

Action Scene 1: Slaves

This weeks Action Scene pictures the Hebrews enslaved by the Egyptians and provides the main teaching focus for the captivity element in this first week of the Exodus series. The scene will help people to explore the contrasts of freedom and slavery, of poverty and wealth and the different attitudes of the people in the picture. See [Using Action Scenes](#) for more advice. You will need copies of Action Scene 1 for each member of the group or the congregation. It will also be useful to have an OHP acetate or use an LCD to display during the reading of the text.

Use an Action Scene in one or more of the following ways:

- Display it to accompany a reading of Exodus 1:1-14,
- Use the Action Scene as a follow on to the Godly Play script, adding to the wondering questions found in the script.
- Chat about what is happening in the picture. Ask *'What are these people doing? Which person do you like most/least? What in this picture is not the way that God wants things to be?'* The aim is to help people to learn about the situation of Israel's slavery described in Exodus chapter 1.
- Look at the picture after a reading of Psalm 104. Ask people to suggest ways in which the pattern described in the Psalm has been spoilt here: the imbalances, the injustices. You could expand on some of these contrasts:
 - some people do not have enough, others have too much (instead of enough for all to enjoy)
 - some people are worked too hard, others are doing nothing (instead of a balance of work and rest for everyone)
 - some people see themselves as being in charge of the world (instead of acknowledging God as its creator and praising him)
 - Some people are scared of losing the wealth and possession they have accumulated. Others are fearful of not having enough – including those who are already rich (instead of being able to trust God to provide).
- How do the different characters in the picture think and feel - about themselves and about other people. Ask people to write some suggestions in 'think bubbles' (*'It's all for me'; 'I've got nothing'; 'I hate this world'; 'I'm hungry', 'These Hebrews are scum!'; 'I'm better than them.'*) How does having or not having money affect the way we see people? Ask them to suggest which of these same thoughts and attitudes they recognise from people around them or the wider world today. Encourage appropriate stories.
- Ask people to identify those in the picture who are enjoying God's world and those who are not. Are the rich people really happy? If not, why not? Use pens of contrasting colours to identify the happy and unhappy people.
- Ask in what ways people can be trapped today - either by having money, or not having enough?