**Exodus 1:8-22**

God revealed Himself to a man named Abraham and promised him that he would be the father of a great nation and that many people would be blessed through him. He also revealed Himself to Abraham's son Isaac, Isaac's son Jacob, and Jacob's son Joseph.

Joseph was taken as a slave to Egypt, but God blessed him and used him to save his father's whole family from starving during the famine. Joseph became the king's right-hand man and was able to bring Jacob's family to live in Egypt, where there was food.

After Jacob's family settled in Egypt, the family grew and grew as more babies were born into the family. Babies don't stay babies forever, they grow up to become children and then adults! Well, the adults had children, and then those children grew up into adults, and then they had children, until eventually, Jacob's family—also known as the Israelites—got so huge that the Egyptian king became afraid of them. He said, "What if they go to war against me?" So he decided to make Jacob's whole family into his slaves. ([Exodus 1:11–14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%201.11%E2%80%9314)). The Egyptian king said, "All the Israelites must be slaves!" "They must work hard making bricks!" Pharaoh even commanded all of the Israelites' baby boys to be killed!

**Family Discussion**

Read Exodus 1:8-22 aloud.

1. How would it have felt to be a Hebrew living in Egypt during the time described?
2. Describe Pharaoh’s initial plan for Hebrew population control in 1:8-14. What multiple purposes did it serve, from his perspective? What was the result?
3. Describe Pharaoh’s second plan for Hebrew population control in 1:15-22. What does it reveal about the relative value he placed on human life? On males versus females?
4. Despite living under the rule of a fearsome pharaoh, the Hebrew midwives walked in fear of God. How did their rightly-placed fear equip them to be obedient to their true master?
5. What is the hardest thing you’ve ever done or been through?
6. How have you seen God work through difficulty?
7. How do you think God feels about all the evil in our world?
8. How is Jesus Christ God’s response to evil?

**Closing**

Who or what are we most likely to fear more than God? What is the secret to fearing God more than the "pharaohs" in our lives?

Obedience is a challenge when times are easy, but it is particularly difficult when times are hard. How is the rightly-placed fear of the Hebrew midwives an example to us? In what current circumstance can you imitate their courage by remembering whose servant you truly are?

Leverage opportunities this week to talk about how “God is in charge of everything” and “God is good.” Opportunities might come up as you read or watch the news or as your child is confused about why something is happening or has happened. Capture any moments this week to remind your household that “Jesus came to save sinners” and that God is our Deliverer—God rescues His children.

**Prayer/Praise Journal**

If you haven’t already, take the time to start a family Prayer/Praise Journal.

Review the prayers and praises that you have written down in your pray/praise journal. Celebrate the praises and recommit to praying for things not yet answered.

Write down any new prayer requests or praises your family may have. Routinely review and pray the prayer requests and praises written in the journal.