



THE EXODUS HAS BEGUN

Kids & Youth Edition (Ages 8-17)

21 Days of Learning, Growing, and Moving Forward with God

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INTRODUCTION FOR PARENTS & YOUTH LEADERS

This is a kid-friendly and teen-appropriate version of the 21-Day Exodus Devotional that the adult congregation is walking through.

Why a kids/youth version matters:

- Transitions affect the whole family—kids need spiritual language to process change
- This teaches biblical principles of trust, obedience, and faith during uncertainty
- It creates family conversations around what God is doing at Ekklesia
- It builds lifelong discipleship habits (daily Scripture, prayer, journaling)

How to use this guide:

FOR PARENTS:

- Read it with your kids each morning at breakfast or before bed
- Let them answer the "Challenge" questions and draw/write in the spaces provided
- Use it as a conversation starter: "What did you learn today?"
- Pray the daily prayer together as a family

FOR YOUTH LEADERS:

- Use this in midweek youth group
- Create accountability groups (3–4 teens checking in daily via text)
- Host a "Week 1 Check-In" pizza night to discuss Days 1–7
- Celebrate Day 21 with a special youth service or event

FOR KIDS/TEENS READING ALONE:

- Take your time
- Be honest with God about how you feel
- Don't skip the Challenge—that's where the growth happens
- Text a friend or parent when something hits you

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HOW THIS WORKS

Each day has five simple parts:

 **BIG IDEA** – One sentence that sums up the whole lesson

 **BIBLE VERSE** – God's Word (the foundation)

 **STORY/TEACHING** – A short explanation you can understand

 **CHALLENGE** – Something practical to DO today

 **PRAYER** – Talk to God about what you learned
BONUS: Some days have space to draw, write, or reflect.

WEEK 1: LEAVING EGYPT (Days 1-7)

Learning to trust God when things change

DAY 1 — Monday, January 19

GOD SEES YOU WHERE YOU ARE

BIG IDEA:

Before God moves you, He sees you.

BIBLE VERSE:

"The Lord said, 'I have seen how my people are suffering in Egypt. I have heard their cries... Yes, I know about their pain.'" — Exodus 3:7

STORY:

Imagine you're playing at a park, and you get hurt. Before you even call for help, your parent sees you and runs over. They were watching the whole time.

That's how God is with us. When our church was at Cane Run Road, God saw us there. He blessed us there. He helped us grow there. But now, He's saying, "I see where you are—and I also see where I'm taking you next."

Moving to River Road isn't because God forgot about us or because the old place was bad. It's because God has something new planned, and He's been watching us the whole time.

CHALLENGE:

Write down one good memory you have from our old church building. Thank God for it. Then say out loud: "God, I trust You with what's next."

My favorite memory from Cane Run Road:

PRAYER:

God, thank You for seeing me. Thank You for watching over me and our church. I'm a little nervous about change, but I know You have a good plan. Help me trust You. Amen.

DAY 2 — Tuesday, January 20

WHEN IT'S TIME TO MOVE, GOD WILL TELL YOU

BIG IDEA:

God doesn't surprise His people—He leads them.

BIBLE VERSE:

"The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family, and your father's home. Go to the land I will show you.'" — Genesis 12:1

STORY:

Have you ever been on a road trip where your parents said, "We're going somewhere special, but it's a surprise"? You didn't know where you were going, but you trusted them because they're your parents.

That's kind of what God did with Abraham. God said, "Leave where you are and go to a place I'll show you." Abraham didn't have Google Maps. He didn't know the address. But he trusted God and started walking.

Our church is like that right now. We're moving to River Road, and maybe you don't know what it's going to be like yet. But God does. And He's leading us.

CHALLENGE:

Think about one thing that makes you nervous about the new church building. Write it down. Then pray and ask God to help you trust Him with that one thing.

What I'm nervous about:

PRAYER:

God, I don't always know what's going to happen next, and that's scary sometimes. But I know You're leading our church, and I trust You. Help me follow You even when I don't understand. Amen.

DAY 3 — Wednesday, January 21

GOD TAKES CARE OF HIS PEOPLE

BIG IDEA:

When you obey God, He makes sure you have what you need.

BIBLE VERSE:

"The Lord caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the Israelites, and they gave them whatever they asked for." — Exodus 12:36

STORY:

When Israel left Egypt, they didn't sneak out empty-handed. God made sure the Egyptians gave them gold, silver, and clothes—everything they needed for the journey.

