SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
Week of November 15

FAITH REBELLIOUS
Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 1–2

MAIN POINT
Amram and Jochebed show that genuine faith resists evil authority when obedience to God requires civil disobedience.

KEY SENTENCE:
Faithful rebellion obeys God when earthly authority commands evil.

LOOK → UNDERSTAND → CONNECT → APPLY → PRAY

LOOK — What does God's Word say?

Read Hebrews 11:23 and Exodus 1:1-2:10.

1. What was happening to the people of Israel under Pharaoh, and how did the Hebrew midwives respond to his command?

Leader follow-up:

- Why was Pharaoh threatened by the growing number of Israelites?
- What exactly did Pharaoh command the midwives to do?
- What does Exodus 1:17 tell us about why the midwives refused?

2. How did Moses' parents respond to Pharaoh's decree, and what does Hebrews 11:23 tell us motivated their actions?

Leader follow-up:

- What did they recognize about Moses when he was born?
- What risks did they take by hiding him?
- How did they demonstrate faith when they could no longer keep him hidden?

Leader Note: Notice that the midwives and Moses' parents were not acting out of personal rebellion or a desire for political subversion. They were responding to an evil command that directly conflicted with their responsibility before God.

UNDERSTAND — What does it mean?

3. Hebrews 11:23 says Moses' parents were not afraid of the king's edict. What does it mean to fear God more than earthly authorities?

Leader follow-up:

- What does it mean to take God's authority more seriously than the threats of people?
- How did the midwives demonstrate this kind of fear in Exodus 1:17?
- What fears might keep us from doing what we know is right?

4. Read Romans 13:1–7 and 1 Peter 2:13–17. What do these passages teach us about the Christian responsibility to submit to governing authorities?

Leader follow-up:

- Why does Scripture teach Christians to respect and submit to governing authorities?
- What does it mean that government is a delegated authority under God?
- How should Christians respond when they disagree with a law or government decision?

Leader Note: The biblical starting point is that government authority is established by God and should ordinarily be respected. Disagreement or personal inconvenience does not automatically justify disobedience.

5. Read Acts 4:19–20 and Acts 5:29. When does obedience to God require us to disobey earthly authorities?

Leader follow-up:

- What were the apostles being commanded not to do?
- How did they explain their decision to disobey?
- What is the difference between resisting an unjust command and simply refusing to accept authority?

Leader Note: The biblical principle is that when human authorities command what God forbids, or forbid what God commands, obedience to God takes precedence. Faithful civil disobedience should be humble and orderly, and believers should be willing to accept the consequences.

CONNECT — How does it connect to our lives?

6. Why do you think it can be difficult to stand for what is right when doing so could bring consequences or opposition?

Leader follow-up:

- What might we fear losing by standing firm?
- How can the desire to avoid conflict influence our decisions?
- Have you ever felt pressure to remain silent when you believed you should speak or act?

7. How can we distinguish between a situation that genuinely requires civil disobedience and one in which we simply disagree with those in authority?

Leader follow-up:

- Why is it important to examine Scripture rather than simply follow our personal preferences?
- How can we avoid using our faith as an excuse for being disrespectful or rebellious?
- Who or what might help us think carefully and biblically through a difficult situation?

8. Amram and Jochebed took significant risks to protect their son. What might courageous faithfulness look like in our responsibilities toward our families, neighbors, and communities today?

Leader follow-up:

- Are there situations where doing what is right requires personal sacrifice?
- How can we teach our children to respect authority while also obeying God above all?
- What examples of courageous, faithful obedience have encouraged you?

APPLY — What will we do with it?

9. Is there an area of your life where fear of people's opinions, reactions, or authority is keeping you from doing what God has called you to do?

Leader follow-up:

- What are you afraid might happen if you obey God?
- What truth about God's authority and care do you need to remember?
- What is one step of faithful obedience you can take?

10. How can we cultivate a deeper fear of God so that we are prepared to remain faithful when obedience becomes costly?

Leader follow-up:

- What practices help us remember God's authority and holiness?
- How does knowing God's character give us courage?
- How can Christian community help us stand firm when we face pressure?

PRAY — How should we pray about it?

Share briefly:

- Where are you most tempted to fear people's reactions more than God?
- Is there an area where you need courage to do what is right?
- Who in your community might need someone to stand up for or protect them?

Pray for one another:

Ask God to give you a greater fear of Him, wisdom to understand your responsibilities toward earthly authorities, and courage to obey Him when those authorities command what is evil. Pray for those who face persecution or pressure because of their faith, and ask God to help you stand for what is right with humility, conviction, and love.

Pray also for other needs, requests, and praises of group members.