

DISCOVER

INSIDE ISSUE 5: EXODUS, ACTS, JOHN, PSALMS

1

Find a time when you can read the Bible each day



2

Find a place where you can be quiet and think



4

Ask God to help you understand what you read



3

Grab your Bible and a pencil or pen



5

Read today's Discover page and Bible bit



6

Pray about what you have read and learned



We want to...

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

Discover stands for...

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

Team Discover

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How to use Discover

Here at Discover, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and New King James Version are best for doing the puzzles in Discover.



The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say...

Read Exodus 1 v 1

...turn to the contents page of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page Exodus begins on. Turn to that page.

"Exodus 1 v 1" means you need to go to chapter 1 of Exodus, and then find verse 1 of chapter 1 (the verse numbers are the tiny ones). Then jump in and read it!



Here's some other stuff you might come across...

WEIRD WORDS

Chumkah

These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.

Think!



This bit usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.

Action!



Challenges you to put what you've read into action.

Wow!



This section contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what you've been reading about.

Pray!



Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you! Even if there isn't a Pray! symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.



Coming up in Issue 5...

Exodus: God to the rescue

At the start of the book of Exodus things are pretty miserable for God's people, the Israelites: they're slaves in Egypt, forced to make bricks all day, and now the King of Egypt is trying to kill all their baby boys!

But God has a plan to rescue his people. It involves one *very* scared Israelite leader (Moses) and one *very* stubborn Egyptian King (Pharaoh).

Cue one of the greatest showdowns in history! "God v Pharaoh" is a match with ten terrifying rounds, millions of gross insects and a BIG message we all need to hear: God is more powerful than anyone else and will rescue his people no matter what!

Acts: Gospel gets around

We pick up the book of Acts about halfway through. Way back in chapter 1 Jesus told his followers to take the good news to the ends of the earth—and now Paul and his companions are travelling further and further to do exactly that!

Everywhere Paul goes, he tells people the gospel—the good news that Jesus died for our sins and was raised back to life. Some people believe the message and follow Jesus. Other people reject it and try to stop his followers. In either case, life on the road with Paul is definitely never boring!

John: Word on the street

The book of John was written by (you guessed it!) a guy called John. He was one of the 12 disciples who spent years travelling with Jesus, listening to his teaching and watching him do amazing miracles. And then John wrote a book about it!

Why? Because John wants us to believe that Jesus is God's Son, sent to rescue us from sin and offer us eternal life.

So watch what happens when Jesus turns up at a wedding, sit in on an EPIC picnic and find out why Jesus trashed the temple and got away with it!

Psalms: Songs to God

Warm up your vocal chords and grab a microphone as we dive into Psalms—a book of songs. (The P is silent, it rhymes with "arms"!)

Lots of the Psalms were written by King David. But these aren't the sort of songs you'll hear on the radio any time soon—they don't rhyme and they're definitely NOT about David's girlfriend! The Psalms are about how great God is and what it looks like to trust him, whether things are going well or badly. Which means they're great songs for us to read and sing in our hearts too!

**Time to turn up the volume
and turn over the page...**

Exodus: God to the rescue

Exodus

1 v 1-7



We kick off this issue with an excellent examination of Exodus.

It's the story of God's people, the Israelites.

And how God rescued them from Egypt.

But first, a bit of history...

WEIRD WORDS

Israel

Here it's another name for Jacob, Joseph's dad

Exceedingly fruitful

The Israelites had lots of babies, so there were lots of Israelites!

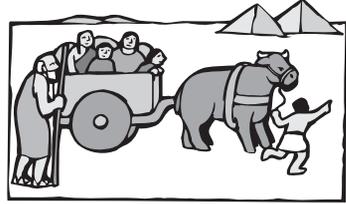
Exodus is the second book in the Bible. So we'd better remind ourselves what happened in the first book, Genesis.

The Bible so far...

- God created everything, including people!
- But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They brought sin into the world and messed up God's perfect creation.
- People became so sinful that God sent a terrible flood to punish them. Only Noah's family survived.

God made three amazing promises to Abraham and his descendants, the Israelites:

- They would become a huge **NATION**.
 - He'd give them the **LAND** of Canaan to live in.
 - All nations will be **BLESSED** through one of Abraham's descendants (Jesus).
-
- The Israelites did live in Canaan for a while.
 - But a famine made them move to Egypt, where Joseph was second in command.
 - So the Israelites were now living in Egypt, outside the land God had promised them (Canaan).



Read Exodus 1 v 1-5

How many Israelites were there when they moved to Egypt (v5)?

