

EXODUS

Initiation

ZETA SERIES



About This Series

From the beginning, every founder had a vision for shaping the lives of future generations around a specific set of values. Yet in order for this to happen, they had to find a way to pass this way of life down to each new generation. How would they do it?

Initiation.

Anyone who has ever joined Greek Life has been through a process of initiation where the value, secrets, and standards of their chapter are revealed through a series of traditions and rituals. Everyone initiated into this fraternal or sororal family is reminded of who their founders were and who they called future generations to be.

In the same way, God had a vision for humanity from the beginning, and he chose to bring this vision to life through a sort of fraternal family, known as Israel. Long ago, God promised the founding fathers of Israel that he would bless them so that they could bless the rest of humanity.

Yet in order for this to happen, they would have to cross the burning sands of the desert where God would not only reveal his values, secrets, and standards for living but ultimately himself. The events of this journey would go on to become the lasting traditions and rituals that reminded each new generation of who God was and who he called them to be.

This is the story of Israel's divine initiation as the people of God, which we'll be following through the Zeta Series as we study the Book of Exodus. We hope that God would reveal more of himself and his vision for humanity through this epic story.

ABOUT THE BIBLICAL TEXT

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How to Use This Guide

This is your semester's guide to Chapter Ministry! As you know, Bible Study is a vital part of leading a Chapter Ministry, but it's not the *only* part. This 8 Study Leader's Guide is designed to help you lead both inside and outside of the Bible Study.

STUDY BREAKDOWN



THE PASSAGE

Each study begins with the portion of scripture that you'll be exploring that week. It's what will fuel conversation so it comes first.



BEFORE THE STUDY

This section is designed to enrich your own personal experience and understanding of each passage as you prepare to lead your friends. Pay attention to the prompts as you prayerfully invite your friends to join you.



DURING THE STUDY

This section provides you with all the information and direction needed to lead an engaging discussion. Pay attention to section headers, pacing icons, and leader's tips.



AFTER THE STUDY

This section is designed to help you capture what God is doing in your chapter as a whole and identify ways you can continue partnering with him outside of Bible Study.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS AS YOU LEAD



PACING ICONS

Keep track of how much time the section should take



PLAY FIRST

Watch the videos online while prepping studies



SHARE AND ASK

Go to the Chapter Ministry Facebook group for support

Discussion Guidelines

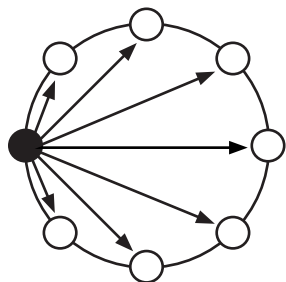
Review the Discussion Guidelines below as you begin each study especially if you have new people attending. This will help everyone know what to expect and make for a better discussion.

PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL

In a Traditional Study, the *Leader* uses *their* questions to drive the discussion. However, in a Discovery Study, it's the *Group's* questions that drive the discussion. Discovery Studies are more engaging and interactive, but they only work if everyone participates.

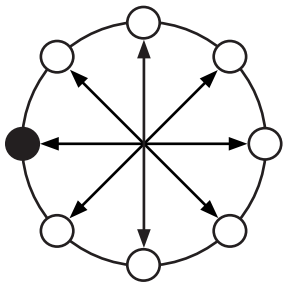
TRADITIONAL STUDY

Leader Driven



DISCOVERY STUDY

Group Driven



ASSUME YOU KNOW NOTHING

Even though some of you may have read these stories before or heard messages on them, I'd like us to assume that we're reading them for the first time. Sometimes knowing something can keep you from seeing something new. Let's focus on the passage and keep outside knowledge to a minimum.

BE REAL

When the topic of faith or religion comes up, we tend to act like everything is good—I'm good, you're good, life is good. Yet in reality, none of us have it all together and all of us have real questions. So let's drop the act and just be real with each other.

