

# FREEDOM

The Rise of an Unstoppable People



Community Group Study Guide  
Spring 2010  
Exodus 1:1-7

Holy Trinity Church, Chicago  
Downtown and North Side Congregations

## SPRING 2010 COMMUNITY GROUP CALENDAR

### ***Week of:***

Apr 5 Dinner

Apr 12 Group Study Exodus 1:1-7  
*personal study/ sermon/ group discussion*

Apr 19 Group Study Exodus 1:8-22  
*personal study/ sermon/ group discussion*

Apr 26 Group Study Exodus 2:1-10  
*personal study/ sermon/ group discussion*

May 3 Dinner

Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> All-Church Communion Service, 7:30pm United Church of Hyde Park (1448 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago).

## Exodus 1:1-7

### **Week of April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Community Group calendar: **Study**

Texts: **Exodus 1:1-7**

Ways in which you will interact with these texts:

- Personal study (we recommend three separate readings)
- Listen to sermon preached on April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Group discussion during week of April 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Exodus 1:1-7 *English Standard Version (ESV)***

**1** These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: <sup>2</sup> Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, <sup>3</sup> Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, <sup>4</sup> Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. <sup>5</sup> All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. <sup>6</sup> Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. <sup>7</sup> But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

### **First Reading – *Connecting to God's Story in Promise***

1. How is the author connecting the story of Jacob in Genesis (in particular see Genesis 35:9-11) to Exodus 1:1-7?

2. What other major idea of promise was given in Genesis (hint: see Genesis 1:26-28, and 9:1) that we also see in Exodus 1:1-7?
  3. Though God is not explicitly mentioned in the opening verses of Exodus, from what you know of God's work in the Book of Genesis, what do the names and activities in the opening verses of Exodus tell us about God?
- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Second Reading – *Connecting to God's Story in Fulfillment***

1. In what ways were Jacob and Joseph types of Christ?
  2. How does God fulfill his promises related to creation and His people in Exodus 1:1-7?
- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Third Reading – *Connecting to God's Story Today***

1. What does this text (and the background from Genesis 35-50) tell you about your role in passing on your faith to future generations? Describe how you can be part of passing on your faith, even if you don't have children of your own.
2. How does Jesus' calling of the 12 Apostles mirror the calling of the 12 Tribes?

3. Do you believe God can extraordinarily grow the number of his people at any time and in any circumstance?
  
  4. What do you know about the faith of your ancestors? What part do they play in your faith?
- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Summarize the passage:**

What is the **theme** of the passage (i.e., a sentence that captures the timeless essence of the passage)?

What is the **aim** of the passage (i.e., how should you respond to this passage in thought and behavior)?