



Your Life Sentence: Period or Comma?

**Exodus: The Way: A Journey Through Exodus | Part One: Out
Exodus 4:14 - 6:13 | March 8th - 14th, 2015**

Warm Up: When disaster strikes, when trials set in, when difficulties mount up, it's easy to feel like we've been given a life sentence. During these times it's easy to put "period" in our lives, not realizing that God has only placed a "comma." In what ways do you believe you need to trust God for the "comma" in your life right now? Share.

- Sometimes things get worse before they get better but, like Moses, we can be comforted and strengthened by the Lord's Presence and promises! **Read Exodus 4:31** through all of **chapter 5** aloud.
 - What must have Moses and Aaron been feeling after performing the miracles God had instructed, and then gaining the support of Israel's leaders (**4:31**)?
 - Sometimes the most challenging part of a mission is when we finally declare it to others (**5:1**). Can you relate to this? How so?
- We can't expect those who are unfamiliar with God, or even *opposed* to the gospel, to share our enthusiasm when we begin gaining traction in our lives with God.
 - Read Jesus' words in **John 15:18-19**. Where do Christians sometimes go wrong by seeking cultural approval from those outside the faith? Is this *ever* valid? Explain.
 - How have you personally experienced the reality of Jesus' words in **John 15:18-19** to be true?
- After encountering radical resistance both from Pharaoh and his fellow Israelites, Moses goes "**back to the Lord**" (**Exodus 5:22-23**).
 - What do we learn from Moses in this?
 - What do we learn from Moses' interaction with the Lord in these verses? How does this speak to you personally?
- The Word of God says, "**The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever;**" - **Psalm 138:8a NKJV**. As you consider the perceived "periods" in your life, trust the Lord for His good, perfecting plans being carried out. As a group, read aloud the promises of God in **Exodus 6:6-8**.
 - Which promise - ultimately fulfilled through your faith in Jesus Christ - rings most true to your spirit today? What might God be saying to you though this?

Wrap Up: Close by allowing some space and time to *listen to God* as a group. You may begin simply by saying, "*Lord, what would you say to us? Who in the group might you have a special message of encouragement for?*" Share after you've spent some time listening, and pray for the various "periods" and "pauses" represented around the room.