



Exodus Study Questions

Week 2

Fear is a powerful motivator that can lead us to both good and bad places. Sometimes it inspires us to what's best, but it can also enslave us in a bad decision. This is nothing new. This week, fear is cited as the cause for some of the critical events in the account.

Main Text: Exodus 1:15-2:25

Connect

1. Do you have a recurring fear, or even a phobia, of something? If so, describe it to your group.
2. How has fear led you to do something positive? How has it led to something negative?
3. What did you find most significant from this week's sermon?

Understand

1. Take a few minutes to read chapters 1 and 2. Discuss where you see either the idea of fear, or the word "fear" or "afraid" in the storyline? What actions are inspired by each occurrence?
2. This passage is laced with irony beginning in 1:15. The mighty Pharaoh, king of Egypt, goes unnamed while two power-lacking, God-fearing, enslaved women are named. How did God respond to Shiphrah and Puah's fear of Him (vv. 17, 21)?
3. The "basket" Moses is placed into in v. 2:3 is, in Hebrew (pronounced tā-vah), the same word used for Noah's "ark" in Genesis 6. Discuss how God's saving actions in Noah's day are similar to what God is doing here in Exodus 2:1-10.
4. After Moses flees to Midian (2:11-15), the text says that he acted on behalf of a group of women. The words, "saved" (v. 17) and "delivered" (v. 19) are used to describe what Moses does. How do these words foreshadow what God is doing through Moses to save an even greater number of defenseless people?

5. The story pivots in vv. 23-25. This pharaoh dies, the people groan and cry out, and God hears. How does the role of God's promise to Abraham—that we alluded to last week with Genesis 12 and 15—relate to what God is doing here in these early pages of Exodus?

Apply

1. What does this text teach us about the fear of God? Is there a situation you're facing where you need to fear God rather than some other thing or circumstance? If so, invite the people in your group to encourage you and pray for you.

2. Shiphrah and Puah are unlikely major characters in this epic story of Exodus. The same can be said of so many others in the epic story of the Bible (think of Jesus's disciples)! What does this reveal or remind us about God's way of carrying out His mission that is so different from how our world operates?

3. Think about the fragility of life as the crying, helpless baby Moses floats along the Nile's currents in a little "ark." Now, consider an area of your life that seems fragile or out of your control. How can this account of God's deliverance and sovereignty give you hope?

4. The Israelite's circumstances are bleak, yet v. 2:24 says that God *heard* their groaning, *remembered* His covenant, *saw* the people, and *knew* (their situation). What do you need to cry out to God for, and what impact does it have on you that God hears, remembers, sees, and knows?

5. If you haven't done so already, take time to pray for each other—that your faith in Jesus would be strengthened by these reminders out of Exodus of God's goodness.