WARM-UP QUESTION: How do you show better treatment to someone who is special to you?

READ: Exodus 8:20–9:12

FOCUS: The Lord makes Himself known when He comes to deliver His people who are set apart for His purpose.

OBSERVE: The Lord was revealing Himself to Pharaoh, the Egyptians and to His own people, Israel. After three plagues, it seems that YHWH decided to intensify the plagues He was unleashing, while making a distinction between Pharaoh's people and His people.

When the LORD delivers His people, He goes where they are.

- God's heart has always been to set His people free. His desire is for His children to live the life they were created for. He does this personally and in proximity.
- Sin and having a sinful nature stand between us fulfilling our God-given purpose.

When the LORD delivers His people, He identifies them as His own by great acts of mercy, rescue and protection. (Exodus 8:22; 9:4–6)

- God had sovereignly chosen Israel through His covenant with Abraham. He has always been
 determined to keep His promises and planned to save the world through them. This decision includes
 putting His reputation at stake.
- Israel is no more special than other people. Only God's love and mercy sets them apart.

When the LORD delivers His people, He judges their oppressors and false gods.

- God is merciful but also just. All oppression will meet its end. At the end of time, all injustice will be subject to judgment.
- Through the cross, God triumphed over all spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

REFLECT: Have you truly experienced what it means to be counted among God's people? Are you aware of how far the Lord would go for us—to rescue us from trouble—because we are His sons and daughters? The Lord is a covenant-keeper. He sealed His promise to save and deliver us through what Christ did on the cross.

TAKE ACTION: This week, reflect upon your need for deliverance from sin or sinful situations. Cry out for help and rescue from varying kinds of oppression (physical, emotional or mental).

PRAY

Father, thank You for sending Your only Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sins and rise from the dead so I can experience the power of Your deliverance. We willingly surrender our lives to You. Take us and use us to fulfill Your heavenly purpose here on earth, so others may know You as a loving Savior and strong Deliverer. In Jesus' name, amen.