

M O S E S
AND THE JOURNEY OF FAITH
DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARATION OF A LEADER

Exodus 1.8-2.15

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share plans for future Community Group gatherings and the following happening in the life of the church:

- **New City Women's Gathering | Saturday, January 16 9am-11:00am**
Join the women of New City for breakfast at Becky Mills' home (4031 South Jefferson Ave, Norwood, OH 45212). Bring your favorite breakfast dish, and we'll provide the coffee. Check the City for more details <http://bit.ly/1ToDpYb>
- **Intro to New City Seminar | Saturday, February 6th 8am-noon**
Save the date for our next Intro! This class is designed to help you get to know the church (our Vision, Values, Beliefs, and Philosophy of ministry) as well as providing a basic framework for understanding the gospel, and the church's role in God's plan of redemption. Visit The City for more details and to RSVP <http://bit.ly/1Si4uxE> Childcare will be provided. Deadline to RSVP is February 1st.

SHARING

Introductions: do introductions/names (especially if you have new folks).

OPENER

- Did you make any New Year's resolutions this year? Why or why not? If you did, what are they?

STUDY/DISCUSSION

This week we began a series called Moses and the Journey of Faith which will take us all the way to the end of May.

1. What do you know about Moses' life? (Brainstorm together as many details as you can.

READ Exodus 1.6-22

2. The book of Genesis ended with the funeral of Joseph and the people living in Egypt. How does Exodus pick up the story? What kinds of things are the people experiencing?
3. What do we learn from the Hebrew midwives about faithfulness to God and defiance against sin and injustice?

READ Exodus 2.1-10

4. Who are the heroes in this passage? In what ways do they show courage and resourcefulness?

READ Exodus 2.11-15

5. What do we learn about Moses in this passage? How is God preparing him to lead the people out of bondage?
6. On Sunday Josh suggested one of the lessons of this story is that even when God seems absent, he is not. In what ways do we see God working in this story?
7. Gregory of Nyssa said, "The life of Moses becomes a symbol of the journey of the soul to God?" Do you identify with any elements in this story (i.e. the days of darkness for the Hebrew people, the challenge of obedience for the midwives, Moses slouched down by a well in Midian)?
8. How does this story point us to Jesus?

Pass out & discuss the attached article excerpt by J.A. Motyer.

PRAYER

Take some time and pray together: You might pray in two different groups as men and women separately or in smaller groups or all together conversationally. Do follow up with a "prayer" post in your group on the City recapping prayer requests that are shared, if appropriate.

The Days of Darkness

An excerpt from J.A. Motyer, *The Message of Exodus*

Pharaoh left the God of the Hebrews out of his reckoning; that was his big mistake, and it can be ours too. There is something very basic in us that needs life to be logical and is restless and resentful when we cannot see adversity fulfilling some purpose. Our faith needs to mature if it is to survive the days of darkness that will inevitably come upon us. The first two chapters of Exodus teach us three qualities of such a faith.

First, it is a TRUSTFUL faith and rests in the knowledge that underpinning everything that happens to us there is a secret, undeclared providence always at work, always providing, always purposeful, always on the side of the people of God (cf. Romans 8:28). With such a faith our experience will be, one way or another, like that of our Hebrew ancestors who *the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied*.

Secondly, it is an EXPECTANT faith. In the Bible angels do not grow wings nor glow with supernatural light. That is reserved for Christmas cards! They often come in very ordinary guises (cf. Hebrews 13:2) - God's agents in God's place at God's time. Like the midwives to whom Pharaoh turned to support his program of ethnic cleansing, only to find that they are pre-committed to a very different policy for which they were prepared to "stand up and be counted!" Four hundred years before, Abraham's expectancy of faith had affirmed "The Lord Will Provide" (Genesis 22:13), and so he does.

Thirdly, it is a PATIENT faith. Four hundred years is easier to look back on - and to say quickly - than to live through. Nevertheless, the Lord had promised, "I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again" (Genesis 46:3), and the divine promise-keeper works out his moral government of the world with perfect justice (Genesis 15:16), endless patience (2 Peter 3:9, 15) and according to his own timetable. Hebrews 6:12 sums up the lessons of the Egyptian sojourn... when it insists that it is "through faith and patience" that we inherit the promises of God.