

LIFEGROUPS

MOSES part 1

Read Exodus 1:1 - 2:10 Israelites in Egypt and a young Moses

1. Why were the Israelites made ruthlessly into slaves? This political move on the Pharaoh's part, do you think, strategically speaking, it was a good move and required of him? Can you draw parallels with slightly more modern day examples of such political/empirical moves? Are such moves justifiable? Why or why not?
2. The Hebrew midwives feared God, but lied to cover their preventing infanticide (1:19), was this acceptable and not? Why or why not? How were they blessed as a result? Is it actually wrong to oppose laws by high authorities? What about today? Are there any laws that are questionable and go against what we believe as Christians?
3. How was Moses's life spared? Why do you think God preserved his life?

Read Exodus 2:11 - 4:17 Moses in Midian and the burning bush

4. What was the result of Moses witnessing injustice and how did he deal with the situation?
5. Why do you think God let Israel go through a period of slavery in Egypt? Eventually we learn in 2:23-24 that God heard the groaning of the slaves and helped. What do we learn about God here? How can we take comfort in this?
6. Summarise in your own words Moses's encounter with God with the burning bush.
7. What does God summon Moses to do? And how does Moses respond? Why is this so? What can we learn from this? How can we apply this period in Moses's life to our lives today?
8. God hears our cries of oppression and complaint. Is there anything that you and your small group members are dealing with that need to be lifted up to God in intercession? Spend some time crying out to God on behalf of others in your group/life.

Leaders Notes

These notes are here as guidelines or commentary notes to help the leader. Let the Word of God lead you and your Lifegroup to HEAR God's prophetic message this week as you explore His Word together.

A little context on the call of Moses

We learn from the beginning chapters of Moses's life that despite all injustice and oppression, God knows and God hears the cries of those calling out for justice. There are some parallels between Moses and Jesus: Moses's life was spared as he escaped the infanticide, and managed to be kept alive thanks to Pharaoh's daughter; likewise Jesus escaped the infanticide during King Herod's reign. Moses is called to lead the Israelites out of oppression; Jesus came to lead us out of condemnation. The only difference here is that Moses was a murderer and had a lot of excuses as he doubted his own ability—which contrasts greatly to Jesus who was perfect and had no sin.

In many ways we are like Moses, we fail, we have excuses and we certainly do lack trust in God.

But in so many ways, Moses's encounter really demonstrates God miraculous power and wonders.

The story of Moses can be applied to today's modern society: an oppressive injustice world, full of corruption still. The laws of abortion, or same-sex marriage, to name a few of the laws, really do go against everything the bible says. As Christians it can be hard to speak up and oppose laws. But we know that God is a just God, and we are called to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). It is up to us know to do such things and be a force for good and for God in this dark society today.