

Sermon: God at Work In Days of Darkness.
Series: Exodus: From Slavery to Glory.

Scripture: Exodus 1.
Date: September 4, 2022

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) It must have felt to the Hebrews being enslaved in Egypt that God was distant or absent. When have you felt this way about God?

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) What was Pharaoh's response to the growing Hebrew nation in Egypt? Have you ever faced someone's fear or insecurity toward you because you were an outsider? Have you ever felt a fear towards outsiders?

b) What was Shiphrah's and Puah's response to the decree of Pharaoh? What lessons can we learn from these two brave women? Have you ever had to stand up against an evil decree/rule/injustice?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) How does the gospel empower us to stand for what is right even when we feel insignificant or powerless?

b) When we don't have answers to all of our questions for God, we have the person of Jesus instead. How does the cross of Christ answer all the biggest questions of life? (Why am I here?; where are we going?; Is God good?; Will God rescue me?; What about evil?; etc.)

APPLICATION

a) "There are lessons learned in the darkness that we can't learn anywhere else." What lesson might God be teaching you in your current time of darkness?

b) What are some ways you can welcome outsiders, the marginalized, into your life? The church?

FIGHTER VERSES: Exodus 2:23-25.

PRAYER

- Thank God that he can use anyone, including you.
- Confess ways that you neglected, or feared outsiders.
- Thank Jesus for his death on the cross which answers all our biggest questions.
- Ask God to help you to trust him in the darkness and to love others, especially those that are different from you.