

The Common Thread

Week 4: The Hearts of Kings and Slaves

Community Group Questions

1. What were your general impressions and takeaways from the Exodus 1-18 video shown in this message? (Try to focus more on the content than the style, voiceover, or value of production.)
2. Why is it important to learn which themes and specifics in scripture are prescriptive and which are descriptive, especially in the Old Testament?
3. Discuss the sequence of the heart in scripture:
 - a. Sin hardens the heart
 - b. Difficulty exposes or reveals the condition of the heart
 - c. God always creates a way for the heart to be safe and healed
 - d. At that point of decision, we choose our hearts' responses
4. Read Genesis 26:4. Who does God desire to bless and reveal His nature to: only Abraham/Israel, or the whole world? Do we really live as if we believe this?
5. Discuss moments in your life when, like Pharaoh or the Israelites, you come face-to-face with a choice to either "lose" to God's ways or stubbornly cling to your own? What do these moments reveal about your actual trust in God?
6. Can you live in virtual isolation (that is, not intentionally confessing needs/wrong, daily encouraging, receiving godly counsel, etc.) from God's people and still actually be living according to God's ways? Explain. How many modern Christians do this everyday—and how do you think they justify this lifestyle?