

Prayer Night Guide *Praying Through Exodus*

“Is the LORD among us or not?” (Exodus 17:7)

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you pray personally and deeply during our prayer time tonight.

Each page highlights a theme from our journey through the book of Exodus.

You'll find:

- Scripture to ground your prayer.
- A short recap of the story so you can remember the biblical scene.
- A reflection connecting the story to our lives today.
- Prayer prompts and questions to guide your heart.
- Space for notes so you can write what God shows you.

Take your time. Move at your own pace. Pause with each question, pray silently, or write a reflection.

This is not a checklist — it's an invitation to slow down, listen, and meet with God.

1. God Leads Us His Way

Exodus 13–14 – “Cut To The Chase”

Story Recap

When God led Israel out of Egypt, He didn't take them on the short road to Canaan through Philistine territory. That route was shorter and looked faster, but it would have led to war and sent them back into slavery. Instead, God led them into the wilderness, straight to the Red Sea. With Pharaoh's army pressing from behind and water in front, they felt trapped. But it was there that God opened the sea, delivered His people, and destroyed their enemies.

Reflection

God's way often looks longer, harder, and even confusing to us — but it is the way of His presence and freedom. Israel wanted a shortcut, but shortcuts can rob us of what God wants to teach us. If they had gone the short way, they would have faced battles they weren't ready for and might have ended up back in slavery. Instead, by following God's longer route, they experienced His power in a way they would never forget: a sea opened before them, and an enemy was forever defeated.

This reminds us that God doesn't just want us to “arrive.” He wants us to know and experience Him along the journey. The real question is not, “How fast can I get there?” but, “Am I walking with God where He is leading?” The greatest blessing is not the destination itself, but the presence of God along the way.

Scripture

“The LORD went before them... to lead them by day and by night” (Exodus 13:21).

Prayer Prompts

- Where am I tempted to take shortcuts instead of trusting God's way?
- How have I been restless with God's timing?
- Am I more focused on the destination or on walking with God along the way?
- Pray for our church to embrace God's leading, even when it feels slow or uncertain.

2. Tests Grow Our Faith

Exodus 15 – “How’d You Do on the Test?”

Story Recap

Right after Israel sang songs of victory at the Red Sea, they traveled into the wilderness and found bitter water at Marah. Instead of praying, they complained. But God turned the bitter water sweet and revealed that this was a test — not to crush them, but to grow their faith. Tests show what’s in our hearts and remind us to obey what God has already spoken.

Reflection

Tests aren’t random accidents or cruel punishments. They are opportunities God designs to reveal what’s inside of us and to grow us into maturity. Just like in school, the test covers what’s already been taught — God had already shown Israel His power at the Red Sea, and now He wanted them to apply it to a smaller problem: a cup of water.

But when the test came, they forgot the lesson. Instead of turning to God in trust, they blamed and complained. Isn’t that often our story, too? We celebrate God on Sunday but forget Him by Wednesday when the next difficulty comes.

Here’s the truth: the test is not for God’s benefit, but for ours. It reveals where our faith is strong and where it is weak. It exposes whether we are actually listening to His Word or just nodding along. And every test is a chance to grow. James tells us that the testing of our faith produces endurance — if we let it.

Scripture

“There He tested them...” (Exodus 15:25).

“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves.” (2 Cor. 13:5).

“For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing” (James 1:3–4, NLT).

Prayer Prompts

- What have my recent “tests” revealed about me?
- Do I see tests as opportunities or as punishments?
- Am I learning to apply past lessons to present challenges?
- In what ways do I need to grow in endurance?
- Pray that we, as a church, would respond to tests with trust instead of grumbling.

3. Tests Become Testimonies

Exodus 16 – “TESTimony”

Story Recap

Just one month after leaving Egypt, Israel faced hunger in the wilderness. They grumbled and longed for Egypt — forgetting the misery of slavery. God answered with mercy, sending quail at night and manna each morning. Some gathered much, some little, but everyone had exactly enough. This daily bread taught Israel that their lives depended on God’s care.

Reflection

Every testimony in our lives began as a test. For the Israelites, in a time of hunger, God gave bread from heaven. And through the test, Israel discovered His goodness in a new way. The same is true for us — when we choose to trust God in the middle of testing, those moments become stories of His faithfulness we can share.

