



FIVE WOMEN AND A BABY

If you haven't already, discuss your summer plans as a Life Group. Will you take a summer break? What day will be your last gathering? (There are no Study Guides in July and August). What summer event(s) would your group like to do together to stay connected and continue to foster community? If someone hasn't shared their *Story of Faith* invite them to do that or share *Evidences of God's grace* with one another.

OPENING COMMENT

Exodus means *departure*. And *The Exodus* takes us on an epic journey from suffering in slavery to the song of salvation.

As we begin our series in the first fifteen chapters of Exodus we find God's covenant people afflicted with burdens and in bondage to a cruel taskmaster. God blesses them in the midst of affliction, uses unlikely heroes for His purposes, and provides a saviour to rescue them.

What big takeaway, Truth from the Word stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

READ THE TEXT: Exodus 1:1—2:10

¹These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ²Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

⁸Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to



afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. ¹³So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves... *continue reading to 2:10*

I: GROWTH HAPPENS IN THE MIDST OF AFFLICTION

1. What are some examples of slavery today that are comparable to Pharaoh's exploitation of the Israelites? What can Christians do about these things?
2. It's hard to trust God in difficult circumstances. Israel faced this challenge during their time of bondage in Egypt. Can you think of a time in your life when you had to trust God during a difficult time? What did you learn from that experience?
3. Discuss instances in the Bible, history, and life where affliction and growth co-mingled.

II: GOD'S STORY OF REDEMPTION IS FULL OF UNLIKELY HEROES

1. Exodus 1-2 remind us of a Bible-long theme of God using *the weak in the world to shame the strong* (1 Cor 1:27). Do any modern-day examples come to mind?
2. Mother Teresa famously said, "We are called upon not to be successful, but to be faithful." The Hebrew midwives displayed faithfulness to God in hard circumstances. What are the areas in your life where faithfulness to God is challenging?
3. The midwives feared God more than they feared Pharaoh (the most powerful man in the world at that time). Talk about what a healthy fear of God is and share about your experience of it.

III: GOD PROVIDES A SAVIOUR

1. Moses nearly perished as a child, but was saved through a chain of providentially orchestrated events. Can you look back on your life and see a similar chain of providences in how God delivered you from trials?
2. Moses was a saviour but not *the* Saviour. Discuss the ways in which Jesus is the *greater Moses*.
3. The Israelites needed a saviour and God raised up Moses as an instrument of grace for the people. Humanity needs a Saviour and God sent His Son Jesus to lay down His life for us in order to extend grace. Close by reflecting on the gospel through these passages of Scripture: [John 1:17](#) and [Hebrews 3:3-6](#).



CONCLUSION

Suffering is not enjoyable, but it is also not meaningless. The Exodus reminds us that God is providentially working for the good of those who love Him ([Rom 8:28](#)). His ways, namely His redemptive work in our lives, should cause us to live in grateful, faithful response, whatever the circumstances. He is the God who saves.

SHARE & PRAY

- Praise God for being the God who saves. Thank Him for sending His Son to save us and the Holy Spirit to minister to us.
- Ask God for the help you need to remain faithful and to fear God.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, the growth in grace you want to experience, and the needs among you.