Read verses 6-7

At the start of Exodus, Joseph and his brothers have died. But look how many Israelites there are now (v7)! Loads!

Wow!

God had promised that the Israelites would become a great NATION. And He's keeping His promise. God always keeps His promises!



But what about God's promise that they would live in Canaan? It's not looking so good now they're all stuck in Egypt. Well, Exodus is all about God rescuing His people from Egypt.

Pray!

Dear God, thank you for the book of Exodus. As I read about your people, the Israelites, please teach me how I can serve you more. Amen.



Unfair-o

Exodus
1 v 8-21



The Israelites in Egypt were growing more and more in number.

But life was about to get much harder for them...

Read Exodus 1 v 8-14

A new Pharaoh was put in charge of Egypt. He was worried that the Israelites would grow to be too powerful, and join forces with his enemies. So he made them slaves, forcing them to do back-breaking work. They were treated very cruelly.

What was the result of all this? To find out, put the blocks in the correct order. Then check v12.

The mor	aelites	d the more
y treat	nd spread	they mul
were badl	e the Isr	tiplied a
The mor		

Read verses 15-21

To stop the Israelites growing further, Pharaoh ordered the midwives to murder all baby boys that were born. Disgusting.

But what did the midwives do? (v17)

God has told us to obey people in authority (check out Romans 13 v 1). But there are times when we must disobey them. But only if we're told to do something which is disobeying God.

Think of some examples...

If we're told to lie

God gave the midwives children of their own! And He let the Israelite nation keep growing, despite the cruel Egyptians!

WEIRD WORDS

Shrewdly
Harshly and cleverly

Opress them
Rule them cruelly

Forced labour
Making them do really hard work

Store cities
Where food was stored up

Ruthlessly
Cruelly

Hebrew
Israelite

Vigorous
Give birth quickly



Pray!



Thank God that He looks after His people. Ask Him to give you the courage to stand up to things that are wrong.

It's a boy!

Exodus
2 v 1-10



Pharaoh was worried about the huge number of Israelites living in Egypt.

He was determined to keep them under control and treat them cruelly.

WEIRD WORDS

Levite

From the family of Joseph's brother, Levi

Papyrus

Grass-like plant

Tar and pitch

Gloopy stuff used to make the basket waterproof

Hebrew

Israelite

*Fill in Pharaoh's sickening command from **Exodus 1 v 22**.*

Rescued by Pharaoh's
d_____ (v5)

Amazingly, she asked the
baby's m_____
to look after him! (v8)

When the baby grew older,
he became the s_____ of
Pharaoh's daughter.
She named him
M_____ (v10)

Now read Exodus 2 v 1-2

Imagine how these parents felt when they saw their baby was a boy! You can't hide a little baby for very long; his crying would give him away. So the baby's mum came up with a plan...



Read verses 3-10

Now fill in the facts!

The baby was hidden for
_____ months (v2)

He was put in a b_____
and left in the reeds by the
r_____ (v3)

Baby Moses was protected by an Egyptian! God can use the most unlikely people to carry out His perfect plans.



Wow!

God's enemies (like Pharaoh) try to attack and destroy God's people. But God is in control. He will never let His people be destroyed (Hebrews 13 v 5-6).

No matter what happens to them, God's people will never be wiped out. In fact, they will survive for ever with God!

Pray!



Thank God that He's with His people, even through the toughest times. Thank Him that the devil can't destroy God's people, Christians!

Moses in training

Acts
7 v 17-23



So a baby has
been born in
Egypt.

Big deal —
doesn't that
happen all the
time?

WEIRD WORDS

Treacherously
Betraying them

Oppressed
Ruled over them
cruelly

But **Moses** was no ordinary kid. He would grow up to be an important part of God's plan for His people. Today we're going to jump forward to the book of Acts (near the end of the Bible) to learn more about Moses.

Read Acts 7 v 17-19

What time was getting nearer (v17)?
Go backwards one letter to find out
(B=A, C=B, D=C etc).

U I F U J N F

G P S H P E U P

G V M G J M I J T

Q S P N J T F U P

B C S B I B N

God promised Abraham that his descendants (the Israelites) would live freely in the land of Canaan, not as slaves in Egypt. As the time got nearer, God started preparing Moses for his part in God's rescue plan.



Read verses 20-23



Moses was born (v20)

**Despite being an
Israelite, he was
brought up in
Pharaoh's palace
(v21)**



**Moses did very well
at school in Egypt
(v22)**

**Moses lived in Egypt
for 40 years! But he
still cared about his
people, the Israelites
(v23)**



Moses had an unusual upbringing. But God was preparing him for the amazing work He had planned for him. And Moses didn't even know it!

