

CARTOUCHE

A Discussion Guide for Small Groups

THE TEXT

- Exodus 7-12
- Colossians 3:1-17

THE TEACHING

Watch the video, “Cartouche”

SMALL GROUP STUDY – TO BE DISCUSSED BEFORE THE VIDEO

- 1) **Review the Ten Plagues found in Exodus 7-12.** Ironically, before the plagues, Egypt was one of the safest places on earth. During the plagues, Egypt turned into a wild place. What was the significance behind each plague?

Plagues	Significance (Threatening Life in Egypt)
1) Turning the Nile River to blood	
2) Swarms of frogs infesting households	
3) Gnats on man and beast	
4) Swarms of flies	
5) Death of livestock	
6) Boils and sores on man and beast	
7) Heavy hail on man, beast, plant, & tree	
8) Locusts from an east wind	
9) Darkness three days from heaven	
10) Death to every firstborn	

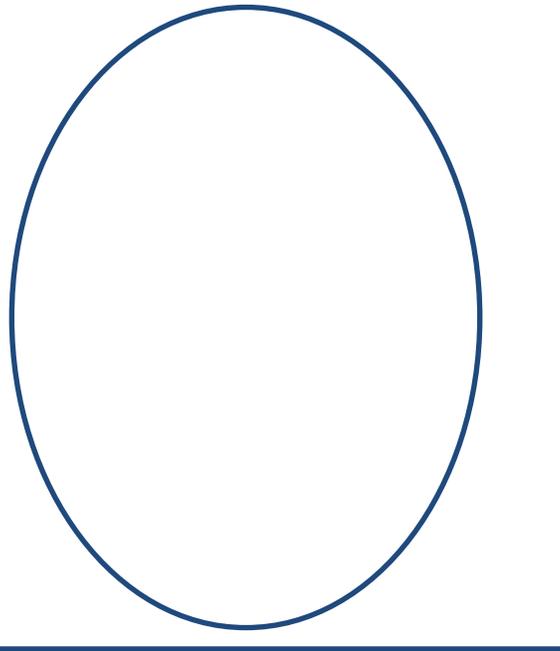
- 2) How were the first nine plagues a lesson to the Israelites? (See for example, Exodus 8:22). What did God want the Israelites to learn from the tenth plague? With the tenth plague God commanded Israel to keep The Passover as a remembrance. What were they to remember about themselves and about God? The Passover is referred to some 45 times throughout the Old Testament. Why was it so important that the Israelites continue it? It is also mentioned some 26 times in the New Testament. What is the message of the Passover to believers? The Jewish Passover service remembers both the death of the first born AND the nine preceding plagues. Why is it important that we recall both? What does the Passover say to us about our lives today?

- 3) The Egyptians followed their Pharaoh's order and trusted their gods because of their blessings living in the land of Egypt. The Hebrews were encouraged to trust their God in spite of their harsh conditions. How have our lives in the pandemic challenged us to trust God? Looking back, has God used this pandemic to remove idols in your life? We naturally want things to go "back to normal." Is it possible God wants our way of life to look differently? If so, how so?

SMALL GROUP APPLICATION – TO BE DISCUSSED AFTER THE VIDEO

4) **What is in your Cartouche?**

The Egyptian name for Cartouche was "shenu", which means to "encircle". What would you put in your cartouche, your name plate, to describe yourself? What symbol would you include identifying your religious beliefs? What symbol would you include indicating your unique talents, characteristics, and accomplishments?



- 5) **Read Colossians 3:1-4; 12-17.** Paul in the book of Colossians commands us to put off the old self and put on the new self. What are some steps we can take to seek the things that are above, not setting our minds on things on earth? For whose namesake are we to live? Is Paul's concern with their inward lives or outward appearances? Has living in a pandemic shown you places where your focus was more "outward" than "inward?" How does this way of life make our wild places "safe places"?