

Does this story sound familiar? The king decrees that all of the male infants should be killed, yet a child is born who grows up and liberates the people. He is rejected by his own people, but he goes into the wilderness and he's anointed with the Spirit and he returns to lead them out.

What does that mean?

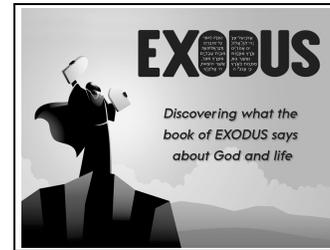
Point 1 in our notes: Jesus on the cross is the ultimate example of the worst thing turning into the best thing ever. (Suffering has purpose!)

Point 2 in our notes: Jesus triumphs by letting go of his power, by sacrificing His life by dying on the cross. (God works through weakness not strength)

Our salvation comes not by our strength but by our weakness, by acknowledging our need not our abilities. Oft times it's the hard things that occur that lead us to embrace our weakness and need of God.

Community Group Questions:

1. How does Moses' story remind you of another story later in the Bible?
2. Can you think of a time where hardship and suffering shaped you?
3. How does faithfulness test you, and if acted upon, elevate you?
4. How can you embrace weakness as an ally in your growth as a believer?



How God Uses Suffering and Weakness to Change Lives

The Back Story of Moses
Exodus Chapters 1 and 2

The Backdrop of the Book of Exodus' 40 Chapters:

The word Exodus is a compound Greek word.

EX means "out of" ODUS means "road".

Exodus literally means "Road out of ...(Egypt)"

1st movement is Chapters 1 through 13:16

Israel in slavery; Moses is raised up by God;
A showdown with Pharaoh; The Ten Plagues;
The 10th Plague leads to the creation of
the Jewish festival of Passover.

2nd movement is Chapter 13:17 through Chapter 24

The Israelites leave Egypt and journey to Mt Sinai;
All of Israel agrees to covenant with God;
Moses goes up on the mountain to
meet with God for 40 days.

3rd movement is Chapters 25 through 40

Begins with God giving Moses the blueprints for the Tabernacle;
After 40 days on the mountain of God, Moses returns to find the
Israelites in rebellion against God (The Golden Calf);
Moses intercedes with God and offers his life for theirs;
God forgives and remakes the covenant with them;
The Tabernacle is built; and Exodus ends with God's glory
descending upon the Tabernacle as a cloud
by day and a fire in the cloud by night;
When God's glory moves so do the Israelites.

Exodus 1:15- 2:17

Chapter 1 -¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Exodus Shiphras and Puah, ¹⁶“When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ...²²Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

Chapter 2 - when (Moses mom) could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.⁵Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. ⁶She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said. ⁷Then (Moses’) sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”⁸“Yes, go,” she answered. And the girl went and got the baby’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

¹¹One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. ¹²Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

...¹⁵When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. ¹⁶Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father’s flock. ¹⁷Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

1. We think when life gets hard, God must be absent.

Three terrible things happen in these early chapters:

- Pharaoh enslaves the Israelites;
- Pharaoh tries to kill the newborn male Hebrews secretly;
- Pharaoh orders any and all to kill the newborn Hebrew boys.

The one person with the clout to do something, loses his cool, kills a man and goes into hiding in the desert for 40 years!

YET: But it’s because of Pharaoh’s edicts that Moses gets trained and is given the best education to become a leader one day.

It’s his time in the desert where Moses learns true humility and genuine maturity to lead His enslaved people.

- What the story in Chapters 1 & 2 teaches us that when God seems most hidden, He is not.
- God gets everything done for good despite other people’s evil and godless intentions.

2. God’s works through the weak instead of the strong.

How does God save the people in chapters 1–2?

The only heroes are female, first there’s Shiphras and Puah

And because the midwives revered God, he gave them children of their own.

Exodus 1:21

Why? Because they stood up courageously and obeyed and God used them, to be the saviors of his people at that point.

Then you get to chapter 2. We have, Moses’ mom and Pharaoh’s daughter, who both chose to disobey the command of Pharaoh.