**The Birth of Moses**

**The Word**

Read together Exodus 1:6-2:10

**The Big Idea**

Moses’ story finds its place within the larger story of God’s redemptive purposes for the world, and his life depends on many ordinary people making faithful, courageous, and compassionate decisions in the midst of the challenges they faced. Likewise, we are all asked to play our small part of faithfulness in fulfilling God’s purposes in our world.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. As you consider the five women mentioned in our passage, what is something specific about one of their stories or decisions that is standing out to you and why?

2. How do we make sense of a God whose redemptive story often takes so much time and whose plan often requires great suffering in order for it to be accomplished?

3. As you consider the people in your own life who played their own small part in making faithful, courageous, and compassionate decisions, who specifically comes to mind and what about them was so impactful?

4. Consider the season of life you are in at the beginning of this new year. Where might God be inviting/challenging you into a faithful, courageous or compassionate response?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. The Larger context of Moses’ story

A. Exodus picks up the story of God’s plan that began in Genesis: “Jacob, I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again.” (Gen 46:2–4)

 B. Exodus 1 reveals the faithfulness of God to that plan

 - v. 7, 12, 20: God has almost miraculously made Israel into a great nation

 C. Exodus 1 reveals the apparent silence of God in the midst of suffering

 1. Slavery (v. 8-14)

 2. Genocide (v. 15-16 and 22)

3. Imagine the sense of powerlessness, helplessness, anger, and bitterness that the Israelites experienced

D. God has a plan that involves a great act of liberation, but that act depends on a time of bondage and suffering. Many Israelites were born into slavery who never got to see that liberation in their lifetime.

1. We never know what part of God’s grand story we find ourselves in (some good, some bad)

2. All that we can do is be faithful to the particular time in which we’ve been placed

3. Gandalf and Frodo: “I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

II. The faithful decisions of 5 women that make up Moses’ backstory

 A. The two midwives

 1. They receive an edict from the most powerful man on the planet

2. Rather than fear the consequences of defying him, they fear the Lord and go against his edict

 B. Moses’ mom: In faith and desperation, she sends Moses in a basket on the Nile

C. Moses’ sister: As a young Hebrew slave she risks much in engaging Pharaoh’s own daughter in conversation.

D. Pharaoh’s daughter: In defiance of her father’s wishes, she is moved by pity and compassion to enact a plan that protects Moses’ life

E. Moses’ life depends on the faithful, courageous, compassionate decisions of these women

III. Considering our own lives

A. As you think back on your own story, who are those people who made faithful decisions in their time that made a significant impact on your own life

B. As you consider your own life in this particular season, what would faithfulness to and courage in this season look like at this time?