That's how God works. When He tells you to move, He doesn't leave you stranded. He provides what you need.

Our church is moving, and maybe you're thinking, "Will we have enough money? Will we have the stuff we need?" Here's the answer: Yes. God always takes care of His people when they obey Him.

CHALLENGE:

Think of one thing you're worried about with the move (money, friends, space, etc.). Pray and say: "God, I trust that You will provide what we need."

I'm trusting God to provide:

PRAYER:

God, You always take care of Your people. Help me not to worry about what we need. You've always provided before, and I know You'll do it again. Thank You. Amen.

DAY 4 — Thursday, January 22

GOD PROTECTS US

BIG IDEA:

God's protection is stronger than anything that tries to hurt us.

BIBLE VERSE:

"When the Lord sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, He will pass over your home. He will not let death enter." — Exodus 12:23

STORY:

In Egypt, God told His people to put lamb's blood on their doorframes. When the angel of death saw the blood, it passed over their houses. They were protected.

Today, we're protected by Jesus' blood. When our church moves to River Road, we're not going alone. Jesus is with us. His protection covers us. Nothing can hurt us when God is on our side.

CHALLENGE:

Pray over your family's house, your school, and the new church building. Say out loud: "Jesus' blood covers this place. We are protected."

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for protecting me and my family. Thank You for protecting our church. I know that nothing can harm us when You're with us. Cover River Road with Your protection. Amen.

DAY 5 — Friday, January 23

DON'T BRING OLD PROBLEMS TO THE NEW PLACE

BIG IDEA:

Leave behind old attitudes and complaints.

BIBLE VERSE:

"That is how the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day." — Exodus 14:30

STORY:

When Israel left Egypt, they were free. But even though they left Egypt, some of them still acted like slaves. They complained. They wished they could go back. They brought their old attitudes with them.

God doesn't want us to do that. When we move to River Road, we can't bring:

- Complaining
- "I liked the old way better"
- Negativity
- Bad attitudes

We get to start fresh. New building. New attitude. New energy.

CHALLENGE:

Is there something you've been complaining about? Write it down. Then cross it out and write: "I'm leaving this behind." I'm leaving this behind:

PRAYER:

God, forgive me if I've complained or had a bad attitude. I don't want to bring old problems to the new place. Help me have a fresh, positive attitude. Amen.

DAY 6 — Saturday, January 24

STEP FORWARD—GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

BIG IDEA:

Faith means moving before you see the path.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground." — Exodus 14:16

STORY:

Imagine standing at the edge of a huge ocean with an army chasing you. That's where Israel was. They were scared. But God said, "Stop crying and start walking."

The crazy part? The water didn't split until they stepped forward.

That's called faith. Faith is when you move even though you can't see the whole path yet.

At River Road, some things might feel uncertain. But if we step forward in faith, God will make a way.

CHALLENGE:

What's one thing you're scared to do because you don't know how it will turn out? (Make new friends? Try something new at church?) Write it down. Then pray and take one small step toward it this week.

I'm stepping forward in faith by:

PRAYER:

God, I don't always see the full picture, but I trust You. Help me step forward even when I'm scared. I know You'll make a way. Amen.

DAY 7 — Sunday, January 25

WORSHIP NO MATTER WHAT

BIG IDEA:

When God does something amazing, worship Him.

BIBLE VERSE:

"I will sing to the Lord, for He has won a great victory!" — Exodus 15:1

STORY:

After God split the Red Sea and saved Israel, they didn't just say "thanks" and keep walking. They stopped and sang. They worshiped. They celebrated.

Today is Sunday—one of our last Sundays at Cane Run Road (or maybe our first at River Road, depending on when you're reading this). Either way, worship matters.

Don't just show up to church. Worship God with everything you've got. Sing loud. Pray hard. Celebrate what He's doing.

CHALLENGE:

Today at church, really worship. Don't just stand there. Sing. Pray. Thank God for what He's doing. After service, tell someone one thing you're thankful for.

I'm thankful for:

PRAYER:

God, I worship You today. Thank You for everything You've done for our church. Thank You for loving us and leading us. I celebrate You! Amen.

WEEK 2: THE WILDERNESS (Days 8-14)

Learning to trust God when things feel uncertain

DAY 8 — Monday, January 26

THE HARD PART ISN'T PUNISHMENT

 **BIG IDEA:**

When things get tough, God is teaching you something.

