



## Sugar Grove Life Groups

It Starts With Someone Doing What Is Right...

This curriculum will explore the book of Exodus and the Israelites as they leave Egypt and head towards the promised land. In so many ways the story of the Exodus is our story– a community of God’s people who help and encourage each other on a difficult journey to a promised land that they have never seen. Your group will enjoy this material because God has much to teach us through the Exodus story about what it means to be the community of Christ.

### PREPARE:

- ⊙ How are you doing? Catch us up on your life. What has been a high and a low in your life since this group last met? How have you seen God work in your life since this group last met?
- ⊙ What has been the best trip you have ever been on in your life? What made it so good?
- ⊙ Open your group time in prayer asking God to powerfully work and reveal himself in the midst of the group.

### GROW:

- ⊙ *The promise which God gave to Jacob in his departure from Canaan ([Gen 46:3](#)) was perfectly fulfilled. The children of Israel settled down in the most fruitful province of the fertile land of Egypt, and grew there into a great nation. But the words which the Lord had spoken to Abram ([Gen 15:13](#)) were also fulfilled. The children of Israel were oppressed in a strange land, were compelled to serve the Egyptians, and were in great danger of being entirely crushed by them.*
- ⊙ **Read Exodus 1:6-14**
- ⊙ What was life like for the Israelites? Why were the Egyptians driven by fear of the Israelites?
- ⊙ **Read Exodus 1:15-22**
- ⊙ The story of Exodus begins with a twist; God fearing Hebrew women (which should have been an oxymoron) play a pivotal role in God’s plan to save the Israelites (and ultimately us). Our modern world often tempts us to view the world in a very black and white manner; someone is the enemy or the good guys. But the story of the Hebrew midwives remind us that God can use the most unlikely person to accomplish His will and that the most unlikely person can choose to put God first. Why is it important for us to remember this?
- ⊙ Would you have been willing to put your life on the line to do what was right and save the life of a baby boy who, by law, you were supposed to kill and who was a member of the ‘enemy’?
- ⊙ What might have been some of the longer term consequences for the Hebrew midwives who violated the kings decree?





- ⊙ What kind of attitude does it require for God's chosen people to be helped by people who are from the 'other side'?
- ⊙ What would have happened if the Israelites had refused to accept the gift the Hebrew midwives had offered them?
- ⊙ Is it possible for us today to become so prideful or narrowly focused that we do not allow God to work in unexpected ways?
- ⊙ What would it take for this Life Group to allow God to work in unexpected ways this year?
- ⊙ Difficult times give God the opportunity to work in unexpected ways. Why?
- ⊙ What would happen this year if our attitude towards difficulty in our life and in this group were that God now had the opportunity to work in ways we never expected?
- ⊙ Are you willing to allow God to work in unexpected ways this year? Why or why not?

#### **PRAYER:**

- ⊙ Have your group's prayer coordinator close your group time in the throne room of God.
- ⊙ Consider praying in one the following ways:
  - ⇒ Go around the circle and have each person pray what is on their heart.
  - ⇒ Break into small groups and spend time letting each group share deeper and then close with prayer.
  - ⇒ Go around the circle and lift the person on your left up in prayer.
  - ⇒ Place someone in the middle of the circle who has special prayer needs. Have everyone place their hands upon them and lift that person up in prayer.
  - ⇒ If your group has children let the adults pray together and then bring the children into the group so that the adults can circle around them and pray.
  - ⇒ Everyone get down on their knees and earnestly lift your requests to God.
  - ⇒ Sing a song of prayer to God.
  - ⇒ Let the women of the group pray for the men and then let the men of the group pray for the women.
  - ⇒ Spend an extended amount of time at the beginning of your group time after you have shared with each other how things are going in your life.