

Introduction to Exodus: **Exodus 1 & 2**

Theme: Seen, Heard, and Known by God

Background: Exodus 1

In chapter 1, we see the Israelites facing intense oppression, yet God's blessing causes them to multiply anyway.

- Look at how the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, feared God more than Pharaoh (Exodus 1:17). Can you think of a time when choosing to do the right thing required great courage? How did God encourage or sustain you in that moment?

Moses: Exodus 2:1-22

Moses is born and preserved in a series of miraculous events, but then he makes a major mistake, flees, and ends up in the desert for 40 years.

- Moses started out with a desire to help his people, but it ended in failure and exile. Have you ever felt like you "ruined" God's plan for your life, or that you were stuck in a "desert season" where nothing was happening? How does Moses' story offer hope for our own seasons of waiting or failure?

God: Exodus 2:23-25

*"During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. **God heard** their groaning and he **remembered his covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. **God saw** the people of Israel – and **God knew**."*

- Verse 24 says, "God heard their groaning." Notice it doesn't say they prayed a perfect, eloquent prayer—they just groaned and cried out. How does it encourage you to know that God responds to our raw, unfiltered pain, even when we don't have the "right" words to say? c.p Romans 8.26-28
- God already knew the timeline of the exile (from Genesis 15) and was working behind the scenes for 40 years before Moses was ready. Can you share a time in your life looking back where you realized God had been preparing the answer to your crisis long before you even knew you had a problem?
- We looked at the callback to Hagar ("*the God who sees me*") and Abraham on Mount Moriah (*Jehovah Jireh* — the Lord who sees and provides). Abraham couldn't see the ram on the other side of the mountain while he was walking up. What "mountain" are you climbing right now where you need to trust God's provision even though you can't see it yet?
- The Hebrew word for "knew" (*Yada*) implies deep, intimate, experiential knowledge, not just intellectual awareness. How does it change your view of suffering to know that God doesn't just look down and think, "*Oh dear, they are having a bad time,*" but actually feels and experiences your pain *with* you?
- The text uses four powerful verbs to describe God's response: He **heard**, He **remembered**, He **looked**, and He **was concerned** (or *knew* them). Which of these

four actions of God do you need to be reminded of the most in your life right now, and why?

- Jesus boiled the 613 laws down to just two: *Love God and love each other*. In what areas of your life this week do you need to shift your focus away from "rules and checklists" and back onto the "heart and love"?

Which of the four truths do you most need today?

- God hears me.
- God remembers His promises.
- God sees my situation.
- God cares about me.

Who do you know that needs to be reminded of these truths?

How can this small group reflect God's care for people who are struggling?

What would change in our daily lives if we truly believed that God sees and knows our circumstances?

Closing Prayer

Invite each person to complete one of these sentences:

- "God, thank You that You see..."
- "God, help me trust You with..."
- "God, remind me that You hear..."
- "God, help me remember Your faithfulness in..."

Finish by reading Exodus 2:24–25 aloud together and spending a few moments in quiet reflection on the truth that God sees, remembers, and cares even when His answers seem delayed.