HAVE SOME RESPECT

We do not all have to agree, but we should all respect each others thoughts. Everyone here has something valuable to contribute.

Discussion Tips

Use the tips below to facilitate a great discussion.

ENTERING THE TEXT

Context First. Then Handouts.

Always give context (i.e. Prior to Passage) first before giving handouts. Context is critical but people tend to stop listening when given handouts.

Embrace Silence

Silence can be awkward but it's crucial for studying the passage. Silent study will make for better sharing later. Give people between 3-5 minutes of silent study.

DISCUSSING THE TEXT

Facilitate First. Then Share.

When discussing questions, don't share your thoughts right away. Focus on facilitating the discussion first. Then share.

Avoid Long Tangents

People lose focus with long tangents. Refocus your group by either repeating the original question or asking the next one.

Involve Everyone

Try to get everyone to share at least once during each study. Keep asking, "What do others think?"

Text the Answer

Use the passage rather than opinions to answer questions—"Where do you see that in the passage?"

Keep It Moving

Don't wait for the discussion to die before asking the next question. Move on as the discussion begins to slow.

Use Quick Recaps

Quickly summarize the story before moving on to next section of text. It helps build tension and momentum.

APPLYING THE TEXT

Use Group Lingo

Use the group's language rather than the guide's as much as possible. Feels more personal and natural.

Choose One Application

Discuss only *one* Application Option. Choose the one that best fits your group.

Semester Goals

Goals give us something specific to pray and strive towards as we reach out to our brothers and sisters. Set some goals that you will commit to pray for this semester in the chart below. Revisit your goals at the end of the semester to note what you saw happen.

	Praying for...	Saw...
Involvement		
Decisions		
Leaders		
Greek Conference		

INVOLVEMENT

How many brothers or sisters would you like to see attend Bible Study and engage with you in spiritual conversations each week?

DECISIONS

How many brothers or sisters would you like to see make decisions to follow Jesus this semester? This could be for the first time or the first time in a long time.

LEADERS

How many brothers or sisters would you like to see become Chapter Ministry Leaders next semester?

GREEK CONFERENCE

How many brothers or sisters would like to attend Greek Conference?

First Five Invites

Starting your study for the semester will require more than just a mass text. Consider personally inviting five brothers or sisters in person the week of your first study. Doing so will greatly increase the chance of getting your study off to a good start!

#	Name
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

CONSIDER

- Who are the people who have a lot of credibility in your chapter?
- Who are the people that others naturally listen to and follow?
- Who are the leaders of each pledge class or line?

Semester Goals

Goals give us something specific to pray and strive towards as we reach out to our brothers and sisters. Review the network map you created in Lead 101, and set some goals that you will commit to *pray for* this semester in the chart below. Revisit your goals at the end of the semester to note what you *saw happen*.

	Praying for...	Saw...
Involvement		
Responses		
Leaders		
Greek Conference		

INVOLVEMENT

How many brothers or sisters would you like to see attend Bible Study and engage with you in spiritual conversations each week?

RESPONSES

How many brothers or sisters would you like to see respond to actively following Jesus this semester? This could be for the first time or the first time in a long time.

LEADERS

How many brothers or sisters would you like to see become Chapter Ministry Leaders next semester?

GREEK CONFERENCE

How many brothers or sisters would like to attend Greek Conference?

Semester Plan

Study	Date	Time	Location	Who Leads	Who Announces
ex.	TUES 1/6	7:30 PM	ΣΝ HALL	JOHN	BEN
One					
Two					
Three					
Four					
Five					
Six					
Seven					
Eight					

DATE & TIME

Consider the other meetings and events happening each week and pick a time that does not conflict. Note there is no perfect time for everyone. Just pick a time that works best and be consistent. If there is a conflicting event one week, skip it and pick up the following week. However, strive to host all eight studies during the course of the semester.

LOCATION

Consider choosing a place that is familiar, quiet, and relaxed. For example, a lounge in the house or a common meeting place on campus.

