



Exodus
4/24/22
Exodus 1

1. In Exodus 1:17, we read that the midwives feared God instead of Pharaoh.

****What does the word fear typically conjure up in your mind?**

****Is that similar or different to what we read in this verse?**

2. The word, “fear” is a unique word in the Bible. While we typically use fear as an emotional reaction (for example, being afraid of spiders or snakes), in the Bible it often means reverence or awe. I heard one professor say, “The fact that God can squish us, but doesn’t, should produce a certain amount of respect in us.” This means that fear of the power and authority of God can lead to righteous behavior. This is what we see in this passage - the Hebrew midwives decided that God had more power and authority than Pharaoh.

****If you have awe and reverence for God, what emotions or feelings come to your mind that give you a fuller picture of what that is like?**

****Do you think God wants us to view him like this?**

For more discussion: Read Proverbs 1:1-7. The purpose of the Proverbs are to teach one wisdom, which begins with the “fear of the Lord” (v. 7).

****How does fearing the Lord lead to wisdom?**

For even more discussion: Whenever an angel appears to someone in the Bible, the first words they say are, “Do not be afraid!” (Matthew 1:20; 28:5 Luke 2:10)

****Why are these the first words that an angle speaks?**

3. One of Drew’s main points was, “True freedom is found when we serve and worship the right thing.” One way we can figure out if we are doing this is whether or not we are bitter. Bitterness is the “check engine light” of our worship.

****How does this relate to our discussion about fear?**

4. Another of Drew's points was, "True freedom isn't found in the absence of suffering, but by seeking God's presence in the middle of it.

**Do you find it easy or difficult to seek God in the middle of suffering?

**If it is difficult, why do you think it is that way?

**If it is easy, how have you learned to rely on God?

5. Our series in Exodus is focusing on freedom. Just like God set the Israelites free from slavery to the Egyptians, he also can set us free from things that hinder us from fully experiencing the life and happiness that God wants for us. Here are some examples of those things:

Negative emotions toward a coworker

Anger when your day does not turn out as planned

The tendency to view other men or women lustfully

Addiction to caffeine or other substances

Regret or guilt from past relationships

**Has God set you free from something so that you were able to experience new life and happiness?

**Is there something that is currently getting in the way of the happiness and joy that God wants for you?

Final thought: If there is something that you would like to be set free from but would rather not share with a large group, please reach out to your lifegroup leader or one of the pastors. Each of us has experienced the freedom that comes when Jesus sets us free, and we would love to talk with you about how Jesus can do this for you!