

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Group Discussion Guide | May 3

### Series overview and leader instructions

"Not Alone" is an 11-week journey through the Old Testament, tracing God's desire to dwell with His people and His faithful work to bring redemption. Through every season—deliverance, provision, rebellion, exile, and restoration—we see one unified story of grace, pointing to Jesus and the promise of God dwelling with His people forever.

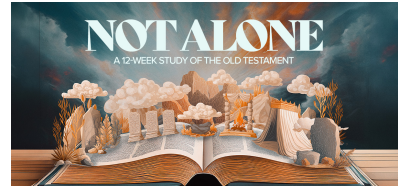
The sermons in this series will take a fly-over approach, covering multiple chapters—and sometimes multiple *books*—in a single sermon. You may find that some people in your group may be unfamiliar with these stories and benefit from some additional context.

We recommend incorporating overview videos from The Bible Project as needed. As the leader, you can decide whether to watch the videos as a group or send them out in your group chat or via email for people to watch on their own. Recommended videos will be linked in each week's group guide.

There are two overview videos for Exodus:

- Exodus 1–18: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/exodus-1-18/> (6:33)
- Exodus 19–40: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/exodus-19-40/> (6:27)

As always, use the group discussion guide below in the way that works best for *your* group. Prayerfully review the material and note the questions you sense the Spirit leading you to focus on. Linger on questions that yield fruitful discussion. Break into pairs or smaller groups for conversation or keep the discussion in the larger group. You know your group! Use this guide as a template but make it your own.



## Opening prayer and reflection questions (10 minutes).

*Begin your time together by inviting people to share their answers to the following:*

- On a scale of 1–10, how familiar are you with the Old Testament?  
1 = “Noah . . . he was the ark guy, right?”  
10 = “I can list the kings of Israel and Judah without breaking a sweat.”
- Pick 1-2 adjectives to describe your attitude toward reading and studying the Old Testament. (Go around the circle and invite everyone to share.)
- What are you looking forward to about this new sermon series? What do you hope you receive from it?

**Pray:** Lord, we know you tell us in Romans 15:4 that “everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so that through endurance and the encouragement of Scripture, we might have hope.” May we receive the encouragement you have for us as we study the Old Testament together. Amen.

## Discuss the sermon and book of Exodus (45 minutes).

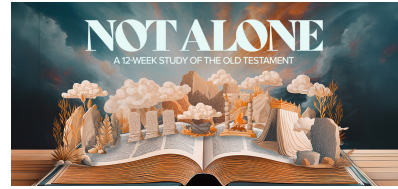
- What stood out to you from Gary’s sermon?
- The Israelites in Egypt knew very little about the God of their ancestor Abraham. How does God reveal Himself to His people in the book of Exodus? (Possible answers include God’s promise to rescue His people, His power over the gods of Egypt/the Red Sea, His presence with His people)
- How do these truths about the character and nature of God speak to our own experience today?

*Because of the survey nature of this sermon series, it won’t be possible to read the all the passages covered in each sermon during life group. But you can take time to linger in a specific moment in the story. Choose one of the following passages to read together and discuss. (Note: if you are watching the Bible Project videos during your group time, it may be wise to omit this section for time.):*

Exodus 3 (God appears to Moses in the burning bush)

Exodus 12:21-42 (the Passover and the exodus)

Exodus 14:5-31 (the parting of the Red Sea)



Exodus 20:1-21 (the Ten Commandments)

Exodus 32:1-20 (the golden calf)

- What did you notice? What details stood out to you?
- What questions or points of confusion do you have? (*Note: as the leader, you do not have to answer all the questions. It's OK to acknowledge that we are reading an ancient document given to us by God. We won't understand everything, but we can ask our honest questions.*)
- What speaks to you from this passage?

Gary provided three ways we can be formed by our reading of Exodus:

**A:** Admit our sin (like the Israelites, we are broken and flawed and make our own golden calves)

**B:** Be in God's presence (God spent time with Moses on Mt. Sinai and provided His presence with His people in the Tabernacle)

**C:** Have courage (Moses encouraged the people to stand firm and see the deliverance of the Lord at the Red Sea)

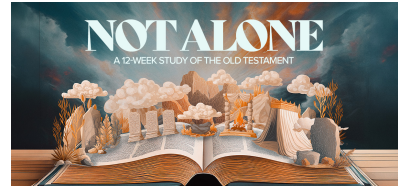
- Which one of those invitations from Exodus—admitting sin, being in God's presence, or having courage—do you most need right now?
- What have you learned from the book of Exodus that might help you in that area?
- How can we as a life group help you in that area?

**Concluding reflection and prayer (10 minutes).**

In the book of Exodus, God rescues His people and reveals His presence to them. Like them, we need to be rescued. Like them, God offers us His presence.

Read Exodus 33:14-17. Then read verse 15 alone: "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."

Once Moses encountered God, he didn't want to go anywhere without Him. What about us? Do we seek to remain in God's presence each moment of our lives? What would it look like if we did?



We will now enter into a time of prayer. Let's take a moment of silent reflection on God's rescue and presence in our lives. Then you are invited to pray a phrase or sentence asking God for rescue and presence or thanking Him for the rescue and presence He has already provided.

*Provide time of silence and then opportunity for sentence prayers. Close in prayer over your group. You may choose to use these words from Revelation 21 for your prayer: We thank you for the promise that one day your dwelling place will be among us and you will dwell with us. We will be your people, and you will be our God. You will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Until then, may we receive your rescue and experience your presence, just as Moses and the Israelites did. Amen.*