

EXODUS 1 - 2:10

I HAVE SEEN THEIR SUFFERING

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

How do people in 21st century Croydon tend to feel about promises nowadays? Do you think promises are still taken seriously? Why or why not?

What about you: Have you ever had to rely on someone's promise? What about their character made you trust they would keep it?



Read Genesis 12: 1-7 | Genesis 15: 1-21 | Genesis 17: 15-22

(If time is short, split group in three to read the passage and answer the questions, and report back)

- What were the promises made by God in these passages?
- Who did he make them to?
- What do we learn about God's character from these promises?

**AS WE START THE BOOK OF EXODUS
WE READ ABOUT ABRAHAM'S GRANDSON, JACOB.**

Look at Exodus 1: 1-7 - How are the promises God made in Genesis being fulfilled at this point?

EXODUS 1 - 2:10

I HAVE SEEN THEIR SUFFERING

BIBLE STUDY



Read verses 8-21

- The Israelites, now in slavery to the Egyptians, must have felt like God had forgotten them and his promises. Are there times in your life when it has felt like that?
- Throughout this passage, we see Pharaoh becoming desperate and more violent in his attempts to stop the growth of God's people.
How do we see God at work behind the scenes in this passage to thwart Pharaoh's destructive plans? **(Look at Exodus 1: 12, 1: 20, and 2: 5-10)**
- Can you think of other examples in the Bible where God is seemingly silent in the face of persecution, but has been working behind the scenes?



EXODUS 1 - 2:10

I HAVE SEEN THEIR SUFFERING

BIBLE STUDY



Read verses 15-18

We read about the brave Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah:

- Why do you think they didn't obey Pharaoh?
- What was the risk in not following his decree?
- Why do you think their story is included here?

Can you think of ways in which we might be called to "fear God" (v 17) rather than the society around us?

Did the midwives tell a lie in verse 19?

"The midwives gave an answer that some have called deceptive. It is uncertain that their reply is, strictly speaking, untrue; nor is it clear whether this is all that the women said. The narrator simply commends the women for refusing to comply with Pharaoh's murderous scheme.

Some would argue that, with such an evil plan, Pharaoh had forfeited any right to expect obedience (or complete truthfulness). Exodus, however, reports these events without any moral evaluation, its purpose being to help its readers rejoice that God had wonderfully preserved his people").

ESV Study Bible notes

EXODUS 1 - 2:10

I HAVE SEEN THEIR SUFFERING

REFLECT & PRAY

- Pray that in the times where we feel like God isn't there, we would trust that he is working behind the scenes.
- Pray that we would have boldness to stand up for Christ (like the midwives did) even when it costs us
- It is International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on 6th November. Research a country where there is a persecution (see the Open Doors website - <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/>) and encourage your group to pray for that country.

