

**Discussion / Reflection Guide -- “When Heaven is Silent”
Week of March 4, 2018**

Read: Exodus 2:23-25; Mark 15:34; Luke 23:46

- The nation of Israel had to wait a very long time for God to “do something” about their troubles (see Acts 7:6, 23, 30). Have you ever had a time when it seemed the windows of heaven were nailed shut and God either couldn’t hear or ignored your prayers for help?
- God was working behind the scenes to get everything ready for his plan to help Israel. He worked in the lives of a lot of people over many years before the time was right for God to help through Moses. When you look back on some of the difficult times of your life, can you now see how God had been working to get help “lined up” for you?
- The Israelites “cried out” to God. What did Jesus say when he “cried out” to God in Mark 15:34? How about when He “cried out” in Luke 23:46? How are the two “cries” different? Which “cry” do you relate to the most? How was Jesus able to transition from one “cry” to the other?
- Even though it probably seemed to the Israelites that God had abandoned them in their dark time, he had not. God heard. God remembered. God looked upon their situation. God acted. Does this give you a sense of hope?
- Describe a “dark time” when God has heard, remembered, looked down and acted in your life. Spend some time reflecting on that situation and thanking God for His help in your time of need.