 **BIBLE VERSE:**

"Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for forty years, testing you to see what was in your heart." — Deuteronomy 8:2

 **STORY:**

Have you ever had a really hard level in a video game? You die a bunch of times, and it's frustrating. But when you finally beat it, you're way better at the game.

That's kind of like the wilderness. After Israel left Egypt, they had to walk through a desert. It was hard. But God wasn't punishing them—He was training them.

Right now, moving to River Road might feel a little hard. Maybe you miss the old building. Maybe things feel different. That's okay. God is teaching us to trust Him in new ways.

 **CHALLENGE:**

What's one hard thing about this move for you? Write it down.

Then ask God: "What are You teaching me through this?"

What's hard right now:

What I think God is teaching me:

 **PRAYER:**

God, I don't always like hard things. But I know You're teaching me something. Help me learn and grow. I trust You. Amen.

DAY 9 — Tuesday, January 27

GOD GIVES YOU WHAT YOU NEED EVERY DAY

BIG IDEA:

Trust God one day at a time.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Look, I'm going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day." — Exodus 16:4

STORY:

In the wilderness, God sent bread from heaven called "manna." But there was a rule: you could only collect enough for one day. If you tried to hoard it, it would rot.

Why? Because God wanted them to trust Him every single day. Sometimes we want to know the whole plan. "God, what's going to happen next month? Next year?" But God says, "Just trust Me today. I'll take care of tomorrow."

CHALLENGE:

What's one thing you're worried about in the future? Write it down. Then pray: "God, I'm giving You this worry. I'm going to trust You one day at a time."

I'm worried about:

But I'm trusting God with it.

PRAYER:

God, help me not to worry about tomorrow. Help me trust You today. You've always taken care of me, and I know You will tomorrow too. Amen.

DAY 10 — Wednesday, January 28
GOD LEADS US—WE JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW

 **BIG IDEA:**

God goes first. We follow.

 **BIBLE VERSE:**

"The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and He provided light at night with a pillar of fire." — Exodus 13:21

 **STORY:**

Imagine you're in a dark forest, and someone with a flashlight says, "Follow me—I know the way." You don't have to figure out the path. You just have to stay close to the light.

That's what God did for Israel. He gave them a cloud during the day and a fire at night so they always knew where to go. At River Road, we might not know everything yet. But God is leading us. We just have to follow.

 **CHALLENGE:**

Draw a picture of a cloud or a fire (or both). Write next to it:
"God, I will follow You."

[Draw here]

 **PRAYER:**

God, thank You for leading me. I don't always know where I'm going, but I know You do. Help me follow You closely. Amen.

DAY 11 — Thursday, January 29

DON'T COMPLAIN—TRUST

BIG IDEA:

Complaining makes things worse. Trusting makes things better.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Then the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron. 'If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt,' they moaned." — Exodus 16:2-3

STORY:

Israel had been slaves in Egypt. God rescued them. But when things got hard in the wilderness, they complained and said, "We wish we were back in Egypt!"

That's crazy, right? They forgot how bad Egypt was. They only remembered the food.

Sometimes when things change, we do the same thing. We forget why we left and only remember the "good old days." But complaining doesn't help. Trusting does.

CHALLENGE:

Today, if you start to complain about something, stop yourself. Instead, say one thing you're thankful for.

One thing I'm thankful for:

PRAYER:

God, forgive me when I complain. Help me remember all the good things You've done. I choose to trust You instead of complain. Amen.

DAY 12 – Friday, January 30

GOD PROVIDES IN CRAZY WAYS

BIG IDEA:

God can do anything—even the impossible.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out." — Exodus 17:6

STORY:

Imagine being super thirsty in a desert. There's no water anywhere. Then someone says, "Hit that rock with a stick, and water will come out." You'd think they were crazy!

But that's exactly what God told Moses to do. And when Moses obeyed, water poured out of a rock.

God can do the impossible. He can provide in ways that don't make sense. So even if River Road doesn't look like you expected, trust that God knows what He's doing.

CHALLENGE:

What's one impossible thing you wish God would do for you or our church? Write it down. Then pray and ask God to do it.

My impossible prayer:

PRAYER:

God, You can do anything. Nothing is too hard for You. I'm asking You to do something impossible in my life and in our church. I believe You can. Amen.

DAY 13 — Saturday, January 31

PRAY WHEN THINGS GET HARD

BIG IDEA:

Prayer is your weapon when life gets tough.

