



## EXODUS SERIES: FREEDOM TO LIVE #7: PROMISE, CONFRONTATION, AND COMPROMISE

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### BIBLICAL TEXT

*"Repentance, first and foremost, restores relationship with God, more than it focuses on reforming behaviors. We can sometimes get hung up on the external behaviors more than the internal reformation."*

–Pastor Keith

*Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.' "" (Exodus 6:6-8)*

*"Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.' " Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go.'" (Exodus 5:1-2)*

*"Then the Lord said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.'" (Exodus 9:13-14)*

*"But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said." (Exodus 8:15)*

*Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land.'" (Exodus 8:25)*

*"Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me.'" (Exodus 8:28)*

*"Pharaoh said, "The Lord be with you—if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. No! Have only the men go and worship the Lord, since that's what you have been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence." (Exodus 10:10-11)*

*"Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the Lord. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind.'" (Exodus 10:24)*

### MESSAGE SUMMARY

God's promise collides with Pharaoh's power in a confrontation between the gods of Egypt and the one true God—the Creator who rescues Israel, His people. Refusing to acknowledge God as his sovereign and release the Israelites from bondage, Pharaoh asks, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go?" (5:2) God begins to visit plagues on Egypt, directly challenging Egypt's gods—those of the Nile, the land, and the sky. In the midst of the conflict, Pharaoh hardens his heart and begins to bargain as he seeks a middle ground. But God has no interest in compromising, insisting through Moses that Pharaoh submit to Israel's God. He intends to fight for His people and deliver them as He promised.

The story of the Exodus is also the story of most believers. As a matter of the heart, we lean into God's promises, realizing what that means in part. We will be confronted by those who don't follow Jesus. We will also be invited to compromise, to make peace with a world at odds with God.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.*

### LEAN IN

*These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Describe the last significant confrontation that you had.
2. What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing about it?
3. How did the experience shape you?

### LOOK DOWN

*These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. What do you observe about God's promise(s) to His people? (Exodus 6:6-8)
2. What do you see about the confrontation between God and Pharaoh?
3. What is the nature of the compromises that Pharaoh offers?

### LOOK OUT

*These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. Where do you see a necessary confrontation between God and what's going on in the world today?
2. How do you see God at work today confronting evil that resides in the systems of our world?
3. Where do you see the church, God's people, compromising and blunting this confrontation? What do we do about that?

### LOOK IN

*These are questions that help you consider personal application.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. What "religious structures" in your life need disruption by Jesus?
2. How can you find freedom from the effects of sin in your life?  
What is God doing in your life to confront any bondage?
3. Reflecting on the message, are there any "frogs" in your life that "you're sleeping with"?  
If so, what do you want God to do for you about that?
4. What's the difference between relief and repentance? What's God after when He confronts you? What are you after? Do those goals align, and why or why not?
5. How does humility and/or hardness of heart play into the way you practice, or experience, gracious confrontation?

### LIVE IT OUT

*These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.*

*Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What promise(s) can you believe God for, or renew your trust in, and why?
2. What, or who, do you know that/who needs gracious confrontation?  
How can you partner with God in that?
3. What compromises are blunting your sensitivity to the Holy Spirit?  
How will you deal with that based on this message?