

# Out of the Waters

## RESISTING the POWER of FEAR

A FAITH on the MOVE BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

### Scripture Handout for Session 1: A Pharaoh Who Did Not Know Joseph – Exodus 1:1-14\*

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>1</sup>These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: <sup>2</sup>Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, <sup>3</sup>Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, <sup>4</sup>Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. <sup>5</sup>The total number of people born to Jacob was seventy. Joseph was already in Egypt.

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>6</sup>Then Joseph died, and all his brothers, and that whole generation. <sup>7</sup>But the Israelites were fruitful and prolific; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>8</sup>Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup>He said to his people,

**PHARAOH:** ‘Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. <sup>10</sup>Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.’

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>11</sup>Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup>But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. <sup>13</sup>The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, <sup>14</sup>and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

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### Scripture Handout for Session 2: They Are Not Like Us – Exodus 1:15-21\*

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>15</sup>The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

**PHARAOH:** <sup>16</sup>‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>17</sup>But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>18</sup>So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them,

**PHARAOH:** ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>19</sup>The midwives said to Pharaoh,

**MIDWIVES:** ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>20</sup>So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. <sup>21</sup>And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

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### Scripture Handout for Session 3: Civil Disobedience: The Daughters of the Revolution – Exodus 1:22-2:10\*

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>22</sup>Then Pharaoh commanded all his people,

**PHARAOH:** ‘Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.’

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>2:1</sup>Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup>The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months.

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>3</sup>When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. <sup>4</sup>His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>5</sup>The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. <sup>6</sup>When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. She said:

**PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER:** ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children.’

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>7</sup>Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter,

**MIRIAM:** ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’

**PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER:** ‘Yes.’

**NARRATOR 2:** So the girl went and called the child’s mother. <sup>9</sup>Pharaoh’s daughter said to her,

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**PHARAOH'S**

**DAUGHTER:** 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.'

**NARRATOR 1:** So the woman took the child and nursed it. <sup>10</sup>When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, saying:

**PHARAOH'S**

**DAUGHTER:** 'Because I drew him out of the water.'

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### Scripture Handout for Session 4: The Hyphenated Egyptian – Exodus 2:11-3:10\*

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>11</sup>One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsfolk. <sup>12</sup>He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. <sup>13</sup>When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting; and he said to the one who was in the wrong,

**MOSES:** ‘Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?’

**WORKER:** <sup>14</sup>‘Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?’

**NARRATOR 2:** Then Moses was afraid and thought,

**MOSES:** ‘Surely the thing is known.’

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>15</sup>When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>16</sup>The priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. <sup>17</sup>But some shepherds came and drove them away. Moses got up and came to their defense and watered their flock. <sup>18</sup>When they returned to their father Reuel, he said,

**PRIEST OF  
MIDIAN:** ‘How is it that you have come back so soon today?’

**DAUGHTERS:** <sup>19</sup>‘An Egyptian helped us against the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock.’

**PRIEST OF  
MIDIAN:** <sup>20</sup>‘Where is he? Why did you leave the man? Invite him to break bread.’

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**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>21</sup>Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage. <sup>22</sup>She bore a son, and he named him Gershom; for he said,

**MOSES:** 'I have been an alien residing in a foreign land.'

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>23</sup>After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. <sup>24</sup>God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob <sup>25</sup>God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>3:1</sup>Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said,

**MOSES:** 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.'

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush,

**GOD:** 'Moses, Moses!'

**MOSES:** 'Here I am.'

**GOD:** <sup>5</sup>'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground... <sup>6</sup>I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.'

**NARRATOR 1:** And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said,

**GOD:** 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.'

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### Scripture Handout for Session 5: What Is That in Your Hand? – Exodus 3:11-4:17 (selected)\*

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God,

**MOSES:** ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’

**GOD:** <sup>12</sup>‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.’

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>13</sup>But Moses said to God,

**MOSES:** ‘If I come to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’

**GOD:** <sup>14</sup>‘I AM WHO I AM...’ ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I AM has sent me to you...”’