BIBLE VERSE:

"As long as Moses held up the staff in his hand, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he dropped his hand, the enemy gained the advantage." — Exodus 17:11

STORY:

Israel was in a battle. As long as Moses held his hands up in prayer, they were winning. When he got tired and dropped his hands, they started losing.

Prayer matters. When you pray, things change. When you stop praying, the enemy gets stronger.

Moving to River Road is kind of like a battle. Not a physical one, but a spiritual one. The enemy doesn't want our church to grow and thrive. So we have to pray.

CHALLENGE:

Pray for Pastor Stephan and the leaders of our church. Pray for five minutes today. (Set a timer if you need to!)

I prayed for:

PRAYER:

God, I lift up Pastor Stephan and all the leaders of Ekklesia. Give them strength. Give them wisdom. Protect them. Help our church grow strong at River Road. Amen.

DAY 14 — Sunday, February 1

FIRST SUNDAY AT RIVER ROAD: NEW PLACE, SAME GOD

BIG IDEA:

God is with us wherever we go.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Today I will begin to make you a great leader in the eyes of all the people. They will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses." — Joshua 3:7

STORY:

When Moses died, Joshua became the new leader. God told Joshua, "I was with Moses, and I'll be with you too."

God doesn't change. He was with us at Cane Run Road, and He's with us at River Road.

Today might be your first Sunday at the new building. It might feel different. That's okay. Same God. Same church family. Just a new address.

CHALLENGE:

Today at church, introduce yourself to someone new. Make a new friend. Help someone feel welcome.

I met:

PRAYER:

God, thank You for being with us at River Road just like You were at Cane Run Road. Help me make new friends and help others feel welcome. This is our new home, and I'm excited about it. Amen.

WEEK 3: THE PROMISE (Days 15-21)

Learning to be the church wherever we go

DAY 15 — Monday, February 2

EVERY DAY IS A FRESH START

BIG IDEA:

God's love and grace are new every morning.

BIBLE VERSE:

"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never stop. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin fresh each morning." — Lamentations 3:22-23

STORY:

Have you ever had a bad day and wished you could start over?

Good news: every morning is a fresh start with God.

You messed up yesterday? God forgives you today.

You were grumpy last week? God gives you new patience this week.

You were scared about the move? God gives you new courage right now.

At River Road, every day is a new opportunity to trust God, worship Him, and grow.

CHALLENGE:

When you wake up tomorrow, say out loud: "God, thank You for a fresh start today. I'm going to trust You."

PRAYER:

God, thank You that Your love never runs out. Thank You that every day is a new beginning. Help me start each day with You. Amen.

DAY 16 – Tuesday, February 3

WE'RE BUILDING SOMETHING NEW

BIG IDEA:

God is building something amazing through our church.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted." — Psalm 127:1

STORY:

Imagine building a Lego tower without looking at the instructions. It might look okay, but it's way better when you follow the plan.

That's what God is doing at River Road. He's the architect. He's the one with the plan. We just have to follow His instructions.

We're not just filling a building with people. We're building God's Kingdom. And that's way cooler.

CHALLENGE:

Draw a picture of what you think God is building through Ekklesia. (It can be a church, a group of people, anything!)

[Draw here]

PRAYER:

God, I want to be part of what You're building at River Road. Use me. Show me how I can help. Amen.

DAY 17 — Wednesday, February 4

YOU ARE THE CHURCH

BIG IDEA:

Church isn't a building—it's YOU.

BIBLE VERSE:

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden." — Matthew 5:14

STORY:

Here's a big truth: You don't "go to church." You ARE the church.

Ekklesia means "the called-out ones." It's not about a building. It's about people who follow Jesus wherever they go—school, home, sports, work, online.

You are the church at your school.

You are the church in your neighborhood.

You are the church when you're with your friends.

River Road is just where we gather. But YOU are the church every single day.

CHALLENGE:

This week, do one thing that shows Jesus to someone at school or in your neighborhood. (Help someone, encourage someone, invite someone to church, etc.)

I will:

PRAYER:

God, help me remember that I'm the church everywhere I go. Use me to show Your love to others. Amen.

DAY 18 — Thursday, February 5

STAY FAITHFUL

BIG IDEA:

When you're faithful in small things, God trusts you with big things.

BIBLE VERSE:

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones." — Luke 16:10

STORY:

Israel had a chance to enter the Promised Land after just a few weeks. But ten spies said, "It's too scary. There are giants." Only two spies—Joshua and Caleb—said, "We can do this with God's help."

