

# EXODUS

YHWH GOES TO WAR

## Small Group Guide: Exodus 1-2

### Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand His Word and to help the group apply these truths to their daily lives.

### Icebreaker (5-10 minutes)

Share a time when you felt powerless in a difficult situation, but God showed up in an unexpected way.

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### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **God Always Keeps His Promises** - God promised Abraham descendants, land, and that his family would bless all nations. Despite obstacles, God fulfilled His word.
  2. **Opposition to God's People is Opposition to God** - Pharaoh's attacks on Israel were ultimately attacks on Yahweh Himself.
  3. **God Turns Evil for His Glory** - What Pharaoh meant for evil (slavery, death), God used to grow and strengthen His people.
  4. **We Must Choose Which God to Serve** - Like the Hebrew midwives, we face daily choices between serving Yahweh or the false gods of our culture.
  5. **God Always Wins** - Every attempt to stand against Yahweh ends in defeat and displays His supreme power.
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### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding the Text (15-20 minutes)

1. **The Three Promises:** God promised Abraham descendants, land, and that his family would bless all nations. How do you see each of these promises unfolding in Exodus 1-2?

2. **Pharaoh's Tactics:** Pharaoh tried two main strategies to defeat God's people—slavery/oppression and death. What was the result of each tactic? What does this teach us about God's sovereignty?
3. **The Midwives' Choice:** Read Exodus 1:17 again. What made Shiphrah and Puah choose to obey God rather than Pharaoh? What was the consequence of their faithfulness?
4. **Moses' Deliverance:** How does the irony of Moses being raised in Pharaoh's own household demonstrate God's power and sense of timing?

### Personal Application (20-25 minutes)

5. **Modern-Day Pharaohs:** The pastor mentioned we live in a pluralistic society with many "gods" competing for our allegiance. What are some of the false gods or ideologies in our culture today that oppose Yahweh?
6. **Choosing Your God:** The sermon emphasized that "every day and every word and every decision you make, you have to choose" which god you'll serve. What are some practical, everyday decisions where you face this choice?
7. **Under Pressure:** The Israelites grew stronger under persecution. How have you seen God use difficult circumstances in your life or in the church to bring growth? How does this change your perspective on current challenges?
8. **Fear of God vs. Fear of Man:** The midwives "feared God" more than Pharaoh. What does it practically look like to fear God in your workplace, family, or community? Where do you struggle with fearing people's opinions more than God's?

### Going Deeper (10-15 minutes)

9. **Persecution and Church Growth:** The sermon noted that the church grows fastest where it's persecuted, not where it's free. Why do you think this is true? What does this reveal about human nature and God's power?
10. **God's Glory on Display:** Throughout Exodus, God's primary purpose is to display His glory. How does understanding this purpose change the way you view your own trials and God's deliverance in your life?

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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: Identity Audit

- List the "gods" competing for your allegiance (career success, comfort, approval, money, political ideology, etc.)
- For each one, write out how trusting in it has failed you or limited you
- Pray through each one, surrendering it to Yahweh

#### Option 2: Midwife Courage

- Identify one area where you've been compromising your faith out of fear of consequences

- Take one concrete step this week to "fear God" more than people in that situation
- Share your experience with an accountability partner

### Option 3: Testimony Reflection

- Write out your own "exodus story"—how God has delivered you from slavery to sin and death
- Share it with at least one person this week (believer or unbeliever)
- Reflect on how your story displays God's glory

### Memory Verse

**Exodus 1:17** - "But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live."

### Daily Scripture Reading Plan

- **Monday:** Exodus 1 (Review the sermon text)
  - **Tuesday:** Genesis 46:1-7 (God's promise to Jacob)
  - **Wednesday:** Exodus 2:1-10 (Moses' birth and deliverance)
  - **Thursday:** Acts 7:17-36 (Stephen's sermon on Moses)
  - **Friday:** Hebrews 11:23-29 (Faith of Moses and his parents)
  - **Saturday:** Romans 8:28-39 (God works all things for good)
  - **Sunday:** Prepare your heart for worship
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## Prayer Time (10-15 minutes)

### Guided Prayer Topics:

1. **Praise:** Thank God that He is supreme over all other gods and always keeps His promises
2. **Confession:** Confess areas where you've trusted in false gods or feared people more than God
3. **Intercession:**
  - Pray for Christians facing persecution around the world (China, North Africa, Middle East)
  - Pray for courage to stand firm in faith as our culture becomes increasingly hostile to Christianity
  - Pray for church leaders who face pressure to compromise biblical truth
4. **Petition:** Ask God to help you choose Him daily and to display His glory through your life

**Closing Prayer:** Have someone close by praying that God would make your group like the Hebrew midwives—people who fear God more than any earthly authority and who trust in His deliverance.

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## Leader Notes

- **Be Sensitive:** Some group members may be facing real persecution or pressure at work or in family situations. Create a safe space for them to share.

- **Avoid Politics:** While the sermon touched on political realities, keep the focus on personal faith choices rather than partisan debates.
  - **Encourage Honesty:** The question "Which god are you serving?" is convicting. Model vulnerability by sharing your own struggles.
  - **Follow Up:** Check in during the week with members who shared specific challenges or commitments.
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## Looking Ahead

Next week we'll continue in Exodus, looking at Moses' calling and God's revelation of His name. Come prepared to discuss what it means that God identifies Himself as "I AM."