

Lesson 12 How Do Slaves Become the People of God?

Lesson Thesis: God delivers, teaches, and forms His people.



Introduction

Many young people ask questions like these:

- Why does God allow difficulties?
- Why does the path toward our dreams sometimes become long and hard?
- Why doesn't God solve everything quickly?

Sometimes it seems that God could fix every problem instantly.

But the Bible shows a different reality: **God often works step by step.**

He does not only save people — **He shapes their character and forms them into His people.**

The Bible also reveals another important truth: to become part of God's people, a person must respond to **God's call.**

This response begins with **repentance** — recognizing our sin and turning our hearts toward God.

Repentance is not just feeling sorry for bad actions. It is an inner turning of the heart toward God and a decision to live according to His will.

After repentance, a person **enters into a covenant with God** — accepting His authority over his or her life.

This is exactly what happened with Israel. God delivered them from Egypt, but then He brought them to Mount Sinai where He offered them a covenant. Only when they agreed to live according to God's word did they become His people.

The same principle is true today. A person becomes part of God's people not simply by knowing about God, but by **repenting, believing, and entering into a covenant with Him through water baptism.**

This is what we will see in the story of the Exodus.

Because the central principle of this story is: **God delivers, teaches, and forms His people.**

Key Biblical Texts

Genesis 15:13–14 “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.” (NKJV)

Context: God revealed to Abraham in advance that his descendants would live in a foreign land and experience slavery.

This means that Israel's history was not accidental. It was part of **God's sovereign plan.**

Exodus 1:11 “Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.” (NKJV)

Context: The Israelites became slaves and were forced to build cities for Pharaoh.

Yet even during this suffering, **God continued to multiply His people.**

Deuteronomy 8:2–3 “And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you... So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna... that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone.” (NKJV)

Context: God later explained the purpose of the wilderness.

The wilderness was not punishment — it was **a school of trust in God.**

Exodus 19:5–6 “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people... And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (NKJV)

Context: At Mount Sinai, God established a covenant with Israel. From that moment they became **God's special people**. Once again we see the central principle:

God delivers, teaches, and forms His people.

Paragraph 1 God Preserves His People Even in Slavery

Thesis: Even when God's people face difficult circumstances, God continues to accomplish His plan.

Explanation: After Joseph died, the situation of the Israelites in Egypt changed dramatically.

A new Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph. He saw how quickly the Israelites were multiplying and became afraid.

So he decided to:

- turn them into slaves
- force them to build cities
- kill newborn Hebrew boys

It was a dark and frightening time. But the Bible tells us something remarkable: **the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied**. God was working even when people could not see it. During this time Moses was born. His mother hid him, and later placed him in a basket among the reeds of the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter found the child and adopted him. As a result, the future deliverer of Israel grew up **in the palace of Pharaoh himself**. This reveals an amazing truth:

God can use even hostile circumstances to accomplish His plan.

Because **God delivers, teaches, and forms His people**.

Paragraph 2 God Delivers by His Power

Thesis: Israel's deliverance came not through human strength but through God's power.

Explanation: When Moses was forty years old, he tried to help his people. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and killed the Egyptian. But this was not God's method. Moses had to flee into the wilderness. There he lived **forty years as a shepherd**. Only after that did God appear to him in the burning bush and send him back to Egypt. Pharaoh refused to let the people go. Then God sent **ten plagues upon Egypt**.

These plagues demonstrated two things:

- the powerlessness of the Egyptian gods
- the authority of the one true God

After the tenth plague, Pharaoh finally let the people go. The Israelites left Egypt from the city of **Raamses**. But soon Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army after them. The people stood trapped: the sea in front of them and the army behind them. Then God divided the Red Sea. Israel crossed on dry ground, and the Egyptian army was destroyed. At that moment the people clearly saw:

God had truly delivered them. Once again the truth is confirmed:

God delivers, teaches, and forms His people.

Paragraph 3 God Teaches His People in the Wilderness

Thesis: After delivering His people, God begins teaching them to trust Him.

Explanation: Interestingly, God did not lead Israel by the shortest route to Canaan. Instead, He deliberately led them through the wilderness. Why? Because former slaves were not yet ready to become a nation.

They did not yet know how to:

- trust God
- live by His commandments
- live as a united people

So God began to teach them. When they had no water, God provided water. When they had no food, God gave them manna. Manna fell from heaven every morning. Through this, God taught them an important lesson: **Human life depends on God every single day.** The wilderness became a school of trust. It was there that God shaped their character. Because **God delivers, teaches, and forms His people.**

Paragraph 4 God Establishes a Covenant and Forms His People

Thesis: At Mount Sinai, God made Israel His special people.

Explanation: Three months after leaving Egypt, the people arrived at Mount Sinai. Here an important and historic moment took place. God offered the people a covenant.

He said that if they would obey Him, they would become **His special people**. Israel responded: “All that the Lord has said we will do.” God then gave them His law. He established:

- principles for daily life
- instructions for worship
- guidelines for organizing their society

God also commanded them to build the **Tabernacle**, a portable sanctuary where they would worship Him.

From that moment Israel became:

- the people of God
- the keepers of God's law
- witnesses to the surrounding nations

However, soon after this covenant, the people made a **golden calf** and worshiped it. This revealed the weakness of the human heart. Yet God showed mercy, forgave them, and continued to lead them. Because the same principle remained true: **God delivers, teaches, and forms His people.**

How Does a Person Become Part of God's People Today?

