I AM AMAZING
nine sessions from Exodus

Secondary

Lunchtime Group Resources
The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

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Welcome

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

What’s Inside?

- 1 set of leader’s notes for an outreach meeting.
- 8 sets of leader’s notes for regular meetings. The leader’s notes provide the aim of the study, a fun activity, discussion questions (with notes to help answer some questions) and prayer ideas.
- 8 student pages for regular meetings. The student pages can be photocopied and handed out if so desired. Each sheet contains the Bible passage (NIV), questions and prayer ideas. Note there are no student pages for Week 4, which is an outreach week.
- 2 colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the ‘CRU School Groups’ logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

Before You Start

- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders requests each school purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passage and questions before the group meets. Answers have not been provided for all questions.
- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting, so divide your time accordingly.
- Note that Week 4 (the outreach meeting) needs a bit more planning than other meetings. It may be wise to look ahead now at what needs to be done.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God’s work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

“We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me.”

Colossians 1:28–29
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Main Idea</th>
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| **Background Acting** | Exodus 1-2:10  
*The Birth of Moses* | God is working to save even when things seem hopeless. |
| **What's in a Name?** | Exodus 3:1-14 and 34:4-6  
*The Burning Bush* | God's character is displayed in His name. |
| **Absolutely Anybody** | Exodus 6:28-7:7 and 7:8-10.29  
*The Plagues* | God will use anybody to get His work done. |
| **Sons and Lambs Outreach Week** | Exodus 12:1-13, 29-36  
*The Passover* | Salvation only comes through sacrifice. |
| **Prize Fighter** | Exodus 14:5-31  
*Crossing the Red Sea* | God fights for His people. |
| **Bread and Grumbles** | Exodus 16:1-9, 13-18  
*Food in the Desert* | God provides for His people. |
| **Saved and Changed** | Exodus 19:3-8, 16-19  
*The Ten Commandments* | God wants saved people to be changed people. |
| **Breaking the Second** | Exodus 32:1-14, 19-20, 30-35  
*The Golden Calf* | We can get distracted easily from honouring God. |
| **Unbroken Promises** | Exodus 34:1-14, 27-28  
*God Renews the Covenant* | God keeps the promises He makes with His people. |
AIM
To see that God works to save even when things seem hopeless.

PREPARE
- Pray as you prepare that God’s will might be done and the students are drawn closer to Him.
- Read through Exodus 1:1-2:10, familiarising yourself with the context and content of the passage.
- Photocopy the Week 1 Students’ page for everyone. (p.22). Note: Students’ page only has Exodus 1:15-2:10. Bring a Bible for the full text.
- Ensure you have the facilities to show the Web Extras video ‘Awareness Test’.
- Print enough copies of the Web Extras document ‘Exodus 1 and 2 Script’ for each character to have one copy each.
- Print enough copies of the Web Extras document ‘Paper Boat’ for each person to have one each.
- Bring a large tub filled with water to put paper boats in.

PASSAGE
As this is the first week of Exodus find out from the students how much they know about Exodus. Use the whiteboard to write up a list of things that they remember about the book.

When you have done that, explain that today you are going to kick off the story of Exodus by looking at the first chapter and the birth of Moses.

Using the Web Extras document ‘Exodus 1 and 2 Script’ assign characters for the Bible reading and give a copy of the script to each actor. Have the actors act out the Bible reading in front of the group.

DISCUSS
1. Imagine you’re an Israelite living in Egypt during the first chapter of Exodus. What would be the worst part of your life?

Have your group watch the Awareness Test video found in the Web Extras. Before watching the video ask your group not to reveal the answer if they have done the test before. Another option could be to do the Alternative Awareness Test. The point is not as clear but it still has the appropriate impact.

Once they have done the test, explain that sometimes we can be so focused on one thing that we don’t notice what’s going on around us. This week in CRU we’re starting a new topic on the book of Exodus. Today we’ll see a story of God working in the background to save His people, even when they could not see it. When you were focused on the people throwing the basketballs you didn’t notice the dancing bear. Even when all that God’s people could see was their problems, the Bible shows us that God was working to save them.

Passage
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Discuss
1. Imagine you’re an Israelite living in Egypt during the first chapter of Exodus. What would be the worst part of your life?

This is a question about imagination, so there are no right or wrong answers. That said, hopefully the students will have some understanding of the bitterness of life for the Israelites. They may identify the feelings of the Israelites being forgotten by God, or the horror of being targeted for destruction as a race by the Pharaoh, or the distress of having their
children thrown into the water. It was a very bleak time for the Israelites.

2 How does the passage indicate that God is at work even though things seem hopeless?

When the midwives act to save the children they escape punishment by Pharaoh and are rewarded by God (Ex 1:15-21). This is followed by the miraculous saving of Moses from the reeds. Miriam is able to suggest that Moses’ mum becomes his wet nurse, thus allowing Moses to grow up in royalty while maintaining his connection with his family and his people, instead of being killed.

These circumstances show God working in the background to save His people, even though things seem hopeless for the Hebrew people.

3 It is through the very act of Pharaoh trying to kill the Israelites that God works to save the Israelites. How does He do this?

Because Pharaoh ordered that all the babies be thrown into the river, Moses’ mother was compelled to do what she could to save him. This led to Moses being saved by Pharaoh’s daughter. As we know from the story of Moses, he grows up as a prince and then goes on to become the deliverer of Israel. Had Pharaoh not ordered the boys be thrown into the river, Moses would not have been cast away in the basket by his mother, and he would not have received the upbringing and training needed to become a deliverer of Israel. He would have been a regular Jewish boy just like all the others.

4 Can you think of a time in the story of Jesus where everything seemed hopeless but God was working to save?

The clearest demonstration of this is when Jesus died on the cross. At that point, to those following Him, it seemed like God had been defeated and Jesus, who was meant to liberate Israel, was dead. However, while Jesus’ death seemed hopeless, it was precisely through his death that God was saving and liberating humanity.

On the third day after He died Jesus rose to life, showing His power over sin and death. God worked to save precisely through a terrible event. Likewise God’s use of Moses to save Israel happened through the Israelites’ terrible affliction.

5 Jono is going through a hard time at home. He is wondering if God really cares about what is going on for him. What strength can Jono draw from the story of Moses?

Jono can draw comfort from knowing that God works in the background in even the most painful situations. God is not intimidated by hardship. He will use it to achieve His good purposes for His people (Rom 8:28).

Jono could also be encouraged by the example of the midwives (1:15-21) to remain faithful and obedient to God even in hardship, just as they were. It was through their obedience that many lives were saved and through our obedience in hard times God can use us too.

PRAY

Have the students write down on their ‘Paper Boat’ document a situation that seems hopeless. Fold the paper into a paper boat and set the boat down in the tub of water. As they do this encourage them to give the hopeless situation to God, trusting him that He is able to work in even the most bleak situations.