

One truth shared: Just as Jesus came out of Egypt, so too he will bring us out of the Egypt of our sins

So [Joseph] got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matthew 2:14,15

The Way Out

Egypt is a place, but it's not just a place. Maybe I should explain what I'm getting at. Egypt is the place, or location, where the Old Testament Israelites were enslaved by Pharaoh. Egypt is the place where Joseph took his family, including Jesus, when King Herod wanted Jesus dead. It is a place. I don't want to lose that fact. And God brought his Son back out of that place, just like he brought the Israelites out of Egypt between walls of water. Egypt really is a place, and God really did bring his Son out of there.

But it's not just a place, a location. Egypt was a place of slavery. Just like there are things that enslave you. Maybe an addiction that has its grip on you. That video you can't turn away from. That thought you can't escape. That sin which has its hold on you. And it does have a hold on you like Pharaoh had on the Israelites. A chain on their necks and a whip at their backs. In that sense, Egypt is more than just a place.

And Jesus came out of that place. His Father brought him out of Egypt when it was safe for him to come. That's a thing that happened in Jesus' life. But it is not just a thing that happened in Jesus' life; it is the thing that Jesus came to do in your life. He came to bring you out of your Egypt. He has come to redeem you and to set you free from Egypt and from the death grip of Pharaoh. He has come to bring you out, to give you exodus, not just from sin now, but for all eternity.

Jesus is your way out of Egypt. Just as he came out of Egypt, so he will bring you out

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you came out of Egypt just like God said you would. I am looking to you now to bring me out of Egypt. Set me free from the sin that makes me its slave. Set me free that I might live for you. Bring me out, Jesus. Amen.

Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

Year A – First Sunday after Christmas

A Savior is Born

One truth shared: Just as Jesus came out of Egypt, so too he will bring us out of the Egypt of our sins

The Way Out

Starting the Discussion: *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

What sort of traveling did you do over the Christmas break? What was your favorite part?

Connecting: *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

As a young child, Jesus took a lot of trips, even while still in the womb. How many different family trips of Jesus can you remember? Make a list.

Digging In: *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- A few of the family trips that Jesus took were to and from Egypt and then to and from Nazareth. Read Matthew 2:13-23 and then discuss.
- Egypt is a place. What happened there in the past? What happened there during Jesus' life?
- Egypt is a metaphor that reminds us of slavery. What sorts of things today might enslave us?
- How did Pharaoh treat Israel? How do things like addictions treat us?
- "Out of Egypt, I called my son" first applies to the ancient people of Israel. How? It then applies to Jesus. How?
- How does it also apply to you? What promise do you have regarding those sins that enslave you?

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

How can the exodus from Egypt of Israel, Jesus, and now us serve to imagine our life in this world?