Wow!



God wants all of His people to serve Him with their lives. And He gives us all different abilities. Some people are brainy, others are great at talking to people. Others are good at doing the little jobs many people hate. Ask God to train you up to serve Him!

Moses the murderer

Exodus
2 v 11-22



Moses was a Hebrew (Israelite), but he'd been brought up in Pharaoh's palace.

One day he went to see how badly the Hebrew slaves were being treated.

WEIRD WORDS

Labour
Work

Hebrew
Israelite, one of God's people

Foreigner
Someone living in a foreign country

Read Exodus 2 v 11-22

Number the events in the order they happened.

- 1 **Moses saw an Egyptian beating up a Hebrew**
- There he rescued 7 sisters from some shepherds**
- The man said, "You can't tell me what to do! Or will you kill me too?"**
- So Moses ran away to Midian**
- Moses married Zipporah and they had a son**
- The next day Moses stopped two Hebrews who were fighting**
- Pharaoh heard that Moses had killed an Egyptian and so wanted to kill Moses**
- Their father invited Moses for a meal**
- He killed the Egyptian and hid the body**



I thought God was going to use Moses to rescue the Hebrews from Egypt. But now he's a murderer who has run away from Egypt!

God often uses weak, sinful people in His amazing plans! Moses had messed up this time, but God would still use him to do amazing things.



God was behind the rescue plan and He can do anything!

But I keep messing up and giving in to the same old sin. God won't want to use me in His plans.

Wow!

Don't limit God. He can do anything. And He can certainly use YOU to do amazing things for Him (telling people about Jesus, serving God's people at church). But are you willing to let Him?



Pray!

Ask God to use you to serve Him. But watch out, because He will!



Prayer under pressure

Exodus
2 v 23-25



Family illness.

Depression.

Natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes.

Events like these cause awful suffering.

Yet it's at times like these that many people turn to God for help. Even the most unlikely people **pray** in a crisis.



Think!

Do you only talk to God in emergencies and when you want Him to do stuff? Or do you talk to Him whatever is happening in your life?

The Israelites in Egypt had not been praying to God at all. Perhaps they'd been praying to Egyptian idols instead!

Read Exodus 2 v 23-25

*What happened when life got tough for them? Cross out the **As**, **Ms** and **Ks** and follow the maze.*

A	M	K	M	I	E	D	K
M	K	Y	C	R	M	O	A
A	K	E	M	A	K	U	A
→	T	H	M	M	K	T	T
A	A	M	K	A	K	M	O
M	K	A	M	K	D	O	G
K	P	L	E	M	F	A	M
M	A	A	H	R	O	A	K

T _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ (v23)



It was only when they were desperate that they started to pray.

What did God remember? (v24)

His c _____

Check out God's covenant with Abraham in **Genesis 17 v 6-8**.

God promised to be with His people the Israelites. And He promised to make them into a great nation and give them their own land. God would rescue them from Egypt!

God promises to be with all of His people. He hears our prayers too!



Pray!

Talk to God now. Think of three things to THANK Him for.

Then say SORRY to Him for any times you've disobeyed Him recently.

Finally, ASK Him to help you with any problems you have.

WEIRD WORDS

King of Egypt
Pharaoh Thutmose III

Covenant
An agreement God made with His people

Fire power

Exodus
3 v 1-10



The Israelite slaves cried to God for help.

Will God do anything to help them?

And what does Moses have to do with it?

WEIRD WORDS

Midian

Area where Moses was living

Horeb

AKA Mount Sinai, where God would give Moses the 10 Commandments

Holy ground

Moses was near God so must show Him respect

All of today's answers are in the word pool.

afraid burn bush
Egypt God holy Israelites
mountain Pharaoh rescue
sandals seen sheep you
land Lord Moses

Read Exodus 3 v 1-6

Moses was looking after his father-in-law's s _____, near God's holy m _____ (v1). The angel of the L _____ appeared to Moses in a flaming b _____ which didn't b _____ up (v2). God called to M _____ (v4) and told him to take off his s _____ because he was standing on h _____ ground (v5). When Moses realised he was speaking to G _____ he was a _____ to look at Him (v6).



Moses was rightly afraid because he knew how puny and sinful he was compared to God.

Think!



Do you show God the respect He deserves? Even if God is your friend, He's also the perfect Creator of the universe! We should remember that when we talk to God.

Read verses 7-10

God said: "I have s _____ my people's misery in E _____ (v7). So I have come down to r _____ them, to take them to a great new l _____ (v8). So I'm sending y _____ (Moses) to P _____ to bring the l _____ out of Egypt (v10).

