

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of May 9, 2021
The Great Escape: Out of the Bullrushes, Exodus 2:1-10
Pastor Temple- Traditional Service, Pastor Conway- Contemporary Service

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events or faith experiences since you last met?

- Are there joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- **Opening Discussion Question-** When has something good come from a time of or point of desperation in your life?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the scriptures from this week's sermon message and then discuss the questions which follow as time allows. There are more questions than you will have time for, so it is ok to be selective.

Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. ⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. ⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" ⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

1. If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

2. Last week in chapter 1 we learned that the Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, set out to reduce the number and influence of the Hebrews in Egypt by slave labor conditions and hours, commanding the midwives to secretly kill all the Hebrews baby boys and then when neither plan worked, ordered that all Egyptians throw baby Hebrew boys in the Nile when they are found. In verses 1-3, Moses' mother made a waterproof basket or ark made of waterplants or bullrushes and left him among the reeds. How is it significant that the word for basket or ark ("tebah" in Hebrew) is only found in two places in the Bible, here and in the story of Noah's ark?
3. In verses 4-9, this tragic and desperate situation for this Hebrew family is turned around and the baby Moses is saved. What are some of the elements of irony in how the evil plans of the powerful King of Egypt are undone by the people and circumstances of this story?
4. What does this story and outcome teach us about God's providence and overcoming evil with good?
5. How difficult do you think it was for Moses' mother to let him go in the basket among the reeds?
6. How about in the second letting go, after he was weaned and taken to the palace to be raised as the adopted son of the Pharaoh's daughter (verse 10)?
7. Why is letting go as a parent important?
8. As we relate to our adult children, are there some areas in which it is not good to let go of? If so, what areas?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

1. Would a volunteer please read aloud Matthew 2:13-18.
2. What similarities and differences do you see between the birth stories of Jesus and Moses?
 - a. The circumstances?
 - b. The mothers?
 - c. How God intervened?
3. How is the role of Jesus even greater than that of Moses?
4. How is the providence of God lifted up in the story of Jesus' birth?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

1. As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
2. Last week, it was Shiphreh and Puah. This week it is Moses' mother Jochebed, Miriam and the daughter of the Pharaoh who refuse to obey the command of the Pharaoh because they saw the goodness of God in a baby and respected the sanctity of life. How can we honor the goodness of God's creation this week, especially humans who are all created in His image?
3. How do we rely upon the providence of God in our everyday lives today?
4. In what ways is God calling us to "let go and let God" this week?
5. In what ways has releasing our children into the hands of God in the world been a blessing to others?

Witness and Closing (10 minutes)

- What is a way we can have a positive influence on the life of a young person this week?
- A volunteer may conclude by leading the group in prayer about the joys and concerns shared earlier in the meeting