

Blandford and Langton Home Groups  
Meeting for Week Beginning 7 October 2007  
Focus At Home “The Bible - The Big Picture”

## “Moses Roots - In Obscurity”

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### The Overall Aim of this Study:

To see through the life of Moses ...

- ❖ That where we come from doesn't matter to God.
  - ❖ That everything we do has a purpose and a use to God.
  - ❖ That God takes time to deal with the things that get in the way.
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- Welcome

Name one thing about your childhood which may surprise the group!

- Worship

Read Psalm 46 and contemplate the words “Be still and know that I am God”. Note that these words are in the midst of a tempestuous Psalm!

- Word

See “*The One Stop Bible Guide*” (TOSBG ) Pages 26 to 27.

It may also help to read the sheet “The Story So Far” and the Sermon on this Topic.

The Israelites are in captivity in Egypt - quite a change in circumstances from the exalted status of Joseph last time. Whereas Abraham was a rich trader and Joseph was the favourite son in powerful family, Moses begins life from a very different point. God choose to intervene in the lives of His people when Pharaoh "crossed the line" in persecuting God's people [Exodus 1:8-10; 2:23-24; 3:7]

- ❖ Compare the state of the people in the story of Noah and in Moses. What is similar - although in different ways? [Sin - Captivity]

The overview of Moses life is, like Noah, Abraham and Joseph, on that develops the idea of a “Saviour”. Moses is another “type” of saviour as he leads God’s people from slavery to freedom through the Dead Sea (there is lots of imagery in this story!) Read Exodus 2:1-10 - God had his hand on Moses from the start.

- ❖ How did God preserve Moses and accomplish His purpose for Moses? Who did he involve? [The midwives, Moses' mother and sister, and on Pharaoh's own daughter.]
- ❖ How does a story like this involve Free Will? How does Free will fit with God’s Plan? Are we “pawns” in God’s game or does he sometimes “encourage” us to make the right decision - warning, you could spend the whole evening on this question!
- ❖ Romans 5:20 says “*But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.*”, Does God always wait until things are at their worst - or does the spiritual battle intensify when God is going to do something significant? [Tragedy does not mean God is not sovereign. It means that even at man's worst, God will accomplish His will.]

Just as God took time to deal with Abraham's doubts and Joseph's arrogance, God takes time to develop Moses as a deliverer of His people, using Moses' "hot-headedness" in killing an Egyptian to take him aside for 40 years so Moses could get to know Him properly.

Read Exodus 3:1-14

- ❖ Why did God meet Moses as He did, at a burning bush, with signs and wonders?  
[To thoroughly convince him. There could be no doubts in Moses about God if Moses were to obey Him and deliver His people].
- ❖ When Moses says he can't do it and offers all kinds of excuses, how does God deal with him?
- ❖ If we are called by God - what is the one thing he wants? (Clue: It is not "excuses" and begins with the letter "O"!) But God is realistic to know that we may have doubts (Abraham) or character traits that need attention (Joseph and Moses).
- ❖ Think of examples when Jesus struggled to be obedient (oops, gave you the answer to the last question) and when he was tempted to be like these OT characters? (see Luke 4 and Matthew 26:36-46 for example).

#### The lessons from Moses early life ...

There was no doubt that God had chosen Moses to survive, when other babies did not. Moses grew up as an outsider in the court of Pharaoh and knew he was different. God's calling was clear - but had to wait until the excess passion in Moses had been tamed and directed into the right paths. Again, God has to deal with the reality of a leading Bible character before he can properly use them. In the same way that the story of Noah introduced ideas of Salvation, Abraham introduced the idea of a relationship and Joseph's story reminded us who is the leading player in this relationship - the story of Moses tells us of a God who takes us "as we are" and moulds us for a great task - but it takes time. That is the story of the Old Testament in a nutshell!!

#### • Works

Are there character traits in the Church (locally, nationally and internationally) which need dealing with before God can fully use it to reach out into his world? But the church often wants a "quick fix", to deal with these things, in order to get on with the task. What things need to change in our churches before God can fully use us in his plans? Spend a short time reflecting on what these things might be and pray about them.

#### • Next Meeting

### Focus at Home next Week

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October - "Moses and the Exodus"**

This will look at the Exodus Story and how it looks forward to Jesus.