WARM UP QUESTION: How do we handle difficult situations? Testify about a time when God carried you through a challenging circumstance.

READ: Exodus 5:1-5

FOCUS: Difficulties are part of following God. But He and His good plans will prevail.

OBSERVE: When we look at this passage, there are various difficulties that God's people faced. These came about after they set their heart to obey the Lord. We may be able to relate to some of these challenges in our own lives too.

Sometimes, it seems that the more we pursue God and His will, we find ourselves facing some (or all) of these challenges:

- Increased weight or burdens (Exodus 5:6-8)
- Accusation (Exodus 5:8-9;17-18; 20-21) either from Satan or from people used by him.
- Pain and suffering (Exodus 5:13-14) This can be emotional, verbal, mental, and physical attacks working through a person or groups of people or through the devil and his minions.
- Internal struggles (Exodus 6:30) fears, insecurities, self-doubts, etc.

In light of all these difficulties, we may find ourselves asking these questions: "Is God reigning and ruling the universe and our lives? Are His plans being thwarted by the enemy in these circumstances?" Even though we may face challenges in our lives, God will still encourage us in believing and claiming His promises. His good plans will still prevail. The Bible teaches us how the Lord wanted Moses to respond.

Responses:

- Retell God's plan (Exodus 6:1)
- Remember that God is the *I AM* (Exodus 6:2-5)
- Rest in God who is working out His plans (Exodus 6:6-8)

REFLECT:

Do we know enough of God's plan to talk about it? Do we really believe that He is the *I AM?* Do we trust in His sovereignty over all creation and all past, present and future events?

TAKE ACTION:

This week, talk to someone about God's plan which He revealed in His Word. Recall how God spoke and acted as the I AM on behalf of His people. Trust that God works all things according to His good, pleasing and perfect will.

PRAY:

Father, thank You for being with us in our hardships and sufferings as You were with the Israelites in Egypt. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our deliverer as You sent Moses for Your people in the past. Holy Spirit, amidst our difficult situations and personal challenges, help us obey You and trust in Your promises. Amen.