The story of Israel reveals an important principle: God makes people His own **through covenant**. In ancient times, Israel entered into a covenant with God at Mount Sinai. Today, people become part of God's people through **the New Covenant in Christ**.

This journey includes several important steps.

1. Repentance — Turning the Heart Toward God

Repentance means recognizing our sin and changing the direction of our lives. It is the moment when a person honestly says to God:

"I realize that I have lived without You, and I want to follow Your ways."

 **Acts 3:19 (NKJV)** "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."

Repentance is **the beginning of a new life with God**.

2. Faith — Trusting in Jesus Christ

Repentance is closely connected with faith. A person begins to trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. He accepts that Christ died for his sins and rose again.

 **John 3:16 (NKJV)** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Faith means **placing your life into God's hands.**

3. Baptism — A Testimony of a New Beginning

Baptism is the outward sign that a person has entered into a covenant with God. Through baptism a person publicly declares:

- I leave my old sinful life behind
- I belong to Christ
- I begin a new life of serving God

 **Acts 2:38 (NKJV)** “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.”

Baptism is a **sign of belonging to God's people.**

4. A New Life — Daily Walking with God

After repentance and faith, a new life begins. This is not just a one-time decision. It is a **daily journey with God.** A believer learns to:

- study God's Word
- pray regularly
- live according to God's commandments
- serve other people

 **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

This is the life of a person who has become part of God's people. Just as in the time of the Exodus, God continues today to gather His people. But every person must take their own step of faith. Because the same spiritual principle remains true:

God delivers, teaches, and forms His people.

Practical Application

1. Difficulties Do Not Mean God Has Abandoned Us

Sometimes when difficulties come into our lives, it may feel as if God is far away or has stopped caring. But the story of Israel shows the opposite. When the Israelites suffered in Egypt, God saw their pain and heard their cries. Even then He was already preparing their deliverance through Moses. God may work quietly and invisibly, but that does not mean He is inactive.

📖 **Exodus 2:24 (NKJV)** “So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant...”

? How do I respond to difficulties — with trust in God, or with complaining and despair?

✓ **Practical step:** When a difficult situation appears in your life, pause and pray. Trust that God sees your situation and is working even when you do not yet understand how.

2. God Prepares People in Advance

God rarely works instantly. Often He prepares a person for many years before giving them a calling or responsibility. Moses spent forty years growing up in Pharaoh’s palace and another forty years living as a shepherd in the wilderness. Only after that did God send him to deliver Israel. Every stage of his life became part of God’s preparation. **Acts 7:22–30**

? Am I patient while God leads me through seasons of preparation?

✓ **Practical step:** Do not rush or become discouraged if your journey seems long. Ask yourself: *What is God teaching me right now?* Perhaps today He is shaping your character.

3. God Teaches Us Through Trials

The wilderness was a difficult place for Israel. There was no familiar food, water was scarce, and life was uncomfortable. Yet in that wilderness the people learned to trust God. God provided manna, water from the rock, and protection. Their trials became lessons of faith. Sometimes God allows difficult circumstances so that we can learn how deeply we depend on Him. **Deuteronomy 8:3 (NKJV)**

? What might God be teaching me through the challenges I face today?

✓ **Practical step:** During a difficult season, try writing down the spiritual lessons you see. This will help you recognize how God is working in your life.

4. Freedom Requires Obedience

God freed Israel from slavery, but their journey did not end there. At Mount Sinai, God gave them His law. Freedom did not mean living without guidance. True freedom means living in right relationship with God and following His word. God’s commandments were given not to restrict people, but to protect and bless them. **Exodus 19:5 (NKJV)**

? Am I truly living according to God’s principles, or do I only call myself a believer?

✔ **Practical step:** Choose one biblical principle—such as honesty, kindness, or forgiveness—and intentionally practice it throughout this week.

5. Idolatry Begins in the Heart

When Moses delayed returning from Mount Sinai, the people quickly made a golden calf and began to worship it. This shows how easily the human heart can forget God and replace Him with something else. Idolatry is not only about statues. Sometimes idols can be money, success, popularity, or personal desires. **Exodus 32:4**

? Is there anything in my life that is taking God's place?

✔ **Practical step:** Think honestly about what takes most of your time, attention, and energy. If something begins to replace God, make a conscious decision to put God first again.

6. God Is Ready to Forgive

After the sin of the golden calf, the people committed a serious offense. God could have destroyed them, but through Moses' prayer He showed mercy and continued to lead them. This reveals an important truth: God is holy and hates sin, but He is also merciful and ready to forgive those who sincerely turn to Him. **Exodus 34:6–7 (NKJV)**

? Do I believe that God can forgive my mistakes and sins?

✔ **Practical step:** If there is a sin that troubles your conscience, honestly confess it to God in prayer and ask for His forgiveness.

7. God Is Forming His People Today

God continues to gather His people even today. This happens through the Church. People from different nations and cultures become part of God's people through faith in Jesus Christ. God desires that His people reflect His character and show His love to the world. **1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)**

? Do I realize that my life can show others who God is?

✔ **Practical step:** Try to live in such a way that through your words, actions, and attitude people can see God's character in you.

Conclusion

The story of Israel is not only ancient history. It is a picture of how God works with people. First, **He delivers**. Then **He teaches**.

Then **He shapes character and forms a people for Himself**. God works in the same way today. He saves people from sin. But after salvation begins a lifelong process of learning, growth, and spiritual transformation. So we must remember this principle: **God delivers, teaches, and forms His people**.

And every person must decide: **Will I be part of God's people or not?**
