hand among the people. They forgot all that God had promised them, so they made a statue of a calf out of gold, and the people started to worship it. This happened just a few days after they received the Ten Commandments (read Exodus 32:1-8).

We might say we “worship” something when we give it much of our time and attention? What kind of things do you worship or devote yourself to?

--Getting free begins with rescue, escape, and celebration. Staying free takes time and work and lots and lots of walking. God chooses to work in and through events and people to change things, bringing about true and lasting freedom.

--Pharaoh’s shadow loomed, even in the wilderness. The people wanted to be free, but they complained all the time. Freedom meant an uncertain future and a lack of structure, something the former slaves had gotten used to in their years and years of captivity in Egypt.

Write some words that represent things the people missed about Egypt. Read a couple of the passages of complaining in the wilderness (Exodus 16:1-3, 17:1-7).

Characters in the story of Exodus follow a three-step pattern. See-think-act.

Think of a problem you solved or helped others solve this month. Map it how step by step.

What did you see?

What did you think?

What did you do (act)?

Personal Reflection

Think of a new or difficult experience you’ve been through. What are some ways God was with you? Think. Share. Discuss.

Why do we emphasize some laws and not others?

What are some rules in school that are strictly enforced? What are some rules that are not? Why?

What are some laws in our community that are strictly enforced? What are some that are not? Why?

Laws are typically used to keep people safe, to establish expectations, and to define ground rules for society. We might not always like the law, but what would happen if we didn’t have, let’s say, road signs? Chaos!

God’s laws also help us avoid chaos.

What kind of law would make your life a little easier?

When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, the Israelites did whatever Pharaoh told them to. Once they were on their own, they had to learn how to listen to God and how to treat one another, They had to learn how to be free.

Write three rules:

For using your freedom wisely.

For living well with God,

For getting along with others.

Three chains.

What laws are temporary like paper chains?

What laws are meant to protect like a heavy metal chain?

What laws are meant to move us forward like a bike chain?

Read Numbers 15:37-41

What do our clothes say about who we are and what we value?

Read Mathew 7:12 Jesus condenses the law into a short, easy to remember statement. What does he say the law is?

Look at one of the following stories. Write down the consequences of sin. And write down God’s response to sin.

Adam and Eve (Gen 3)

Cain and Abel (Gen 4:1-16)

David and Bathsheaba (2 Sam 11:2-5, 14-27 and S Sam 12:9-18, 24-25

Can you think of laws now or laws from the past that were meant to hurt people?