



Part 1: Just One Turn Away
Pastor Grant Fishbook
January 15 & 16, 2011

Exodus = The Road Out

They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. – *Exodus 1:14*

A Startling Realization

- I am in captivity
- I don't like being held captive
- I can't break captivity alone
- Only God can set me free

Step One of "Twelve Steps: A Spiritual Journey"

We admitted that we were powerless over the effects of our separation from God – that our lives had become unmanageable.

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.
For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.
– *Romans 7:18*

God's Response to the Israelites' Cry for a Road Out

During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them. – *Exodus 2:23-25*

- God hears
- God remembers
- God sees
- God is concerned

God was so concerned about my captivity that he sent a Savior to lead me to freedom:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." – *Luke 4:18-19*

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The First Steps on the Road Out

- 1) Acknowledge that you are in captivity
- 2) Cry out to God for help
- 3) Believe that He hears, remembers, sees and is concerned
- 4) Trust in God to guide you on the road out you on the road out

Next Steps

Baptism: If you've started a new life with Jesus Christ but haven't been baptized yet, be sure to attend one of the baptism classes on the weekend of January 22 & 23 at either campus. Full details are in the Classes & Workshops section of What's Happening. Grab one in the Commons today.

Recovery Classes: At CTK, we view recovery as our common journey, because we believe everyone has been held captive at one time or another by our sins or sins against us. Five new recovery classes start this week:

- **Stand Firm** (for men) starts Thursday, January 13, 7:00-9:00 PM
- **12 Steps: A Spiritual Journey** starts Monday, January 17, 6:30-8 PM
- **Safe People** starts Monday, January 17, 6:30-8:00 PM
- **Imago Dei** starts Monday, January 17, 6:30-8:00 PM
- **Invaded Lives** (for women) starts Wednesday, Jan. 17, 10 AM - Noon

Read all the details in What's Happening under the Recovery Classes section and Classes for Women or at www.ctkbellingham.com/recovery. Register today at the Connection Point.

Small Group Questions



- 1) What is the longest journey you have ever undertaken? Why were you on it and what was your destination?
- 2) What did you learn about yourself on the longest journey of your life?
- 3) Exodus 2:23-25 tells us how God responded to the pain of the Israelites. Do you believe that God still responds to us in our pain? How has God shown you his concern with regards to your own spiritual journey?
- 4) This is a very personal question – only share to the level that you are comfortable, but also trust that your group can be there to support you. What is holding you captive that you would like God to release you from?
- 5) How would your life be different if you could be set free from what you just shared?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?