

Study Guide

Suggested Prayer before You Begin:

Heavenly Father, as I study the Book of Exodus, I need Your help. Please guide me with Your Holy Spirit. Open my eyes to see truths You want me to take into my heart. While I study events that happened long ago, enable me to be more aware of Your presence and love in my life today. Amen.

Read & Reflect: Begin by reading **Exodus 1 and 2** straight through, as you would the first chapters of any book. Then, answer the study questions to prepare for Friday's teaching and discussion.

1. The account of how Jacob's family came to Egypt is told in Genesis 37-50. If you are unfamiliar with this account or wish to refresh your memory, read a summary in Acts 7:8-15. There is a 400-year gap between the end of Genesis and the beginning of Exodus. What happened to the Israelites during this time (verses 6-7)?

2.
 - a. God chose to bless Abraham (Jacob's grandfather) and his descendants. The blessing was not instantly apparent. What had God forewarned in Genesis 15:13?

 - b. Nevertheless, what promise did God make in Genesis 15:14?

 - c. What blessings are promised to Abraham in Genesis 22:17-18?

 - d. Which of these blessings threatened Egypt's new king (verse 10)? What motivated the king to oppress the Israelites?

3.
 - a. Describe Pharaoh's initial plan for dealing with the threat of the Israelites (verses 11-14).

 - b. What kept happening with the Israelites despite Pharaoh's harmful dealings with them?

4. a. Pharaoh's next plan was even more vile than the first (verses 15–22). What did Pharaoh decree?

b. Two women, Shiphrah and Puah, are mentioned by name. As midwives, they were trained to safely deliver babies, but Pharaoh brought them in and told them to make sure that no boys survived. Think of the pressure put on them to compromise their ethics and silently comply with the king's command. What was at risk for them? What gave them courage to reject Pharaoh's evil scheme?

c. The Bible says that fear (awe • reverence • honor) of God gives wisdom and results in good judgment (see Proverbs 9:10). Simply put, obeying God is always the right thing to do. When obedience requires choosing the harder path, what can you be sure of? (For help see Proverbs 3:5–7 and Psalm 119:165)

d. What was the outcome for the midwives' disobedience to Egypt's king?

5. Read Exodus 2:1-10. Three women played a key role in Moses' early life. The world was not a safe place, particularly if you happened to be an illegal baby boy. Describe the three women and how God used each one to protect Moses. What motivated them? What risks/difficulties were involved?

6. a. Read Exodus 2:11. What motivated Moses' impulsive action (verse 12)?

b. Why do you think the Israelites did not recognize and appreciate Moses as their rescuer?

c. After Moses got into trouble he fled to Midian. There he came to the rescue of some shepherd girls. What does this say about Moses' character?

For personal reflection; sharing optional. Moses had to leave his home for a new home in a foreign land. Centuries before that, Joseph was sold as a slave and taken to a foreign land. Meditate on Joseph's words in Genesis 50:20 and on God's promise to you in Romans 8:28. Can you recall a time when God took a bad experience or disappointment in your life and used it for your good or the good of someone else?