



LESSON 1: HEARING THE CRY

Before you begin, take some time to read Exodus 1: 6-14 and then watch the companion video.

1. Compare and contrast “personal sin” and “systemic sin.” What is the difference between the two, to you? How are they related?
2. In your faith history or church tradition, would you say that the focus was more on the need to deal with your personal sin (personal reconciliation) or societal, “systemic” sin and reconciliation? Why do you think this is?
3. Read Genesis 4:1-10. How does Cain’s “personal sin” become something bigger? Is it possible for personal sin to stay personal?
4. Where in this passage does God “hear the cry?” How does he respond to the injustice that was done?
5. In the video, we talked about “Egypt” as being a kind of metaphor for anything we need to be rescued from, either personally or as a people. What would you say are the biggest “Egypt” in the world today? Where are things just not the way God intended them to be?
6. The big idea this week is that God always hears the cry of the oppressed and responds. How has God responded to your personal crying out to Him? How do you see Him responding to the bigger, systemic ways in which people are crying out to him?
7. In what ways do you think our group or our church could better “hear the cry” that God hears?