

Legaspi - Lesson 3

Big Question: What's the goal to which God is leading Moses and the Israelites (and why does it matter)?

Key points

Continuing with the theme of seeing life as a movement or journey, and seeking guidance from the Scriptures as we undertake this journey, we proceed in this lesson with the story of Moses. Teachers should understand these few key points before the lesson, and students should take these points away from the classroom.

- A. In the story of Moses' birth, Pharaoh attempts to wipe out the descendants, blessings, and land promised to Abraham.
- B. However, God restores these promises through Moses:
- C. The *descendants* of Abraham (Israel) are preserved as a *people* (or nation) and led out of slavery to the *land of blessings*.
- D. This journey culminates at Mount Sinai, where God comes to dwell in Israel.

Review

Ask students:

1. What did we learn last class? Review your notes and rewrite a key point or takeaway that you found significant. If you were absent, your job is to review the student guide from last class and then ask your fellow students questions about the points they're about to share.

Give them 3 or so minutes to review and write, then ask them:

- Share what you've written (go around the room systematically to get feedback)
- Then ask students who were absent last class: do you have any questions they have about their points? Students may not be able to answer their questions, and that's okay. You can affirm the question, and if it's easy to answer yourself, do so. And if not, say "We'll hold on to that question to see if it's answered in any of the future classes."

Finally, review any key points from last class that were missed, especially if they are really important for this upcoming lesson.

Opening Reflection

Say something like:

- We began by discussing life as a journey or movement and the need for a guide when we undertake any journey.
- Last lesson, we discussed God's covenant with Abraham, in which he is promised descendants, blessings, and land in return for following God.
- Today, we will look at how each of these promises are nearly lost for the Hebrews at the hands of Pharaoh, and how God restores them through Moses.

- We're going to ask the question: "What is the goal to which God is leading Moses and the Israelites?"
2. What is the ultimate purpose of the exodus? Is it simply to release the Israelites from unjust slavery? Is it to honor the covenant established with Abraham in which God's people are promised to have their own land? Or is there something even greater that God is pointing toward?

Before we discuss this question in depth, let's consider the following paradox in Scripture:

On the one hand, we have seen in our previous two lessons that the Scriptures call us to *movement*, not to a static existence. However, on the other hand, how do we understand this call to movement in light of the exhortation to *stillness* that we see throughout the Scriptures, for instance, when the Psalmist writes, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10)?

Preparation for Video Clip

- In this clip, Dr. Legaspi takes us on a journey with Israel from slavery in Egypt to Mt. Sinai, where they are given the Law.
- However, pay close attention to what much of the Law has to do with: the instructions for building the Tabernacle.

3. Now fill in the points Dr. Legaspi makes in this video clip.
 - a. In Christian theology, Abraham is important because he is the bearer of the _____.
 - b. _____, _____, and _____ were all promised to Abraham, although Pharaoh seems on track to thwart these promises.
 - c. The covenant given at Sinai _____ the covenant made with Abraham.
 - d. Much of the Law is concerned with building the _____.
 - e. The tabernacle is a _____.

Reflection on the Video

4. Based on what we have heard so far about the movement in Scripture from the promise of Abraham to Mt. Sinai, what would you say is the goal of the journey of God's people? Is it merely descendants and land, or is there something more? What does this have to do with our own journey through life?
5. In light of what we have heard so far regarding the movement of God's people, how does this relate to the call of the Psalmist to "be still and know that I am God"?

Depending on the time, you can have them share their responses to questions one question at a time, or you can have them pick one of their answers from the questions to share.

Close with any of the key points that they might not have addressed in their own sharing/discussion.