



## Sermon Overview

In the first two chapters of Exodus, we see a family of 70 people become a nation. In just a few generations, the Israelites' size, culture and faith became so threatening to the rulers of Egypt, the Israelites were no longer considered welcome guests but enemy slaves.

Though enslaved and oppressed, God's people continued to grow – a growth that corresponded with the Egyptian King's anger, moving the Israelites from enslaved workers to targets of genocide. Still God's plan for his people continued to unfold.

It was at this time – under the Egyptian mandate to kill all newborn males – that Moses was born. When Moses' parents could hide him no longer, they didn't take matters into their own hands or let their fear overwhelm them. They trusted God.

Decades pass and Moses is forced to flee Egypt. For forty years Moses lives well outside the kingdom of Egypt in obscurity. And, it is here that God chooses to prepare Moses as his instrument of liberation for his people. The twists and turns in Moses' life are not what we would script, but God's plan for his people's journey from slavery to freedom doesn't always involve comfort.

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## Starting with God

1. Read Exodus 1:1-7 and compare with Genesis 1:28; 9:1 and 35:10-11. How is God clearly at work bringing about his plans for fulfilling his promise to his people?
2. God is a God that makes and keeps promises. For those Israelites who were holding onto the promises that God would bless them and give them the land of Canaan, how did their current circumstances as revealed in Exodus 1: 8-14 seem to call that promise into question?

## Living God's Word

3. Read Exodus 1: 15-22. To what would you attribute the multiplication of the Israelites under oppression, the courageous defiance of the Hebrew midwives, and the survival of the baby boy placed in a basket on the Nile?
4. Consider your answers to questions two and three. What do your answers tell you about your perspective on the character and nature of God? Do your thoughts fit with how the Bible reveals God?
5. Read Exodus 2:23-25. Is there any indication that the people of Israel had any awareness of God's plan or response? What are the implications of this for us when we think that God has forgotten us or does not hear our cries or care about our suffering?

## Continuing the Discussion

6. Share about a time when you didn't feel like God was living up to his promises. Share what you're learning or have learned from those experiences.

## Prayer

Father God, please give us the patience to see your faithful hand work in and through us that we may find joy in your plans and worship in your providence.

*Amen.*