**The Story of Redemption: Exodus 5:1-23**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Though Pharaoh denies the truth of the existence of God, it did not stop God from existing. Can you give modern examples of where our culture acts under the assumption of a denied truth, to our detriment?
3. In this passage, Pharaoh uses hard work as a tool for oppression. What principles can we learn about God’s view of work though passages like Genesis 2:15, Proverbs 14:23, and Ephesians 4:28? How do we balance the goodness of work in our lives with the dangers it can have in overwhelming us?
4. It was back in chapter 2 when God heard the cries of the Israelites under bondage, and in this passage their trials get significantly worse. Have you ever been in a situation where you knew God was beginning to work in your life, but the attacks of the enemy seemed to multiply? What encouraged you during that time?
5. In verses 20-21 the Israelites become angry with Moses. How do we protect our own hearts from bitterness when our expectations of God’s will or His timing are not met?
6. How does one balance objecting to trials because of the suffering they bring and rejoicing because of what God accomplishes through them? Does your answer change depending on the trial (hard work, lack of recognition, death, rape, etc.)?
7. Read Hebrews 12:6 and Proverbs 3:12. How can a believer discern whether the suffering they are experiencing is due to godly discipline?
8. While told they would receive a land full of milk and honey, the Israelites are now being punished for their inability to complete an impossible task. Today God tells us that believers’ lives should be full of joy (John 15:11, Galatians 5:22-23), yet we are often overwhelmed by trials. What can you say to give hope to a person who isn’t experiencing God’s joy?