The test may look small or ordinary — whether it’s how you spend your money, how you respond to an offense, or whether you start your day with prayer. But when you say, *“I will trust Your way, Lord,”* the outcome is a testimony of His power and goodness. Even when we fail, God often shows mercy and reminds us that His provision is not dependent on our performance.

Looking back over their wilderness years, Israel could say, “We never lacked a thing” (Deut. 2:7). God turned tests into testimonies. Will we let Him do the same?

Scripture

“Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.” (Exodus 16:12).

“So the people of Israel did as they were told... Each family had just what it needed” (Exodus 16:17–18, NLT).

“He humbled you... to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” (Deut. 8:3).

Prayer Prompts

- What current test in my life could God be shaping into a testimony?
- Have I been tempted to rewrite or revise the past and think “slavery” (sin, old habits, the world’s way) was better?
- Where have I seen God’s provision when I trusted Him?
- Who in my life needs encouragement while they are in a test?
- Pray that our church family would see God’s provision and remember His goodness.

4. Our Greatest Need is God Himself

Exodus 17:1–7 – “We Need God”

Story Recap

Once again, Israel found themselves without water — this time at Massah and Meribah. Instead of asking for help, they demanded that God prove Himself. “Is the LORD among us or not?” they asked, even after all the miracles He had done. God provided water from the rock, but warned them not to harden their hearts.

Reflection

Their problem wasn’t thirst alone — it was unbelief. This story shows us that our greatest need is not something, but Someone. Israel thought they needed water; what they really needed was to trust that God was with them. Even though they are dealing with having not water again, it was clear that they hadn’t yet learned the lesson (aka passed the test). What they needed most was not water, but God Himself, and they still didn’t get it.

We can fall into the same trap: yesterday’s provision gets clouded out by today’s problem. Yesterday’s miracle gets buried under today’s mess. The lesson is clear — we need God! And if/when we have Him, we’re going to be okay.

The question lingers: *Is the LORD among us or not?* The answer in Christ is a resounding yes. But each day we must choose not to harden our hearts. It’s easy to look at Israel and think they are foolish, but we do the same thing. Today, will we hear His voice and trust His presence?

Scripture

“Is the LORD among us or not?” (Exodus 17:7).

“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Psalm 95:7–8).

Prayer Prompts

- Am I seeking God’s presence, or just His provision?
- Where am I demanding something from God instead of trusting Him? Or to say it another way, am I only happy when I get or have what I want? Does my joy, peace, contentment etc rise and fall when things are the way I want them to be (or not?). This might be something to confess to the LORD.
- What lesson has God been repeating in my life that I’ve been ignoring?
- What does it mean for me to hear His voice *today*?
- Pray for our church to hunger for God Himself above every other need.

5. We Fight Together

Exodus 17:8–13 – “Keep Your Hands Up”

Story Recap

Not long after the water at Meribah, Israel was attacked by the Amalekites. Joshua led the army, while Moses stood on a hill with the staff of God. As long as Moses’ hands were raised, Israel prevailed — but when he grew tired, they faltered. Aaron and Hur came alongside him, holding up his hands until the battle was won. In the end, God was declared their banner — “Yahweh Nissi.”

Reflection

This battle teaches us four truths: (1) Everyone matters — God cares about those who are weak and straggling behind. (2) Your life affects others — Moses’ posture of prayer determined victory in the valley. (3) You can’t do it alone — even Moses needed Aaron and Hur. (4) You need the right people — Joshua, Aaron, and Hur represent faithful, Christlike companions who hold us up when we’re weak.

This story points us forward to Christ, the One who stretched out His hands on the cross so victory could be won once for all. Our calling is to “keep our hands up” — in prayer, in faith, in perseverance — not by our strength alone, but with the help of others and under the banner of the LORD.

Scripture

“When Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed...” (Exodus 17:11).

“So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. And Moses built an altar and named it The LORD is My Banner” (Exodus 17:13, 15).