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>4:1</sup>Then Moses answered,

**MOSES:** ‘But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, “The LORD did not appear to you.”’

**GOD:** <sup>2</sup>What is that in your hand?

**MOSES:** ‘A staff.’

**GOD:** <sup>3</sup>Throw it on the ground.’

**NARRATOR 1:** So he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses drew back from it. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses,

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**GOD:** 'Reach out your hand, and seize it by the tail'

**NARRATOR 2:** —so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand—

**GOD:** <sup>5</sup>so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.'

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>6</sup>Again, the LORD said to him,

**GOD:** 'Put your hand inside your cloak.'

**NARRATOR 2:** He put his hand into his cloak; and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, as white as snow. <sup>7</sup>Then God said,

**GOD:** 'Put your hand back into your cloak'

**NARRATOR 1:** —so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body—

**GOD:** <sup>8</sup>If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign. <sup>9</sup>If they will not believe even these two signs or heed you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.'

**NARRATOR 2:** But Moses said to the Lord,

**MOSES:** <sup>10</sup>O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.'

**GOD:** <sup>11</sup>Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? <sup>12</sup>Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.'

**MOSES:** <sup>13</sup>O my Lord, please send someone else.'

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>14</sup>Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said,

**GOD:** 'What of your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. <sup>15</sup>You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. <sup>16</sup>He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. <sup>17</sup>Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.'...



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### Scripture Handout for Session 6: Now You Shall See What I Will Do – Exodus 5:1-6:7 (selected)\*

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>5:1</sup>Afterwards Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said,

**MOSES AND AARON:** Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, “Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness.”

**PHARAOH:** <sup>2</sup>Who is the LORD, that I should heed him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go.’

**MOSES AND AARON:** <sup>3</sup>The God of the Hebrews has revealed himself to us; let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the LORD our God, or he will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.’

**PHARAOH:** <sup>4</sup>Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their work? Get to your labours!’... <sup>5</sup>Now they are more numerous than the people of the land and yet you want them to stop working!’

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>6</sup>That same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people, as well as their supervisors,

**PHARAOH:** <sup>7</sup>You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as before; let them go and gather straw for themselves.<sup>8</sup>But you shall require of them the same quantity of bricks as they have made previously; do not diminish it, for they are lazy; that is why they cry, “Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.” <sup>9</sup>Let heavier work be laid on them; then they will labour at it and pay no attention to deceptive words.’

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>10</sup>So the taskmasters and the supervisors of the people went out and said to the people,

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**TASKMASTERS:** ‘Thus says Pharaoh, “I will not give you straw. <sup>11</sup>Go and get straw yourselves, wherever you can find it; but your work will not be lessened in the least.” ‘

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>12</sup>So the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt, to gather stubble for straw. <sup>13</sup>The taskmasters were urgent, saying,

**TASKMASTERS:** ‘Complete your work, the same daily assignment as when you were given straw.’

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>14</sup>And the supervisors of the Israelites, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and were asked,

**TASKMASTERS:** ‘Why did you not finish the required quantity of bricks yesterday and today, as you did before?’

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>15</sup>Then the Israelite supervisors came to Pharaoh and cried,

**SUPERVISOR:** ‘Why do you treat your servants like this? <sup>16</sup>No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, “Make bricks!” Look how your servants are beaten! You are unjust to your own people.’

**PHARAOH:** <sup>17</sup>‘You are lazy, lazy; that is why you say, “Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.” <sup>18</sup>Go now, and work; for no straw shall be given you, but you shall still deliver the same number of bricks.’

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>19</sup>The Israelite supervisors saw that they were in trouble when they were told, ‘You shall not lessen your daily number of bricks.’ <sup>20</sup>As they left Pharaoh, they came upon Moses and Aaron who were waiting to meet them. <sup>21</sup>They said to them,

**SUPERVISOR:** ‘The LORD look upon you and judge! You have brought us into bad odor with Pharaoh and his officials, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.’

**NARRATOR 2:** <sup>22</sup>Then Moses turned again to the LORD and said,

**MOSES:** ‘O LORD, why have you mistreated this people? Why did you ever send me? <sup>23</sup>Since I first came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has mistreated this people, and you have done nothing at all to deliver your people.’

**NARRATOR 1:** <sup>6:1</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses,

**GOD:** ‘Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh: Indeed, by a mighty hand he will let them go; by a mighty hand he will drive them out of his land.... <sup>6</sup>Say therefore to the Israelites, ‘I am the LORD, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup>I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians.’