

Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

November 8-14: Read Exodus 3 & 10-11, Gospel of Luke 18

Exodus 3

This is the famous story of Moses and the burning bush. Moses is 80 years old, but he's never really encountered God until this day. He doesn't recognize God when he appears, and he doesn't know his name. But God begins to reveal himself to Moses. What a great dialogue!

Further Study & Discussion

- Moses encounters God for the first time in a quite miraculous way. Remember the first time you encountered God? Do you have a story to tell? Share it with others.
- God calls himself, "I AM." What does this mean?
- Why would Moses be hesitant to go back to Egypt? Talk about a time God made a demand of you and you didn't want to do it. Did you end up doing it, or did you back down?

Exodus 10-11

Chapters 10-11 recounts the final three plagues. If you have time, go ahead and read chapters 7-9 where the first seven plagues are recorded. The blame for these plagues land on the feet of the Pharaoh who is too stubborn to submit to God of the Hebrews.

Further Study & Discussion

- It's understandable that the Pharaoh would resist. The Hebrews have only one deity but he has many. And his gods have helped him and his nation become the greatest empire, and the god of the Hebrews is too weak to help them out of slavery. But one after another, God of the Hebrews revealed his awesome power. Like a boxing match, the eighth, ninth punches weakened his knee, and the final blow put him down for the count. Talk about the ways in which nation's leaders have caused harm or offered blessing to the people.
- The blessing and curse of the firstborn is shown to us. As a blessing, the firstborn receives double the inheritance. As a curse, the firstborn represents the family and so is punished for the family. Talk about the firstborns you know. Perhaps you are a firstborn. Was it a blessing or a curse? Or both?

Gospel of Luke 18

More teachings before Jesus turns to heal a blind beggar near Jericho (located in the south on a path to Jerusalem). Jesus' ministry is coming to an end, and he is making his way down to Jerusalem for the final time.

Further Study & Discussion

- As Jesus is approaching Jerusalem, he mentions two men going to the Temple to pray. One is a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. We know the parable. Socially speaking, people respect the Pharisee and despise the tax collector. But God sees them differently. What is God seeing that people cannot see?
- A rich man comes to Jesus with a question about eternal life. Jesus tells him to sell everything and follow him. We understand that this is not a general teaching for all people, but this was

something this rich man needed to do. What was his struggle? What is one thing that God cannot ask us to give away in our life? What if he does ask, what will you do?