

Lessons from the Desert Discussion Guide
God Hears Us - Lesson 1
(February 16, 2025)

This study guide is based on the message that is available on YouTube.

Opening Discussion: What friend do you call on for help or encouragement?

Background Scripture: Read Exodus 1-3:9 prior to meeting for discussion.

Dive Deeper:

1. According to Exodus 1:11-16, 22, and 2:11, what conditions did the Israelites endure in Egypt? How do you relate to their experience of enduring hardship?
2. Read Genesis 15:12-19, Exodus 2:23-24, and 3:7-9. What covenant promise did God remember amidst the Israelites' cries? How would this promise have strengthened them to endure hardship? How does knowing that God keeps His covenants and promises help build your trust in Him?
3. Read Exodus 2:23-25, Psalm 34:17-18 and 1 Peter 3:12. What does it mean to you that God *sees* your struggles, *hears* your prayers, and is *aware* of your pain? How does God's compassion encourage you to bring your concerns to Him?
4. What was the result of the Israelites' cries for help in Exodus 3:9-10? Read Psalm 66:18, James 4:3, and 2 Peter 3:8. Why might God delay responding to our prayers? Share a time you patiently waited to hear from God.
5. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. How should we respond when God's answers differ from our expectations? Read 1 John 5:14 and Matthew 26:39. Discuss the importance of praying according to God's will.
6. Why is prayer an important response in times of difficulty? How can we encourage each other to persist in prayer, trust God's timing, and believe in its power, according to Luke 18:1-7, Proverbs 3:5-6, and James 5:16?
7. Read John 8:34-36. Discuss the parallels you see between God hearing the Israelites' prayers and using Moses to deliver them from bondage and our ultimate deliverance through Jesus Christ.

When you find yourself in a desert of difficulties, cry out to God. He hears your prayers.

Application: How will you apply Sunday's message and this discussion to your life?