



SELFIES IN THE DESERT, PART 1: BEHIND THE SCENES GOD

God is involved in the events of our lives—both the big and the small. Hard times don't remove God's promises, harsh treatment doesn't escape God's attention, and heavy tests don't overshadow God's concern.

BIG IDEA: God is involved in the events of our lives— both big and small.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you sometimes think of luck or chance as causing events that happen in your life? If you ever feel that way, does it increase or decrease your anxiety about the future?
2. Now think about some events that you have attributed to luck or good fortune in the past. How would thinking about those events as under the wise and loving heavenly Father change the way you feel about them or about the future?
3. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Exodus 1](#) and [Exodus 2:1-10](#).

¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, ⁴ Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. ⁵ In all, Jacob had seventy descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there. ⁶ In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. ⁷ But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land. ⁸ Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. ⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. ¹⁰ We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country." ¹¹ So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king. ¹² But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became. ¹³ So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands. ¹⁵ Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: ¹⁶ "When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live." ¹⁷ But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders. They allowed the boys to live, too. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. "Why have you done this?" he demanded. "Why have you allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹ "The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women," the midwives replied. "They are more vigorous and have their babies so quickly that we cannot get there in time." ²⁰ So God was good to the midwives, and the Israelites continued to multiply, growing more and more powerful. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. ²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live." [Exodus 1 \(NLT\)](#)

¹ About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. ² The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. ³ But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. ⁴ The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. ⁵ Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. ⁶ When the

princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This must be one of the Hebrew children,” she said. ⁷ Then the baby’s sister approached the princess. “Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” she asked. ⁸ “Yes, do!” the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby’s mother. ⁹ “Take this baby and nurse him for me,” the princess told the baby’s mother. “I will pay you for your help.” So the woman took her baby home and nursed him. ¹⁰ Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, “I lifted him out of the water.” [Exodus 2:1-10 \(NLT\)](#)

4. What amazes you or impresses you about this story? How do you see God at work providentially or behind the scenes in these events of this story as they unfold?
5. Do you ever fall into a pattern of little “superstitious” actions or rituals that you think will bring good luck or prevent bad luck (such as not walking under a ladder, being afraid when a black cat walks across your path, not stepping on cracks in a sidewalk, carrying a certain item just for good luck, etc.)?
6. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Romans 8:28-39.](#)

²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. ³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us. ³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. ³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Romans 8:28-39 \(NLT\)](#)

7. What comfort do you receive from these verses? Are there any promises in these verses you need to remember or memorize in relation to God’s involvement in our lives?
8. Chris said, “It’s easy for us to ask the ‘why God’ question, but *Why* isn’t the most fundamental question when it comes to suffering.” Because even if we knew the answers to the why questions, they would just bring more questions. If we focus on *why* questions, we’ll lose momentum and get stuck with our relationship with God. The more important question is *Who*. *Who* will we trust in the calamities and challenges of life? *Who* will we turn to in the reality of our pain? *Who* is worthy of our trust?
9. Are there difficulties or hardships in your life at this time? Give an example of a specific difficulty that you are now facing and explain how the truth that God is involved in the events of our lives both big and small will help you in the way you think about it.
10. We have asked, “Where is God in the beginning story of Moses?”, but now ask yourself, “Where is God in your story?” Is He even there? Have you banished Him to the sidelines of your life? Or have you allowed Him to be smack-dab in the middle of the miracles and the mundane of your life?

MOVING FORWARD

Maybe there is no greater amazement than when God works not through the miraculous, but through the mundane, normal details of our lives. He is always there, behind the scenes, working His plan.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28