Because most of the people didn't trust God, they wandered in the desert for 40 years.

Here's the lesson: Stay faithful. Don't give up. Don't quit when things get hard.

At River Road, we're going to see amazing things happen—but only if we stay faithful. Show up. Serve. Give. Pray. Trust God.

CHALLENGE:

What's one way you can be faithful to God this week? (Pray every day? Come to church? Read your Bible? Be kind?) Write it down and do it.

I will be faithful by:

PRAYER:

God, help me stay faithful. Help me not give up when things get hard. I want to be someone You can trust with big things.

Amen.

DAY 19 — Friday, February 6

THE BEST IS AHEAD OF YOU

BIG IDEA:

God's plan for you is bigger than you think.

BIBLE VERSE:

"The Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you." — Deuteronomy 31:6

STORY:

Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness, but that wasn't the end of the story. God had a promise waiting for them—a land flowing with milk and honey, a place where they would thrive.

The same is true for Ekklesia. River Road isn't the end—it's just the beginning. God has big plans for our church, and He has big plans for YOU.

Don't get stuck thinking, "The old days were better." The best days are ahead of you.

CHALLENGE:

Write down one thing you're excited about in the future (at church, at school, in your life). Then thank God for it.

I'm excited about:

PRAYER:

God, thank You that the best is still ahead of me. Help me not to look back but to look forward with excitement. I can't wait to see what You do. Amen.

DAY 20 — Saturday, February 7

FASTING IS POWERFUL

BIG IDEA:

When you give up something you want, you make room to hear God better.

BIBLE VERSE:

"So we fasted and prayed that our God would take care of us, and He heard our prayer." — Ezra 8:23

STORY:

Fasting means giving up something (like food, video games, or social media) so you can focus on God instead.

Some people in our church are fasting right now. Maybe your parents are. Maybe you are too.

Why? Because when you say "no" to something you want, it helps you say "yes" to God. It makes your prayers stronger.

Even if you're not fasting from food, you can fast from other things (TV, video games, complaining, etc.). It's about putting God first.

CHALLENGE:

If you're not fasting yet, try fasting from one thing today. (Example: No video games today—pray instead. No TV tonight—read your Bible instead.)

I'm fasting from:

PRAYER:

God, I want to put You first. Help me say "no" to distractions and "yes" to You. Make my prayers powerful. Amen.

DAY 21 — Sunday, February 8

THE EXODUS HAS BEGUN—NOW WALK IN IT

BIG IDEA:

You've come so far. Don't stop now.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt."

— Joshua 5:9

STORY:

Twenty-one days ago, we started this journey together. We've learned a lot:

- God sees us
- God leads us
- God provides for us
- God protects us
- We are the church
- The best is ahead of us

Today is a big day. We've been at River Road for a week now. And guess what? We're not done. We're just getting started. God has rolled away the old. He's given us something new. Now it's time to walk in it.

CHALLENGE:

Today at church, celebrate! Worship with everything you've got. Thank God for bringing us through these 21 days. Then ask Him, "What's next for me?"

What I think God is saying to me:

FINAL PRAYER:

God, thank You for these 21 days. Thank You for teaching me. Thank You for our new home at River Road. I'm not the same person I was 21 days ago. I'm stronger. I trust You more. And I'm ready for what's next. The Exodus has begun—and I'm walking in it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BONUS: PARENT-CHILD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (WEEKLY)

Use these questions to talk with your kids at the end of each week.

WEEK 1 QUESTIONS:

1. What was your favorite devotional from this week? Why?
2. Is there anything you're nervous about with the new church building?
3. What's one thing you're excited about?
4. How can we pray for you this week?

WEEK 2 QUESTIONS:

1. What's been the hardest part of this move for you?
2. Did you learn anything new about trusting God this week?
3. How did you see God provide for us this week?
4. Is there anything you want to talk to God about?

WEEK 3 QUESTIONS:

1. How have you changed in the last 21 days?
2. What do you think God is building through our church at River Road?
3. How can you be the church at school this week?
4. What's one thing you're going to keep doing now that the 21 days are over?

FINAL WORD TO KIDS & TEENS

You did it. Twenty-one days. That's not easy.

You showed up. You read. You prayed. You trusted God even when things felt uncertain.

Here's what I want you to know:

You are not too young to hear from God.

You are not too young to make a difference.

You are not too young to be part of what God is doing.

The Exodus has begun. And you're part of it. Keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep being the church.

Love U More Than U Know.

