

When we hear the word “exodus”,
we immediately think
of the origins of the amazing love story
between God and his people,
a history which passes through
the dramatic period of slavery in Egypt,
the calling of Moses,
the experience of liberation
and the journey toward the Promised Land.

The Book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible,
which recounts these events
is a parable of the entire history of salvation,
but also of the inner workings of Christian faith.
Passing from the slavery of the old Adam
to new life in Christ
is a event of redemption
which takes place through faith (Eph 4:22-24).

This passover is a genuine “exodus”;
it is the journey of each Christian soul
and the entire Church,
the decisive turning of our lives
towards the Father.



Pope Francis
Letter for Vocations Sunday 2015

Exodus

A People Moving Forward Together in Hope -

From the familiar...
Through a wilderness...
Through discovery...
Through challenge...
Through personal encounters with God...

To a Promised Land:
A heritage to pass on to future generations.

Department for Spirituality
St Cuthbert's House
West Road
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE15 7PY
Tel: 0191 243 3302
Email: spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

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Exodus

A People Moving Forward Together in Hope



FORWARD TOGETHER
IN
HOPE

Why use Exodus?

In some ways, it seems odd to use a book written thousands of years ago to inspire our thoughts and reflections about *Forward Together in Hope*. But it is a story that has lasted so long because it is full of truth. It has many echoes with the Journey we are embarked on.

- It is a story of a people who already had a long history and who had lived many years in Egypt—but things had changed. They had a choice—to stay where they were or to listen to the voice of God through Moses to move on.
- The people were led into a place with no clear signposts and no firmly defined destination... only the assurance that God would be their guide.
- There were challenges along the way. Natural hazards—lack of water and food—and human ones—people who became disheartened and, even, rebellious.
- There were times when the people were powerfully aware of God at work in their midst.
- And more!

What are the Stages on the Journey

Forming God's People for the Future
God prepares his People for the Promised Land.
How are we formed for the future?
Linking with *Education and Continuing Formation, Outreach and Young People*

Challenges along the Way
Some of the challenges facing the Israelites on the way.
The challenges that face us.
Linking with *Finances, Facilities and Geographic Distance*

Food for the Journey
The Journey begins—with a meal.
We too are nourished on the way.
Linking with *Active Participation of People and Worship and Spiritual Life.*

Drawn from the Waters
Moses is saved from the water.
We are saved through the waters of baptism.
Linking with *The Christian Faithful and Leadership*

START HERE!

How could we use it?

The material is designed to be flexible—so the first thing to remember is that you are free to adapt it. Here are some ideas—but you may have more!

- It could form the basis of a series of meetings. There is material for four.
- You might look through the sessions and find one that appeals to you—use this for a one-off meeting (perhaps to look at the Reflective Questions in the main pack).
- You could take extracts from the four sessions to build up a Day of Reflection for a group—or your parish.
- You might think about a parish Awayday—going to a “wilderness” away from the busy-ness and the familiar and take bits and pieces from the material to help people to reflect on the Journey we are on together.
- You might ask parish “Anchors” to pray part of the material at the same time as your meeting or Day of Reflection.