WHO LEADS & ANNOUNCES

If your chapter has multiple leaders, decide which studies each leader will host. When making announcements about the study at chapter, consider having different people do so.

Semester Plan

Study	Date	Time	Location	Who Leads	Who Announces
ex.	TUES 1/6	7:30 PM	ΣN HALL	JOHN	BEN
One					
Two					
Three					
Four					
Five					
Six					
Seven					
Eight					

DATE & TIME

Consider the other meetings and events happening each week and dates that don’t conflict. There is no perfect time for everyone. Just pick a time and be consistent. If there is a conflict one week, skip it and pick up the next.

LOCATION

Choose a place that is familiar, quiet, and relaxed. For example, a lounge in the house or a common meeting place on campus.

WHO LEADS & ANNOUNCES

If your chapter has multiple leaders, decide which leader will host and announce.

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Weekly Preparation

Preparation is crucial to leading a great study! We suggest taking at least one hour each week to prepare for each study. You may even consider preparing with other Chapter Ministry Leaders on your campus.



STUDY PASSAGE 40 MIN

Before you consider what God has for your friends in each passage, consider what he has for you. Study the passage personally and apply it to your own life. Personal experience always make you a better leader.



REVIEW LEADERS GUIDE 10 MIN

Review the study in the Leaders Guide and familiarize yourself with the questions and content. The more familiar you are with the guide the less you'll have to reference it during the study, which frees you up to focus on the discussion.



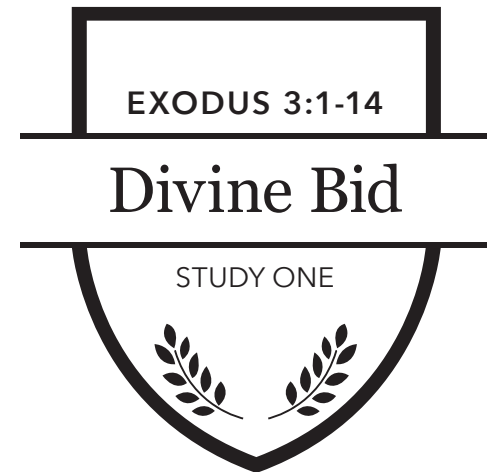
WATCH STUDY VIDEO 5 MIN

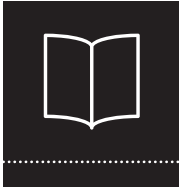
Watch the prep video for each study to learn the keys to leading a great study. Have your Leaders Guide on hand to take notes.



PRAY 5 MIN

Pray that the Lord would meet you and your brothers and sisters through each study, and watch for how he shows up!





Exodus 3:1-14

DIVINE BID

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” ⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my

people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.” ¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”



Before the Study

PREPARING

Angel of the Lord (v.2)

During this time, God often communicated to people through angels who acted as his representatives.

Horeb, Mountain of God (v.2)

Horeb was mountain far from Egypt. Moses calls it the mountain of God because of his experience with God there.

Holy Ground (v.5)

When you go to someone's house and they ask you to take off your shoes, you listen out of respect for your host. The greater the host, the more respectful you are. Here we see Moses encountering the ultimate host, God, who is worthy of infinite respect.

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (v.6)

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were the founding fathers of Israel whom God had a personal relationship. In the course of this relationship, God reveals that even though the Israelites will be forced into slavery he will send someone to deliver them and lead them into the land he promised them. However, at this point, it has been over 350 years since God last personally revealed himself to anyone.

Egypt (v.7)

During this time, Egypt was one of the most powerful and prosperous nations in the world. In order to protect themselves from their enemies and maintain their prosperity, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, forcefully enslaved the Israelites to increase their development of infrastructure.



WATCH STUDY VIDEOS

While you prep, take a few minutes to watch each study video at: bit.ly/greekiv-cml

Milk and Honey (v.8)

Milk and honey were delicacies reserved for the wealthy. As slaves living in poverty, milk and honey would be an appealing symbol of prosperity and abundance to the Israelites.

