

heard their cries and saved them through a prophet called Moses. Although it took a very long a long time, God had not forgotten his promises. God is still in control and God is still faithful.

- d) God really wanted to help the people of Israel but He did not know what to do. So He waited for a very long time to think of a plan but by that time the people were suffering. When the people couldn't take it any longer they cried out to God and God moved by choosing Moses to save them. God had good desires but really had no plans.

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A RESCUE PLAN

This is a story of God's rescue plan. Identify the following items from the story:

- a) What are the people being rescued from?
- b) What are the people being rescued to?
- c) What is the cost (or price) of rescuing people? Who paid this cost?

TALK NOTES

Myth #1 — All religions are the same

Myth #2 — The God of the OT is different to the NT

Myth #3 — Good people go to heaven

- a)
- b)



STUDY 4 — GOD'S RESCUE PLAN: THE EXODUS

THE STORY SO FAR

As a whole group together try retelling the story of Studies 1, 2 & 3 but this time make it more interesting (by highlighting special events or problems). You can use stories, drawings or diagrams.

READ THIS FIRST!

Today's study is about a man called Moses and an important event called the EXODUS. This is a very BIG event in Jewish history so there is going to be lots of reading. Suggestion for this study: Try to get through all the readings first. (Don't worry if you don't understand all the details.) Just read as much as you can and get the general idea. At the end of the readings there will be some questions for discussion.

WHAT WE MISSED ALONG THE WAY.

God promised to bless Abram with many descendants and a land to live in. God changed his name to Abraham, and gave him a son (Isaac). Isaac had a son called Jacob who had 12 sons. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Then famine came to the land so the whole family moved to Egypt to find food. Years passed and the 12 sons of Israel became many people (the 12 tribes of Israel) but because they were foreigners in Egypt, they were made into slaves. Life became hard in Egypt and the descendants of Israel cried out to God. God remembered His promise to Abraham and chose a person called Moses to lead his people out of Egypt.

READ EXODUS 1:1-14; 3:1-22.

Getting out of Egypt was never going to be easy because Pharaoh the king of Egypt did not want to lose his slaves. Therefore God struck Egypt with 10 strikes, each designed to show God's greatness and to strike terror in Pharaoh's heart. But Pharaoh was stubborn and resisted God, so God used the 10th plague to make a final strike so that Pharaoh will let His people go.

READ EXODUS 11.

In verse 7, God said He will make a distinction between the Israelites and the Egyptians ... Why did God do this? ie Why did God separate the two groups of people?

READ EXODUS 12:1-13.

How did God tell the difference between an Israelite and an Egyptian?

WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY?

Read Luke 22:7-20.

What does the Passover meal teach us about Jesus? Look at the following symbols.

- a) the meaning of the cup.
- b) the meaning of the bread.

- c) The meaning of the sacrificial Lamb. (Revelation 5:8-10)

RELEVANCE

Do you think God was fair or cruel in the way he dealt with people (by separating the Egyptians and the Israelites) in this story?

How does it make you feel about God? Describe how you feel.

How does this story show us God's greatness?

How does this story show us God's faithfulness to his promises to Abraham?

What has been fulfilled so far?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| a) Many descendants. | yes no |
| b) A land to live in. | yes no |
| c) A blessing to all nations. | yes no |

Do you think this story is true or false (historical)? Explain.

Do you have any questions about what you are reading?

SUMMARY

What is the story about?

- a) God has forgotten his promise to Abraham. God is absent-minded and needed to be reminded of his promise. So the people cried out to God and God chose a man called Moses to save them. God is a very forgetful God.
- b) God did not really care whether the people of Israel were in trouble or not. The people had to keep crying out to God for help before He actually listened to them. So God chose a man called Moses to save them so that He did not have to do it himself.
- c) God had kept part of his promise to Abraham by giving him many descendants but the people of Israel were suffering in a foreign land. God