Prayer Prompts

- Who are the “stragglers” I need to pray for and encourage?
- Who needs me to intercede for them tonight? Who is in a battle that I can support by my prayers?
- Who are my Joshuas, Aarons, and Hurs — and how can I be that for others? Who helps hold up my hands in times of weakness? Am I willing to ask for help?
- What battles in our church need extra prayer support right now?
- Pray that we would stand together under the LORD’s banner of victory.

6. Shared Burdens, Sustainable Ministry

Exodus 18 – “The Jethro Plan”

Story Recap

When Jethro visited Moses, he saw him overwhelmed with the responsibility of judging every case for the people. From morning until evening, Moses stood alone while the crowds waited. Jethro loved Moses enough to tell him, “What you are doing is not good.” But he didn’t stop there. He showed concern for Moses’ health & for the people, & then offered a better way: stay focused on prayer & God’s Word while sharing the load with capable, godly leaders.

Reflection

Jethro didn’t just criticize; he cared & offered solutions. That’s important for us to see. Anyone can point out a problem, but godly counsel is motivated by love, expressed with compassion, & paired with wisdom. Jethro observed, asked questions, named the issue, & then gave Moses a hopeful vision of how things could be different.

This teaches us two things:

- 1 - How to give correction.** When you see someone you love weighed down, don’t just criticize from the sidelines. Speak the truth in love, show real concern for their well-being, and, when possible, point to practical solutions that honor God.
- 2 - How to receive correction.** Moses could have ignored Jethro, but instead he listened, prayed, & acted on what was wise. God often speaks through people around us to show us what we can’t see ourselves.

Often what we’re doing is good, but not sustainable. That was true for Moses, & it’s true for us. God’s design is not for one person to carry the whole weight, but for His people to serve together with shared responsibility.

This is God’s design for His church, too. The New Testament echoes this in the roles of elders and deacons. And our launching of a deacon ministry needs prayer and the God’s leading. Jethro’s plan teaches us two things: (1) Leaders must stay rooted in prayer and God’s Word, because ultimately it is God who leads His people. (2) The community must be built on godly, trustworthy men and women who are willing to step up and serve.

Scripture

“The thing that you are doing is not good. You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people... Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you” (Exodus 18:17–19).

Prayer Prompts

- What areas of my life are not “sustainable” for the future?
- Do I resist correction, or do I humbly receive it? Where can I get better?
- When I speak truth to others, is it with love, compassion, and solutions? Where can I get better?
- Where am I trying to carry too much on my own?
- Pray for God to raise up wise and caring servant-leaders in our church. Pray for our ministries, finances and devotion to the LORD to be sustainable and healthy for the future and the glory of God.

7. God Acts Before He Asks

Exodus 19 – “Before I Tell You What To Do...”

Story Recap

Three months after leaving Egypt, Israel camped at Mount Sinai. This was the very mountain where God had first spoken to Moses at the burning bush, promising, “You will worship Me here.” Before giving them the Ten Commandments, God reminded them of His love and power: “I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.” His commands were not a way to earn His love, but a response to it.

Reflection

God always acts first. Our obedience is never about earning His favor, but about living in grateful response to what He has already done. Israel’s story had been filled with God’s rescue and care long before they were asked to follow His law. The same is true for us: we don’t obey to earn God’s love; we obey because we already have it.

God says, “You saw what I did... I carried you.” The image of an eagle carrying its young reminds us of His strength and tenderness. He has brought us out of slavery, carried us through trials, and brought us to Himself. That is the foundation of obedience.

The question is not first, “What must I do?” but “What has God done?” If we remember His mighty works — salvation in Christ above all — our hearts will be stirred to respond with love and obedience.

Scripture

“You yourselves have seen what I did... how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.” (Exodus 19:4).

“The LORD did not set his heart on you because you were numerous... but because He loved you.” (Deut. 7:7–8).

“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Prayer Prompts

- Is my focus more on what I must do, or on what God has already done?
- Do you believe that God loves you?
- How has God shown His love to you recently?
- What step of obedience is God asking you to take as a response to His love?
- Pray for our church to live in obedience rooted in God’s faithfulness, not performance.
- Spend some time expressing your gratitude to God for who He is and what He has done. Try to be specific.

Closing Reflection

Take a few minutes in silence to listen:

- “Father, what lessons do you want me to carry from these weeks in Exodus?”
- “How do you want me to walk with you this week?”