Canaanites, etc. (v.8)

These are the names of several different people groups that lived in the land that God had promised to give the founding fathers of Israel and their descendants. This was a large expanse of rich and fertile land as shown in the reference to milk and honey.

I Am (v.14)

A particularly mysterious name for God that can also be translated as "I will be." By using this name, God is communicating that the primary way he will reveal himself is through his actions, which are recorded throughout the rest of Exodus.

INVITING

PUBLIC INVITATIONS

Make an announcement about your study at your chapter or council meeting each week. Explain *why* you are leading the study and *why* others might want to join you. Be sure to utilize any other forms of communication your chapter uses as well such as text or social media.

PERSONAL INVITATIONS

Refer to the First Five Invitations chart at the beginning of your guide, and send a personal text to each person reminding them the day of your study. Note this assumes you've already invited them in person and they have expressed interest in coming.



During the Study

ENTERING THE TEXT 5-10 MIN

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

Before you begin, review the Discussion Guidelines (Page 3) especially if anyone is attending for the first time.

PRIOR TO THIS PASSAGE

Our story begins around 1500 BC in the land of Egypt, which was one of the most powerful and prosperous nations in the world at this time. In order to promote and protect their prosperity, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had enslaved a group of people, known as the Israelites, because he felt threatened by their growing numbers, which ranged in the millions. In fact, his fear of the Israelites was so great that he instituted genocide by having all their infant sons killed at birth. It was at this time that an Israelite boy, named Moses, is born. To save his life, his mother takes him to the river in a basket where he is found and raised by Pharaoh's daughter. When Moses grows to be an adult, he develops a great compassion for his fellow Israelites. At one point, he even kills an Egyptian to defend an Israelite slave from being abused. Yet, when Pharaoh finds out he tries to kill him. As an enemy of the state, Moses runs away with no plan to ever return. Our story picks up far from Egypt as Moses lives in exile.

READ ALOUD

Have 3 people read the passage aloud for the group. You can use the sections on the following page to assign verses to read.

CREATIVE ENTRY

Imagine meeting someone powerful or famous for the first time like the President or a celebrity. What would it feel like meeting this person?

READ SILENTLY

Invite everyone to reread the passage slowly and silently on their own. Tell them to note things that seem interesting, surprising, and/or unusual. Ask them to come up with at least one question. This could include questions about what characters say, do, or mean. Remind them that you'll be using their questions to drive the discussion.

DISCUSSING THE TEXT 40 MIN

SHARE OBSERVATIONS. GATHER QUESTIONS.

First, invite everyone to share their observations. Then, gather questions asking for verse references and write them in their respective sections below. Do not discuss until everyone has shared. Finally, use the checkboxes to select no more than six questions to discuss.

DISCUSS QUESTIONS

Meeting God (v.1-6)

- ☐ Why does Moses hide his face? Why is he afraid of God? (v.6)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Who Am I? (v.7-11)

- ☐ Why is God concerned about the Israelites suffering? (v.7)
- ☐ Out of all people, why does God choose Moses to bring the Israelites out of slavery? (v.10)
- ☐ Why does Moses question God's choice for rescuing the Israelites? (v.11)
 - Imagine you have just been selected as the Secretary General of the United Nations. As such, you have a responsibility to be a voice for all people of the world. You come into office with the refugee crisis at an all time high and you are responsible for resolving it. What would this responsibility feel like?
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

I Am (v.12-14)

- ☐ Why does God start his answer to Moses with "I will be with you?" What is God trying to communicate to Moses? (v.12-14)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

APPLYING THE TEXT



10-15
MIN

SUMMARY

The Israelites have been enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years suffering under the oppression of Pharaoh. Everything they have has been stripped and thrown away including their newborn sons. Yet, all of their suffering and cries of desperation have not fallen on deaf ears. Concerned and provoked, God plans to rescue them from slavery and lead them into a land of prosperity. Out of all people to lead this rescue, God chooses Moses, a political refugee and a murderer. As Moses considers his past and the gravity of the responsibility, he immediately questions God, “Who am I?” What has Moses done to prove he is capable of rescuing millions of slaves from the most powerful nation in the world? Yet, rather than encouraging Moses or telling him all the reasons why he was chosen, God simply reminds him who he’s talking too. It’s not about who Moses is and what he can do but about who God is and what he’s going to do through him. When Moses questions “who am I,” God reminds him that “I am.”