God would rescue His people from Egypt. And He would use Moses to do it! That must have been a big shock for Moses!

Pray!



Thank God that He cares so much for His people. Ask Him to help you talk to Him respectfully, in the right way.

It's a date

Exodus 3 v 16-22



God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and told Moses how He would rescue the Israelites from Egypt.

Do you or your family have a calendar? It's probably jammed full of stuff you plan to do.

In today's Exodus bit we can see what God has planned for the Israelites. Not only the events, but the **results** too!

Read Exodus 3 v 16-22

Complete the calendar, using the verses you've just read.

ACTION – Moses to announce God's rescue plan to the elders of I _____ (v16)
RESULT – They will I _____ (v18)

ACTION – Moses to ask the king of E _____ to let the Israelites go into the w _____ to offer God s _____ (v18)
RESULT – The king of Egypt will n _____ let them go (v19)

ACTION – God to strike the E _____ with terrifying signs and wonders (v20)
RESULT – The king of Egypt would let them g _____ (v20)

ACTION – God to make the Egyptians show kindness to the Israelites (v21)
RESULT – They will give the Israelites s _____, g _____ and clothes (v22)

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and cried out to God for help. God heard their prayers and promised to rescue them in a spectacular way. God told Moses exactly how He would do it (you can read ahead in Exodus to see if it all happened!).



Yesterday we read how God is the great **I AM**: He has always existed, He never changes and will rule for ever. God knows everything that has happened and everything that will happen. So He could tell Moses what would happen to the Israelites.

Wow!

God knows all about you. And He knows what plans He has for you in the future. We don't need horoscopes or fortune-telling! We have a perfect God who is in control of our future!



WEIRD WORDS

Elders of Israel
Leaders of tribes and families

Offer sacrifices
Offer gifts (meat or grain) to God

Mighty hand compels him
God would force him to change

Favourably disposed
They liked the Israelites

Pray!

Thank God that your future is safe in His hands. Ask Him to use you to serve Him loads in the future.



Fire proof

Exodus
4 v 1-9



Someone in your class tells you that they've been invited to have dinner with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Would you believe them?

YES/NO _____

WEIRD WORDS

Staff

A shepherd's walking stick

Leprous

All the skin was white and flaky and disgusting

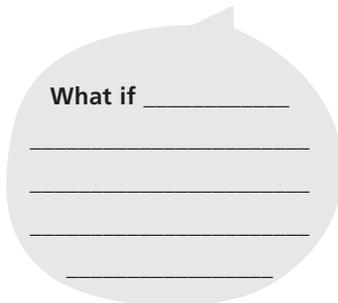
Nile

The world's longest river

You'd probably think they were messing you around. But if they showed you the official invitation... you would have to believe their **proof**.

Read Exodus 4 v 1

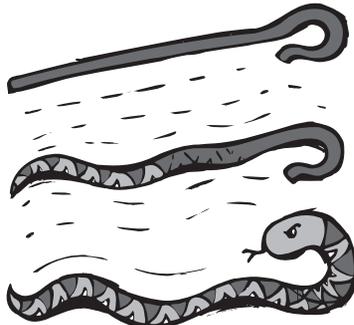
Moses had seen God in the burning bush, but now he had a burning question...



Moses wasn't well known to the Israelite leaders, so why should they listen to his wild story?

Read verses 2-9

God gave Moses three signs to show the Israelite leaders, to prove God had appeared to him. *Fill in the missing words and then fit them into the crossword.*



SIGN 1 Moses' (1) _____ turned into a

(2) _____

SIGN 2 When he put his

(3) _____ into his cloak, it was covered with

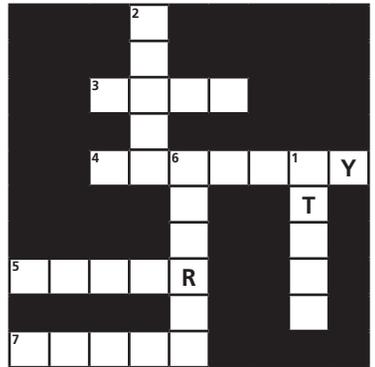
(4) _____

SIGN 3 If Moses took

(5) _____ from the river and

(6) _____ it out it would turn to

(7) _____



God would give Moses these special signs as proof that He would rescue the Israelites.

Think!



God has given us even more proof. He sent His Son JESUS, to rescue us from sin. And He's given us the BIBLE, which tells us all about Jesus and how He died to rescue us. Are you convinced by the proof yet? Have you asked Jesus to rescue you?