

# FREEDOM

The Rise of an Unstoppable People



Community Group Study Guide  
Spring 2010  
Exodus 1: 8-22

Holy Trinity Church, Chicago  
Downtown and North Side Congregations

## SPRING 2010 COMMUNITY GROUP CALENDAR

### ***Week of:***

Apr 5 Dinner

Apr 12 Group Study Exodus 1:1-7  
*personal study/ sermon/ group discussion*

Apr 19 Group Study Exodus 1:8-22  
*personal study/ sermon/ group discussion*

Apr 26 Group Study Exodus 2:1-10  
*personal study/ sermon/ group discussion*

May 3 Dinner

Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> All-Church Communion Service, 7:30pm United Church of Hyde Park (1448 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago).

## Exodus 1:8-22

### **Week of April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Community Group calendar: **Study**

Texts: **Exodus 1:8-22**

Ways in which you will interact with these texts:

- Personal study (we recommend three separate readings)
- Listen to sermon preached on April 18<sup>th</sup>
- Group discussion during week of April 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Exodus 1:8-22 *English Standard Version (ESV)***

#### **Pharaoh Oppresses Israel**

<sup>8</sup> Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. <sup>13</sup> So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves <sup>14</sup> and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

<sup>15</sup> Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the

birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.”<sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.<sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?”<sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.”<sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong.<sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

**First Reading – *Observation: What does the text say?***

1. Why did Pharaoh enslave the Egyptians?
  
2. What were the first and second attempts to oppress the people of Israel?
  
3. What were the results of the first and second oppressions?
  
4. Why did the Hebrew midwives refuse Pharaoh’s order?
  
- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Second Reading – *Interpretation: What does the text mean?***

1. What does this text tell you about God? From what you know of the Book of Exodus as a whole, what is this text helping advance?
  
2. What does this text tell you about Pharaoh? What might be causing him to want to oppress the people of Israel?
  
3. Why is oppression of others antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Third Reading – *Application: How should you apply the text to your life?***

1. How does abortion today mirror the oppression of this text? What should you do to protect the lives of the unborn?
  
  2. How can the Gospel of Jesus Christ overcome the desire to have an abortion or the guilt associated with having an abortion? How can the Gospel offer the ultimate hope to those who have been affected by abortion?
  
  3. How can God use oppression in your life to make your faith in the Gospel grow?
- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Summarize the passage:**

What is the **theme** of the passage (i.e., a sentence that captures the timeless essence of the passage)?

What is the **aim** of the passage (i.e., how should you respond to this passage in thought and behavior)?