

SC Church 4.12.2026

Gradually Then Suddenly
Consistent Steps of Obedience

- A. Intro: What have you had to work consistently on to get to the finish line?
- B. Big Idea: Small Steps of Obedience Matter & Build on Each Other
- C. Exodus 1:8-11 NLT – ⁸ Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. ⁹ He said to his people, “Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. ¹⁰ We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don’t, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.” ¹¹ So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king.
- D. Exodus 12:40-42 NLT – ⁴⁰ The people of Israel had lived in Egypt for 430 years. ⁴¹ In fact, it was on the last day of the 430th year that all the Lord’s forces left the land. ⁴² On this night the Lord kept his promise to bring his people out of the land of Egypt. So this night belongs to him, and it must be commemorated every year by all the Israelites, from generation to generation.
- E. Exodus 1:15-22 NLT – ¹⁵ Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: ¹⁶ “When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷ But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king’s orders. They allowed the boys to live, too. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. “Why have you done this?” he demanded. “Why have you allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹ “The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women,” the midwives replied. “They are more vigorous and have their babies so quickly that we cannot get there in time.” ²⁰ So God was good to the midwives, and the Israelites continued to multiply, growing more and more powerful. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. ²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live.”
- F. What daily decisions gradually build toward God’s best for you and future generations?
 - a. Fear God
 - i. Proverbs 9:10 NLT – ¹⁰ Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

- ii. Proverbs 19:23 NLT – ²³ Fear of the Lord leads to life, bringing security and protection from harm.
 - iii. Psalm 139:13-16 NLT – ¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. ¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.
 - iv. Exodus 1:21 NLT – ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.
 - v. Joshua 24:15b NIV – ...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”
- b. Refuse to follow the Culture
- i. Exodus 1:17 NLT – ¹⁷ But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king’s orders. They allowed the boys to live, too.
 - ii. Genesis 3:4-6 NLT – ⁴ “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵ “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” ⁶ The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.
 - iii. Romans 12:2 NIV – ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- c. Consistently Make Right Choices
- i. Exodus 1:18-20 NLT – ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. “Why have you done this?” he demanded. “Why have you allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹ “The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women,” the midwives replied. “They are more vigorous and have their babies so quickly that we cannot get there in time.” ²⁰ So God was good to the midwives, and the Israelites continued to multiply, growing more and more powerful.
 - ii. Psalm 19:14 NLT – ¹⁴ May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.
 - iii. Galatians 6:9 NLT – ⁹ So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.

G. Close: Whose Right Decisions are you Standing On?

a. Next Steps

- i. Memorize: Joshua 24:15b NIV – But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.
- ii. Think: Who is going to stand on my right choices?
- iii. Action: Consistently choose right so the next generation can stand on your faithfulness to God.