



LENTEN 2018 BIBLE STUDY SERIES
PART 2
WEEKS 5-7 (MAR 11 – MAR 31)

BY

PPC EQUIP COMMITTEE (ADULT CE)

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As chair of the Equipping Committee, I am proud of the people who contributed to this Lenten series and the work we put before you. What I love about putting together these Bible study guides for Lent and Advent are the unique voices, personalities, experiences, perspectives and God-given gifts that are evident in these weekly studies. While there are different people at our church with leadership titles and roles, I sincerely believe that we as the body of Christ are stronger as we live into the priesthood of all believers that comes from 1 Peter 2; that it isn't up to our pastors or myself as an elder or chair, but rather many of the body being able to speak truth and encouragement to one another. Whether you will be doing this Lenten series as your own personal devotional or as part of a small group Bible study, I hope that you can experience the Freedom that God wants to offer all of us.

However, if you are looking for a Bible study, feel free to check out these ones:

Sunday	8:30AM in the PPC Library
Sunday	12:00PM in the PPC Library
Monday	6:45PM for Women*
Wednesday	7:00AM in the PPC Library (Men's group)
Wednesday	10:00AM in the PPC Library (Women's Group)
Thursday	9:30AM in the PPC Library
Friday	7:00PM in Trinity Center (The Bridge)
Saturday	7:00PM for Young Adults/Families**

In Him,
Tim Lee

*Contact Joetta Younger (714-334-7431) for Dates/Location

**Contact Tim Lee (951-733-4117) for Dates/Location

Lenten Bible Study Week 5: From Scarcity to Abundance – What Is It?
For the week of Mar 11-17 | Sermon on Sun Mar 18

Read Exodus 16. “What is it?” This question was the question that the Israelites asked when God provided the manna to them. They knew that somehow that “stuff” was eatable, but they have never seen or tasted something like that before. It’s probably our response when The Lord provides us with gifts in unexpected ways as well. “What is it, Lord?” we might ask.

1. When was the last time that you asked that question? Have you ever asked that question at all? Do you know of somebody who has shared with you an experience of asking that question to himself or the Lord? I believe that is a significant question.
2. At this point in the narrative of Exodus 16, the Israelites are complaining because they don’t have anything to eat. They said to Moses and Aaron that they had more when they were slaves than now that they were free people: “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” (Exodus 16: 3). In what ways are we like the Israelites who complained? What is the solution for this human condition?
3. When God heard them complaining like that, he promised them that He would give them food. “I will rain bread from heaven...” (Exodus 16: 4) At this point, one can say that the Israelites have hope. God himself has promised that he will provide bread abundantly and every day. However, God’s promises will not necessarily match the Israelites expectations. They have a different idea of “bread and meat.” They were so used to their slave diet that even though they were free physically, they continued to be mentally and emotionally in bondage. Why do people sometimes prefer the old to the new? How is accepting God’s provision for today an act of trust and faith?

4. When the Israelites saw God's provision, they asked: what is it? It was food for free people. It was a training to live differently. It was a new way to enjoy and live their life without worrying about their daily survival as slaves. Even though they have "all the food they wanted in Egypt" they could die any day that Pharaoh or his officers decided. And yet, they thought it was better than God's strange provision. What is the connection between obedience and trust? Can you have trust without obedience? How is obedience without trust different from obedience with trust?

5. If we take time to think about this narrative, we will find out that the real issue here was an active and deceiving scarcity mentality. The covenant people felt that Pharaoh's food was better because it was predictable and "reliable." The problem with that mental frame is that it forces people to endure unnecessary and unfair suffering for the sake of the predictable and "reliable." God's provision is less predictable, but hundred percent more reliable. God's blessings do not force people to live in excruciating and unfair pain but instead empowers people to live a life of hope with a high assurance of His daily and loving care. How can not knowing what something is or how it was provided cause a person to question that provision? How can a person's focus on what was provided get in the way of being thankful for that provision?

6. What is it? It's probably the same question that we might ask when we think about our Lord Jesus Christ during this season of Lent. How come he can be the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1: 29)? And yet, this is precisely the most abundant provision that God has given the Israelites and the world.
 - a. How does God's daily provision foster dependence on and trust in God? How do we need to rely on Jesus, the Lamb of God every single day?

