

This thinksheet roughs out an analogy between the modern "planning process" and the Exodus story--combining a pamphlet of mine on the process with Bob Washington's words as today [23Mar77] he spelled out his excitement about the analogy. My very rough map is of Moses' life-journey. You are encouraged to revise and develop for yourself, and/or with others, the analogy. (Quoted material is from today's brief conversation with Dean Washington.)

1. Clarifying our identity: Who are we (as a church, individually, or whoever the planning "we" are)? Moses roots are in "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" --the God almost forgotten in map-position #1. Moses got his personal GOAL at map-position #2 [Exodus 3], and all the people their collective GOAL at map-position #5 [Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5] after the deliverance experience at map-position #4 [formerly mis-identified as "the Red Sea"]. GOAL: Under the guidance of God, Moses led the people to conclude "We want religious freedom and to control our destiny."

2. Defining the situation: Where are we (in our economic-social-political context as witnessing-serving people of God, this congregation or movement or ad hoc group)? A faulty situation-definition sends its unreality all down the line of the rest of the planning process! Take good readings of your bearings, and keep rechecking. One way to do this is to keep asking "What are the issues?" At map-position #3 [the Oppression], imagine an old man responding "We are all over-worked," and a woman "We are underpaid" and a youth "We are still being mistreated." Then note how radically the picture and the issues have changed when the people cross "the Red Sea" [the Exodus proper, map-position #4]!

3. Self-Study: What are we doing? Note how the answer changes at each stage of the journey. Between #4 and #5, we're going to the mountain of God (i.e., to Horeb or Sinai--the former if "Sinai" means that the Torah-Law was given where Moses' burning-bush call occurred, as I think). Between #5 and #6, we're going to the land of promise. Between #6 and #7, we're just wandering, that's all (it's desert, but not deserted: lots of folks just wandering that's all). But it wasn't quite all: Under direction of God, Moses and Aaron's OBJECTIVE in that seemingly

aimless stage was to "train community leaders" for their present and future functions. Map-position #6 was the center for this action.

4. Action: What new behavior do we propose? Think this out for each stage from "Let my people go!" onward.

5. Evaluation: How are we doing? Write one sentence for each of stages #3 - #7. In map-position #7, which includes the death of Moses, this planning-stage merges into the one before it.

6. Celebration: How shall we rejoice and give thanks to God? At position #4, the people celebrated "Exodus!" At position #7, their joy anticipated the New Land.



