

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES  
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION  
EXODUS 5:1-6:7

**Read Exodus 5**

1. Have there been moments when you felt like you were doing God's work and have been disappointed? Why was that?
2. In verse 22, Moses seems quite surprised about how things have turned out. Should he be? (cf 3:18-20; 4:21-23)

**Read verses 1-5 again**

3. What do you think is at the heart of Pharaoh's refusal?
4. If Pharaoh had said "Yes" in verse 3, how do you think the story would have progressed? What would have changed?

**Read vs 6-14**

5. This is not the first time the Israelites have been given heavy burdens. Read 1:8-13 again compare the reasons for the burdens then and now.
6. Is God blessing Israel in this chapter? Why/why not?
7. In verse 14 the Israelite foremen complain to Pharaoh and complain to Moses. Why don't they complain to God? How should passages like Philippians 4:4-7 help us be different from them? What is the difference between complaining TO God and complaining ABOUT God (and just complaining)? How can we help each other with this?

**Read vs 15-23**

8. God has taken a long time to do anything about Israel's fate, and his intervention has made things worse. If God was ONLY concerned about Israel's suffering – how do you think he would have acted? Can you think of other reasons God has for doing things this way in chapter 5? [Hint: God's words in 6:3 begin to explain this].
9. Does this suffering which has been thrust upon the Israelites have a purpose? Do any of these failures indicate God is not blessing Israel or is absent? What does unfruitfulness as a Christian indicate is happening?
10. Read 6:1-9. Is God's response encouraging? Is it intended to be?
11. Read 6:9. Situations and heavy burdens in our own lives cause us to have broken spirits and even make it hard to listen to God's words of comfort. How can we help each other to keep depending on God in times like these? What can we learn from how Jesus dealt with hard things (see Hebrews 5:7 and Mark 14:36)