7. Let's keep asking that question, but let's be open to being transformed in the process of asking that question. We will transition a scarcity mentality to an abundance mentality based on the unlimited Grace of our Triune God! (John 10: 10)

Lenten Bible Study Week 6: From Control to Collaboration
For the week of Mar 18-24 | Sermon on Sun Mar 25

1. Think back about a time in your life when someone gave you life changing advice. What did that person tell you? How have you applied that advice to your own life?
2. Take a look at your life and schedule. If you had the choice to add more hours to the day, would you? If so, what would you do with that extra time? If not, why not?
3. Read Ex 18:1-12
 - a. In this passage, what do we learn about Jethro and Moses' family?
 - b. Describe the meeting between Jethro and Moses. If you were Moses, what specific things would you have included in telling Jethro what God had done?
 - c. What is Jethro's response to the news which Moses shared with him? Have you ever had a "now I know" moment similar to Jethro's regarding your faith? Describe it.
4. Read Ex 18:13-27
 - a. In addition to being Israel's leader, what are Moses' other duties? What do you think was Jethro's concern?
 - b. In what way does a leader's workload affect the community?
 - c. What were the qualifications to be for the selected leaders? Why do you think those qualities are important for the tasks?
5. For our own lives, we can see parallels between Moses' situation and ourselves and we want to be able to learn from him:
 - a. What do you think are some of the barriers that some leaders may have that makes delegating difficult?
 - b. How open are you generally to the advice and input of those around you? How much initiative do you have to ask others for advice?

- c. Sometimes we find areas in our lives where we feel stuck (family and relationships, work, finances, etc.). What is an area of your life where you feel stuck?
- d. Share with your Bible study community (or someone) what that is, allow them to ask questions about that situation, and ask for their perspective on it.
- e. Take some time to close in prayer for some of the things mentioned in the group.

Lenten Bible Study Week 7: To Freedom
For the week of Mar 25-Mar 31 | Sermon on Sun Apr 1 (Easter)

Freedom incorporates two elements: 1) Freedom from something 2) In order to freely choose to pursue something else

1. Read Ex 13:17-22 and 14:21-25,31 and answer these freedom from questions:
 - a. Based on your knowledge of the Exodus story what were they fleeing from? (Write an exhaustive list and be creative).
 - b. Who led the freedom move and why did this great move (exodus) happen?
 - c. Read Ex 14:25. What is the best miracle within the miracle of this story?

2. Read Ex 20 and answer the “Freedom to be” questions below:
 - a. Who were they free to worship and why is this important?
 - b. What was formed at Mt Sinai?
 - c. What did they reconstruct their community around?
 - d. List all of the ways this new community was to be at work in the world and why this is important:

3. Read Matthew 27:45-54 and answer these “freedom from” questions:
 - a. What are people free from now?
 - i. Sin Romans 3:23-24
 - ii. Death Mt 28:1-7
 - b. Churchiness
 - i. The Law and all institutional churchiness—Mt 22:34-40
 - ii. All traditional customs and laws in order to have a reason for being in the world—Mt 28:16-20
 - c. Roman Rule and her demands

4. When free from all of these encumbrances, now they are free to be another way in the world. Read these texts and talk about the many ways these new peculiar people are called to live as a political counter culture to the business as usual ways of Egypt and Rome...
 - a. Acts 1:8—Have a Matthew 28 reason for being
 - b. Acts 2:42-47- Have a way to gather locally

- c. Look at how this new political reality is to make its way in the way, in so doing showing the world a better way to live:
1. Acts 4:12
 2. Acts 5:14
 3. Acts 5:38-39
 4. Acts 12:24
 5. Acts 13:49
 6. Acts 16:5
 7. Acts 16:13-15

5. What does PPC need freedom from?

6. What does this new freedom allow us the freedom to become?

We are a resurrection people. We are a freedom people! We are drawn into God's hopeful future and not a sentimental past!

Close in prayer for the courage, unity, leadership and brave followership to go to the exodus of our promised land in Placentia and a little bit beyond.