

# *From Slavery to Freedom*

## Exodus study guide #1

### Exodus intro + ch.1 – lead up to Oct 7<sup>th</sup>

## The big picture

- Take a few minutes to have everyone write down whatever they know of the Exodus story (major characters, highlights in the story, questions that Exodus provokes), and then discuss some of the following:
  - Share some of what you wrote on your page.
  - What is a word or phrase that distills what the Exodus story is all about?
  - What is the significant is this story to the larger Story of the Bible?
  - What relevance does the Exodus story have to *our* lives?
  - Are there any portions of the Exodus story that have been significant for us in our journey with God? Explain.

**PRAY:** *Take a few minutes to pray together for this journey through Exodus. Pray that this will be more than a study, but a transforming journey together with God.*

## Digging into Exodus 1

- Read Exodus ch.1 as a group and then reflect together:
  - What verses, themes or experiences catch our attention?
  - How do these realities and themes intersect with *life in our world today*?
  - How do these realities and themes intersect with *our own lives*?
- Exodus 1 sets the scene for the Exodus story. Particularly, it introduces us to the Israelites suffering in slavery under the harsh rule of the Egyptians. Talk together about each of the following: the **physical**, **emotional**, **social**, **economic**, and **spiritual** experience/impact of slavery.
- Most Exodus scholars agree that the Exodus story came into its written form during the Babylonian exile.
  - How do you think hearing Exodus 1 would have impacted the Israelites in the Babylonian exile?
- Where do we see or experience slavery in our world today?
- Read again the story of the Hebrew mid-wives. One scholar refers to this as “the first act of civil disobedience in recorded history.”
  - What stands out to you in this story?
  - Where do we see examples of this in our day?

**WRAP UP:** In a word or phrase, what in Exodus 1 most significantly lingers for you?

**PRAY:** *Take a few minutes to pray together into the things you've discussed, including praying for those who suffer in slavery today, and for the ways that slavery touches all our lives. Pray that we would grow as a community who participate in God's rescuing grace.*