BIG IDEA

When facing the world’s greatest problems, don’t question what you can do but what God can do through you.

APPLICATION OPTIONS

Choose only *one* Application Option on the following page to discuss. After discussing, finish the study by sharing The Bigger Story below and praying.

THE BIGGER STORY

While the times have changed, many of the world’s problems have not. Poverty, human trafficking, political and corporate corruption, racial tensions, and genocide (just to name a few) are still rampant today, but the reality is that God is still concerned about these issues and actively calling people to partner with him in addressing them. Yet, we’ll never have the motivation to address the world’s ills until we see God addressing ours. In this story, we see God coming down and calling Moses to rescue the Israelites from slavery and lead them into prosperity. Thousands of years later, God would come down again to lead an even greater deliverance as he called Jesus to rescue humanity from the slavery of sin and lead us into the prosperity of a relationship with him. On the cross, Jesus died like a slave so that we could live like sons and daughters of God. It’s in focusing on what Jesus did for us that we are empowered for God to work through us.

PRAYER

1 Jesus, draw us closer to you, make us more like you, and enable us to partner with you to accomplish your purposes. Amen.

APPLICATION OPTIONS

God & Suffering

While this story doesn’t answer the question to why suffering exists in the world or why God allows it, it does show that God cares. He sees pain, hears cries, and feels concern for those suffering. His desire and plan is to alleviate it. How have you experienced suffering or hardship in your life? Do you view God as being concerned with your hardship? Why or why not? How might seeing God’s compassion and Jesus’ personal experience of suffering bring you comfort?

Who, Me?

When God invites Moses to partner with him, Moses immediately feels insecure, self-doubt, and disqualified because of his broken past. If you have ever felt called by God to do something, you’ve probably experienced the same. However, this story shows us that if God calls you, he’ll carry you through. Where do you usually look for assurance in times of doubt? How would that change if you let God’s character be your assurance? How might you need to place more trust in God?

Addressing Injustice

Injustice occurs whenever basic human dignity and equality is compromised. Pharaoh was severely abusing his power and oppressing other people in order to make a profit. Yet, with one invitation, God called Moses to solve a number of injustices facing the Israelites - slavery, poverty, and racism to name a few. What are examples of injustice on or around your campus? What would it look like for you or your fraternity or sorority to creatively address those issues?



Take some time to capture what God is doing in the lives of your brothers or sisters using the Weekly Engagement chart on the next page.

- ➔ Who came to your Bible Study this week?
- ➔ Who did you have spiritual conversations with outside of the study this week?

- ➔ Has anyone shown an increased interest in God this week?
- ➔ Note the comments or questions that may signify this interest beside the person who said them

- ➔ Who is the *one* person listed you want to follow up with this week?
- ➔ Prioritize the person who made significant comments or questions
- ➔ Spend some time praying for everyone involved

Follow up conversations can come in many forms such as talking over lunch or walking home from an event. Asking the three basic questions below could greatly increase your friend's likelihood of growing closer to Jesus!

	REVIEW	LEARN	APPLY
PURPOSE	Capture initial thoughts & feelings	Process new perspectives of self, others, and/or God	Plan practical next steps for further development
EXAMPLE	<i>What was Bible Study like for you?</i>	<i>What was the biggest thing you took away?</i>	<i>What might you need to do, improve or change?</i>

[illegible]