



# the rescue.

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## stories from Exodus

January 12

Read Exodus 1

Have you ever found yourself in a seemingly hopeless situation, feeling trapped and completely stuck? Perhaps you questioned if God noticed your pain and suffering, or if He even cared? Searching for a light at the end of a dark tunnel may seem endless, and it can leave us asking, "God, are we there yet?"

This is likely how the Israelites felt under Pharaoh's rule. As their population increased in Egypt, the new Pharaoh felt politically threatened and decided to enslave them in an effort to crush their spirit. Pharaoh also ordered Hebrew midwives to drown all male children at birth. Imagine the turmoil and anguish these women felt!

Placed into a situation they knew was wrong, these brave people chose God's principles over worldly principles and were rewarded. "So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, He gave them families of their own"(Exodus 1:20-21).

No matter what we're facing, hope is always present. God can sometimes seem slow in fulfilling His promises, but His promises are always kept and His timing is always perfect. God has a plan, full of wisdom and resolution. Though we may not always understand the difficulties we face, we can rest assured God is planning something far better than we can hope for ourselves.

Reflection:

Have you ever felt stuck or hopeless? Looking back, how was God at work in that situation?

Have you ever been asked to do something you knew was wrong? If you chose to follow through, what were the consequences?

What's one promise you are still waiting for God to fulfill? What do His actions in the past tell you about His ability to come through in the future?



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## \_\_\_\_\_stories from Exodus

January 13-

Reflect on Exodus 1 and spend some time praying for God to speak life into you and refresh your soul during this Exodus experience.

January 14-

Read

Exodus 2

Have you ever needed to be rescued? Whether it's a conversation with your crazy great aunt at a Christmas get-together or the traffic jam that interrupts your morning commute, we have all found ourselves needing rescue from something.

Exodus 2 tells the story of a baby and a nation in dire need of rescue. At a time when a maniacal king was executing infants and senseless violence ruled the day, God was in control and He had something better for His people.

There's nothing to suggest that Moses' mother had a grand plan when she placed him in a basket on the Nile. The Bible seems to indicate that she'd simply run out of options and found herself with an impossible choice. She knew Moses would be found and killed if she kept him, so she did the only thing she knew to do to keep him alive a little longer. No doubt, that decision was made with agonizing fear and uncertainty.

There are times in life when we find ourselves in seemingly impossible situations. We may think there is no way out. At these times, our faith can be the quality that sees us through the difficulty in our lives. God is faithful, and He wants something better for us. Even when we face an impossible situation, God is there and He is in control.

As Moses drifted down the Nile, he couldn't do anything to bring himself out of this crisis, but Moses had been set apart by God. If we are believers, we have been set apart by God in the same way Moses was, and we can trust God to be faithful in the seemingly impossible situations in our lives.

Reflect:

What part of your life is out of control?

What is one thing you can do to give that situation over to the care of God?



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## stories from Exodus

January 15-

Reflect on Exodus 2 and spend a few moments in a prayer or gratitude for how God has been working in your life.

January 16-

Read

Exodus 3

As parents, it doesn't matter what's going on around us, when we hear our child's cry for help, we go running. Sometimes, all that's needed is a hug and a kiss. Other times, it's a listening ear or a trip to the doctor. No matter what kind of help our children need, there is a strong desire to ease the pain, emotional or physical.

God feels the same way about us. In Exodus 3, the Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for over 400 years and were crying out for help. God heard their cries, saw their suffering and wanted to rescue them (Exodus 3:7). God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and commanded him to go rescue the Israelites from slavery. Moses, an Israelite raised by the Pharaoh's daughter, had fled Egypt after killing an Egyptian soldier. He probably never imagined God would use him as part of the rescue mission for the nation of Israel.

We may not be slaves, but each of us suffers in some way, whether it's the loss of a loved one, a strained marriage, a rebellious child, or financial hardship. God sees our sufferings, hears our cries for help and wants to rescue us, just like He did with the Israelites. God's rescue mission may not look the way we imagine or come as soon as we'd like, but the Lord's plan is always best.

Reflect:

What's causing you suffering right now? Take time to talk to God about it today. Be honest with God and tell Him your pain.

The same way that what kids want isn't always what they need, what we want from God isn't always what we need. What's one way you've seen God say no to what you want and instead give you what you need?



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## \_\_\_\_\_stories from Exodus

January 17-

Reflect on Exodus 3 and spend a few moments praying through the following:

1. Thank God for His watchful eye over you.
2. Thank God for hearing your prayers.
3. Thank God for always being with you, even in trouble.
4. Ask God for help in whatever you are facing this week.

January 18-

Read

Exodus 4

Moses was a simple shepherd living in a foreign land, far from where his life started out. When God shared His plan to rescue His people from enslavement in Egypt, Moses responded with questions and doubt.

It's not that Moses didn't want God to do something amazing for His people; it's that Moses wasn't sure if he was good enough to be part of God's plan. He wanted a sign. And another sign. And another.

Sometimes life takes us to an uncomfortable, unexpected place. We have to work an undesirable job, a friend walks out on us, or the budget gets tight between paychecks. When we hear God has a plan for our lives, we want to believe it. But from our current perspective, it seems nearly impossible.

We often pray, "God, please fix our problems." But what if God wants to use us to address the problems?

We worry, "What if it doesn't happen how we expect?" God says, "What have I already given you?"

God's not afraid of our questions. Our doubts don't ruin His plans. He meets us in the questions and the doubts.



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No matter how many excuses we come up with, God always provides more than enough signs that He's with us and for us. He provides the tools we need to complete the tasks He's called us to.

We even carry a sign that God has not given up on us: the Holy Spirit. God gave us His Spirit as a sign and as a helper. The empty tomb is proof that Jesus can make the impossible possible.

Reflect:

Is there any area of your life where you're struggling to believe God is with you? If so, what is it?

What's one way Jesus has provided for you in the past in a way you didn't expect? What does this say about His ability to come through in the future?

What is keeping you from doing the next thing God has called you to do?