

/ E X O D U S /

D R A W N C L O S E R T O G O D

OPEN

Have a group member read **Exodus 1:22 - 2:10**

Put yourselves in the shoes of some of the people in this story. What drives you (if you were them)? What is your life like? Throw out some one-word, or one-sentence answers for each of these people or situations:

- Moses's parents:
- Pharaoh's daughter:
- Moses' mother being hired to care for Moses:
- Moses growing up as a Hebrew in Pharaoh's house:

STUDY AND APPLY

1. Pharaoh is an evil man who hated the plans and promises of God. He repeatedly attempts to annihilate the Israelites but every time his plans are compromised. How does our passage continue to prove God's power over his enemies?
2. Our passage gives us insight into the power of evil in the world when prejudice, racism, indifference to the poor, or mistreatment of the immigrant becomes full-grown. It is not an exaggeration to say that the way of all wickedness eventually leads to the taking of life and offense of the image of God in others. How do you see people working against this evil in this passage? What do you admire about their efforts?
3. Though God appears to be silent in this passage, he is not absent. The writer barely mentions the name of God in the first two chapters but his fingerprints are everywhere. How do you see God working in this story down to the very last detail?
4. Moses will be the human instrument of God's salvation of Israel—and the climax of a series of ironic reversals of oppression in Egypt. The redemptive story of God includes a pattern of God bringing about his plans through oppression. What other stories from Scripture of redemption-through-oppression come to mind? (*Hint: don't forget the cross*). What does this teach us about the place of oppression in the plan of God and his power over suffering?
5. The Exodus story is the perfect example and reminder that God works out our rescue down to the very last detail. We don't always know why certain suffering comes our way (or when it will pass) but we know that God is doing what he thinks is best in our life to satisfy our deepest longings with his rescuing grace. How is God calling you to trust in his providential care in light of this passage?

PRAY