

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (FACILITATOR)

EXODUS CHAPTER 1

Discussion Starter

- What do you think it means and looks like to pursue something or someone?
- In the times that you have pursued something or someone, what did that pursuit look like?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Exodus 1:1-22)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way **BUT** there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Exodus 1:1-14

- Before unpacking Exodus 1, go back and read Genesis 12:1-9 and the calling of Abram.
 - How would you characterize the promises that God made to Abram?

- The promises that God made to Abram were absolutely incredible and beautiful. And these promises weren't only for Abram, but they were also for His offspring.
 - Compare the promises that God made to Abram and his offspring to what we read about the Israelites current situation in Exodus 1:1-14.
 - If you were an Israelite under Egyptian slavery but aware of the promises that God made to Abram and his offspring, how do you think you would feel about God? About His promises?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What is the significance of verse 12?
 - Growth of the Israelites happened in less than ideal circumstances and this growth specifically pointed to God's favor and blessing being poured out, even in the midst of horrendous circumstances.
 - What application does this reality have for you and me today?
 - Circumstances can be harsh, terrible, and certainly not in our favor but circumstances have never and will never negate the faithfulness and love of God.
 - Notice that according to verses 13-14, God's favor, blessing, and faithfulness in multiplying the Israelites didn't result in easier circumstances. Rather, it resulted in further trouble and worse circumstances for the Israelites.
 - What do you believe this says about God and following God?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Exodus 1:15-22

- When someone's name is mentioned in Scripture, this is important. Of all the people named in the entire book of Exodus and more specifically in Exodus chapter 1, we find two women (considered to be property during those days) and what's more, two Hebrew midwives who are called by name. Not even the king of Egypt (Pharaoh) is mentioned by name. Why is the mentioning of these women by name significant?
 - In the midst of such incredible oppression by the Egyptians, God is on the move to not only continue to pursue His people but also to rescue and deliver His people. They are known by Him. He hasn't forgotten them. Two individuals who seem relatively insignificant point to a people that seem or may have even felt forgotten and God is making it clear that His people are neither insignificant nor forgotten.
 - The Hebrew midwives had difficult decisions to make about who they were going to serve regarding which king they were going to serve. It was going to be the king of Egypt or the king of the world.
 - Do we consider the decisions that we make to be as significant as the decisions that the Hebrew midwives made? Why or why not?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

□ **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Exodus 1)

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- What is the significance of verse 12?
 - What application does this reality have for you and me today?
 - Notice that according to verses 13-14, God's favor, blessing, and faithfulness in multiplying the Israelites didn't result in easier circumstances. Rather, it resulted in further trouble and worse circumstances for the Israelites.
 - What do you believe this says about God and following God?

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