

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Exodus 1--July 7th, 2024

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## **Sermon Recap:**

### **The God of Exodus**

The book of Exodus is a paradigm of the Christian life: misery, deliverance, gratitude. Israel's journey from slavery in Egypt to deliverance or worship in Canaan points to our transformation from sin to redemption to worship in freedom.

#### **I. God is Faithful to His Promises**

- Having been brought to Egypt by Joseph, Israel has grown from a family of 70 into a nation of nearly two million.
- God made a covenant with Abraham, promising to give him many children, making them a great nation, and giving them land.
- They spent hundreds of years in Egypt, in silence from God, resting on that promise.
- He has proven faithful to his promise by bringing them to Egypt where they can survive the famine, prospering in preparation for the Promised Land.

#### **II. God is Faithful to His Plans**

- They prospered until they didn't. The new Pharaoh didn't know Joseph (generations later) and chose to enslave Israel in order to prevent them from multiplying, joining Egypt's enemies, and leaving.
- Pharaoh's heart is evident. It is full of resentment, bitterness, and hatred. This is a religion issue. Pharaoh believed himself to be a god. Ironically, we don't even know who this pharaoh is; he is no god; he is not the center of the story; he does not stop God's plan.
- God remains faithful, providentially using the suffering of Israel to multiply the people.
- John Piper defines **providence** as, "*God seeing to everything. Absolutely everything that needs to be done to bring about his purposes, God sees to it that it happens.*"
- Israel's suffering was part of God's providential plan. Without suffering, Israel would not have been willing to leave the comfort of Egypt.
- Suffering sanctifies us. Suffering does not thwart God's plan. Suffering is part of God's divine plan to conform us to the holy image of Christ.
- Pharaoh changes tactics. Instead of slavery, he chooses death.
  - He is an agent of Satan, who seeks to end the seed of the woman before the heir can crush his head (Gen 3:15).

#### **III. God is Faithful to His People**

- Midwives chose to disobey Pharaoh's order to kill the male babies.
  - They revealed their allegiance to God was priority over their own wellbeing.
  - They feared God more than man, choosing civil disobedience over rebellion against God's plan.
  - God reveals his faithfulness to his people in blessing Shiprah and Puah (who were likely barren) with a family.

Even when it doesn't feel like it, God is always faithful to his promises, his plans, and his people because all of those exist for his glory and his glory is always good for us.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- How is Exodus a picture/summary of the Christian life?
- What promise/covenant is Israel resting on in Egypt?
- How is God's faithfulness to his promise evident in Exodus 1:1-7?
- How does the new Pharaoh feel about Joseph, Israel, and their God?
- What is providence?
- What does Pharaoh do to thwart God's plan? What is the outcome?
- How did God use suffering to remain faithful to his plan?
- What role does suffering play in God's plan for his people then and now?
- Pharaoh changes tactics. How does this relate to the curse from the Garden?
- How do the midwives respond to Pharaoh's command?
- How is God's faithfulness to his people revealed?
- What is the ultimate purpose of God's faithfulness to his promise, plan, and people?

## **Application:**

- How do you respond to suffering in your life?
- What does your response reveal about your faith in God?
- What has suffering taught you in the past?
- How can God's sovereignty and providence change your view of suffering and his faithfulness?

