

## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Exodus 1:1-2:10. How well do you know the Exodus narrative? What questions immediately come to mind as you begin to explore it? What do you find most challenging/encouraging? What do you hope to learn over this season of worship?
2. Over the span of four hundred years, Jacob & his twelve sons & their wives all died, but what happened to their descendants who were left in Egypt? Why is that important?
3. Read today's theme verse, Ex. 1:7. To what other Old Testament narratives does this sound familiar? How do you think that's is going to shape this story?
4. How does the new Pharaoh view this growing nation within a nation? Of what is he afraid? Does that seem to be a potential outcome? Why/not?
5. What did God promise Abram would happen to those who curse him & his descendants? What happens as a result of Pharaoh's plans in verse 12? What does this tell you about God?
6. What recurring irony/lies do you see here being played out over against Pharaoh's commands? Why would the princess risk taking in a Hebrew baby?
7. God told his people to "multiply" & they are. Pharaoh is trying to "decrease" them. What does that tell you about Pharaoh's true opponent? What might this imply about those who oppose the church today? When someone tries to force God's people to do that which God hasn't commanded or to bless what God does not, how are we to react?
8. As Gen 2 begins, the Israelites are facing a national crisis, but the story focusses on one nameless couple & their as-yet-nameless son. Discuss where in the Bible or in your own life those times where God's "solution" begins in a seemingly insignificant place, person or event.
9. The Hebrew word for "basket" is almost identical to the word for "ark." Describe the similarities between Noah (Gen 6-9) & Moses?
10. Like Joseph generations before him, Moses is an "insider" to Egyptian royalty. What advantages/disadvantages does this provide in fulfilling his call from God? In a similar way, we are "insiders" to 21<sup>st</sup> century culture. How can our awareness of today's worldview & mindset become for us an opening to speak for Christ for the purpose of granting people eternal freedom?
11. Who in your circles of influence needs to hear the promise of freedom only God can grant through Jesus?

# Living Water Fellowship

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Trinity Sunday

4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

STAR OF THE MORNING - CCL Licence 384660

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG:

VIDEO – SING TO JESUS (Robbie Seay Band)-CCL Licence 384660

BIBLE READING:

Exodus 1:1-22

<sup>1</sup>“These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: <sup>2</sup>Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, <sup>3</sup>Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, <sup>4</sup>Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. <sup>5</sup>In all, Jacob had seventy descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there.

<sup>6</sup>In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. <sup>7</sup>But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children & grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful & filled the land.

<sup>8</sup>Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. <sup>9</sup>He said to his people, “Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us & are stronger than we are. <sup>10</sup>We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, & if war breaks out, they will join our enemies & fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.”

<sup>11</sup>So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labour. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom & Rameses as supply centres for the king. <sup>12</sup>But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied & spread, & the more alarmed the Egyptians became. <sup>13</sup>So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. <sup>14</sup>They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar & make bricks & do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.

<sup>15</sup>Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah & Puah: <sup>16</sup>“When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live.” <sup>17</sup>But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders. They allowed the boys to live, too.

<sup>18</sup>So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. “Why have you done this?” he demanded. “Why have you allowed the boys to live?”

<sup>19</sup> “The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women,” the midwives replied. “They are more vigorous & have their babies so quickly that we cannot get there in time.” <sup>20</sup> So God was good to the midwives, & the Israelites continued to multiply, growing more & more powerful. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live.”

**SONG:** VIDEO – *GOOD & GRACIOUS KING* (CityAlight)- CCL Licence 384660

#### CHILDREN’S TIME:

**BIBLE READING:** Exodus 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup> About this time, a man & woman from the tribe of Levi got married. <sup>2</sup> The woman became pregnant & gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby & kept him hidden for three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds & waterproofed it with tar & pitch. She put the baby in the basket & laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. <sup>4</sup> The baby’s sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> Soon Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe in the river, & her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. <sup>6</sup> When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, & she felt sorry for him. “This must be one of the Hebrew children,” she said.

<sup>7</sup> Then the baby’s sister approached the princess. “Should I go find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” she asked. <sup>8</sup> “Yes, do!” the princess replied. So the girl went & called the baby’s mother.

<sup>9</sup> “Take this baby & nurse him for me,” the princess told the baby’s mother. “I will pay you for your help.” So the woman took her baby home & nursed him. <sup>10</sup> Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, “I lifted him out of the water.”

#### FAITH CHAT:

1. How is the story of your life, & especially your life with Jesus, a “story of promise”?
2. How does that “promise” affect your daily living & your relationships?

**OFFERING SONG:** VIDEO – *REST MY SOUL* (Tim Timmons) CCLI 384660

**THE MESSAGE:** *A JOURNEY OF PROMISE: PROMISE OR CURSE*

#### THE NICENE CREED:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS:

##### THE COMMUNION:

*Words of Institution & The Lord’s Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Worship during Communion:*

VIDEO – *SO GOOD TO ME* (Zach Williams)- CCL Licence 384660

*GO IN HIS POWER*

#### THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,  
The Father leads you in his promise  
until the day it is fulfilled forever. Amen.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SONG:** VIDEO – *LIVING HOPE* (Phil Wickham) CCLI 384660

*SHOW HIS LOVE*