

Exodus
Counterfeit Exposed- Week #7
Small Group Notes
September 17 and 20

Main Point: For today's study we are going to understand the ways that God reveals counterfeit idols and faith in our lives.

Introduction:

Share about a time that you purchased something that you found out later was counterfeit. What emotions did you have when you found out? Did you have an opportunity to confront the vendor or did you leave it alone?

Has there ever a time that you intentionally bought something that was counterfeit? What are some reasons that we accept "knock-offs" in our lives?

Today we are in Exodus 7-10 as we are looking at the plagues that God brought against the people of Egypt and Pharaoh for his refusal to let the people go and worship. One of the primary reasons for the plagues that we are going to see is how God desired to demonstrate how real His power is versus the false, counterfeit gods of Egypt.

Discuss:

1. Read Exodus 7:1-5

- God's ultimate goal is to reveal His glory.

Explain: As God explained His role in the coming plagues, this would include the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. This can be difficult to understand. Why would God intentionally harden Pharaoh's heart to reject God's commands, causing Israel to remain in slavery even longer? At this point, it's critical to remember that the highest priority in this series of events is God's glory. So, when God said that He would harden Pharaoh's

heart and “multiply My signs and wonders,” the reason was so that His glory would be magnificently evident to everyone in Egypt.

Ask:

What can be situations in our world today that reflect Pharaoh’s hard heart? What are ways that we are called to respond in these situations? (Read Ephesians 4:22-32)

Why is the manifestation of God’s glory an ongoing theme in the Bible? In what ways does God manifest His glory to you?

2. Read Exodus 7:6-13

- Satan is the king of counterfeit.
- God is the King of exposing counterfeit.
- Continued surrender to counterfeit leads to a hard heart.
- His mercy should lead us from the “blender” of disobedience, to the “fish bowl” of righteousness and obedience. (Read Proverbs 14:12)

Explain: God showed the gods in Egypt—the most prominent of which was Pharaoh—to be fraudulent and void of power in His presence. God was intentional to make sure that Moses and Aaron could not take credit for any of the spectacular works performed in the liberation of the Hebrew people. Simultaneously, Pharaoh positioned himself as an enemy of God while Moses and Aaron learned to be obedient and humble.

Ask:

What are some things that God has revealed to you are counterfeit in your life? Are you allowing those things to harden your heart or are you surrendering them to God? Why?

How have you seen the mercy of God impact the way you live? Why is that a message for our world today?

3. Review the plagues in Exodus 7:17-10:23.

Explain: Further evidence of how God was breaking down the Egyptians was that in their “god system” they had gods that represented each of the areas of the plagues. Therefore, God is revealing more of how He is the true God alone and there are no others! The choice came down to the

Israelites, do we trust the man-made throne of Pharaoh or do we trust the One who sits on the real throne over all!

Ask:

Where do you go to for refuge, shelter, and peace? In what ways has Jesus been each one of these in your life?

Who sits on the throne of your life? (Read John 10:10)

How is trusting in Jesus similar to the decision that was before the Israelites?

Do:

Are there idols in your life that are catching your attention and luring you away from worshipping God during this time? What ways have you found to be the most effective in keeping things that try to enslave you “in check”?

Do you know someone that currently has a “hard heart” towards the things of the Lord? What is one thing that you can do this week to help that person hear, see, or respond to the mercy of God?