FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CONTRIBUTOR NAME: TINASHE TEMBO

JUSTICE ISSUE: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE/ LECTIONARY WEEK:	Exodus 3:1-15
SOCIAL PRINCIPLES/ BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS REFERENCES:	2020/2024 Social Principles ¶161 C
OBJECTIVE:	To gain a deeper understanding of how the scripture can be linked to contemporary social justice issues.
SUPPLIES NEEDED:	Flip Chats, Sticky Notes

LESSON PLAN STRUCTURE (1 HOUR)

CENTERING MOMENT (5 MINUTES)

Say: Before we begin, let's take a moment to check in with each other. Share one word about your week or something that's been on your mind.

(Go around briefly or invite a few volunteers.)

Say: Are there any prayer requests you'd like to share?

(Offer a prayer lifting up the prayer requests.)

SCRIPTURE STUDY (25 MIN.)

Say: Today's scripture is Exodus 3:1-15, the story of Moses and the burning bush. This is the moment when God calls Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery.

Say: Here's some background on our passage for today.

- Patriarchal heritage: The Hebrews were deeply connected to their patriarchal heritage, tracing their ancestry back to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

NOTES

The facilitator to create a sacred space for participants.

Share highlights and challenges: Participants can share highlights and challenges from their week, fostering a sense of community and support.

Pray for one another: Participants can pray for one another, lifting up specific needs and concerns.

Reflect on God's presence: Participants can reflect on how they've experienced God's presence in their lives during the past week.

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- Covenant with God: The Hebrews believed they had a special covenant relationship with God, who had promised to be their God and protector.
- Importance of family: Family was crucial in Hebrew culture, with family ties and relationships playing a significant role in daily life.
- Polytheism: Ancient Egyptian culture was polytheistic, with a pantheon of gods and goddesses worshipped for various aspects of life.
- Pharaonic authority: Pharaohs were considered divine rulers, with absolute authority over their subjects.
- Social hierarchy: Egyptian society was highly stratified, with a clear distinction between the ruling elite and the lower classes.
- God's revelation: God's revelation to Moses in the burning bush demonstrates His power and authority, transcending cultural boundaries.
- Moses' call: Moses' call to lead the Israelites out of Egypt highlights the importance of obedience and trust in God's plan.
- Covenant renewal: The passage foreshadows the renewal of the covenant between God and the Israelites, emphasizing God's commitment to His people.
- The Israelites: Specifically, those who were enslaved in Egypt and those who would later wander in the wilderness.
- Moses' contemporaries: The people who lived during Moses' time, including the Israelites and possibly others who interacted with them.
- Future generations of Israelites: The passage was also intended for future generations of Israelites, to preserve their history, faith, and identity.

Say: As we read the passage, listen for how God reveal's God's self and how Moses responds to God's call.

Read Exodus 3:1-15

NOTES

Encourage contextual understanding and help participants understand the cultural and historical context of the passage.

(Optional for Reflection Questions)

Set up stations with different reflection questions on flip charts.

Each participant writes answers to each reflective question on a sticky note and stick on the flip chat.

Participants to move around reading reflections

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Reflection Questions

- How does God reveal Himself to us today?
- What is God's call on our lives, and how can we respond?
- How can we trust God's presence and guidance in our lives?
- What obstacles might we face when responding to God's call, and how can we overcome them?

GROUP ACTIVITY (25 MIN.)

Say: Now we are going to connect this story to issues in our world today. The Israelites' experience of slavery can help us think about injustice that still exists. Let's look at the issue of human trafficking by looking at ¶161 on human trafficking and our passage today.

Ask: What are some ways we can raise awareness about human trafficking and engage our communities in this issue?

Human trafficking: The Israelites' experience of slavery in Egypt can be compared to modern-day human trafficking, highlighting the need for Christians to advocate for the dignity and rights of trafficked persons.

Other issues to discuss:

Economic inequality: The passage can be related to issues of economic inequality, where some individuals and communities are exploited or marginalized due to economic systems and structures.

Racial and ethnic justice: Exodus 3:1-15 can be seen as a powerful symbol of God's concern for racial and ethnic justice, highlighting the need for Christians to engage in issues of racism, xenophobia, and ethnic discrimination.

Immigration and refugee rights: The passage can be related to issues of immigration and refugee rights, highlighting the need for Christians to show compassion and hospitality to those who are fleeing persecution, violence, or poverty.

NOTES

Establish a safe and non-judgmental space: Ensure participants feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and experiences.

Set ground rules: Encourage respect, active listening, and confidentiality.

Participants to discuss in pairs ways of raising awareness about human trafficking then a few share with the larger group after discussing.

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CLOSING MOMENT (5 MIN.)

Say: Before we close, let's name one thing we are grateful for today.

(Invite a few responses.)

Pray:

God who calls us by name,
Thank you for seeing us, guiding us, and walking with us.
Give us courage like Moses
To respond when you call us to act.
Help us stand for justice,
Care for others,
And trust in your presence.
We lift up the prayers shared today and place them in your hands.
Amen.

Say: Go this week listening for God's voice and trusting that you are called for a purpose.

NOTES

Appreciate participants for their engagement, sharing, and reflections.

Acknowledge growth and insights gained during the session.