

God Knows Response Guide

Exodus 1:1-2:25

Bethany Assembly of God

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Introduction

- What has most informed your understanding of the book of Exodus? *The Ten Commandments* with Charlton Heston? *The Prince of Egypt*?
- Why do you think it's important to have at least a basic understanding of the book of Exodus? How does this book inform our understanding of salvation in Jesus?
- What are some echoes of Exodus that you have seen later in the Bible?

Big Idea: Have Faith in God's Faithfulness

1. Know your roots. 1:1-7

- What does your last name mean? Does it reveal something about your ancestors or your identity?
- Why do you think genealogies were so important to the Jews so that they are recorded in many places throughout the Bible?
- What do you think this brief genealogy was intended to teach the young Jewish nation?
- Where are some common places people look to find identity? How do you identify yourself?
- Why is it so important to have an identity?
- What does knowing your roots in Jesus teach you about how you should identify yourself?
- What are some practices that can help you remember your identity in Christ so that you don't forget who you are?

2. Fear God, not man. 1:8-22

- Why did God bless the Hebrew midwives?
- What does it mean to fear God more than man? What are some contemporary examples of fearing God? Have you ever been confronted with this decision? How did you respond?
- Was the courage of the midwives just an act of moral courage or kindness or was there something more to it? What was it? (read Genesis 3:15)
- In what ways are Christians threatened in our culture? What does it mean to fear God in the face of those threats?

3. Discern God's providence. 2:1-10

- Share a time in your life when it looked or felt like God wasn't present? How did you react?
- Looking back on that time, can you now see the hand of God?
- Compare Genesis 1:31 to Exodus 2:2. (Note that "fine" in Ex. 2:2 can be translated "good.") What clue does this give you about God's presence or absence during this period?
- Since Moses doesn't specifically mention God in the events of Exodus 2:1-10, do you suppose he meant us to think God was absent? Why might he write this way? What can this teach us about our own lives and feelings?
- Why do you suppose God orchestrated events so that Moses was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter and raised in his house? Could this be an echo of Genesis 50:20? What other echoes of this theme are there in the Bible?
- What echoes of this theme can you see in your life?
- In light of this truth, how should you react when it seems as if evil is increasing and God is absent?

4. Rejoice in suffering. 2:11-22

- How did these events in Moses' life enable him to identify with the rest of his people?
- What is the most important echo of humility through identification in God's story of salvation?
- What confidence does knowing that Jesus has identified with your suffering give to you?
- Why should you not only endure, but rejoice in your suffering? (Hint: read Romans 8:28).

Conclusion: God Knows. 2:23-25

- The early chapters of Exodus reveal that while it may have seemed to the Jews like God had forgotten them, He had not. In fact, He had been working in multiple, unseen ways to insure their increase and prepare for their salvation.
- How should this passage give you confidence during the "dry times" or times of suffering?
- What circumstances in your life do these principles of faith in God's faithfulness speak to?