

Empowered

Exodus 1:8–2:10

A new era has begun in Egypt, and the new Pharaoh views the Israelites with fear and suspicion. Baby Moses is in danger but aided by God, the midwives, Moses' mother and sister, and even Pharaoh's daughter take steps to protect him.

Read this week's passage:



Living Scripture

'But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them...' Exodus 1:17

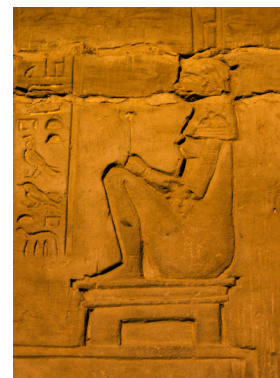
The midwives were not afraid of God, but they knew and respected the sorts of things God expected them to do and not do. They knew that harming the baby boys was not what God would want, even though the king told them to kill them when they were born. They had a choice to make. Would they obey God or Pharaoh? They chose to obey God, and they didn't do what Pharaoh wanted.

Have you ever had a difficult choice to make? Sometimes we must choose between doing things we see others doing and doing what is right. How do we know what is 'right by God'? In the Bible stories we hear, and in discussions with others, we can get to know God more, especially when we look at how Jesus was kind and caring towards others. Knowing the kinds of decisions Jesus would make can help us make better choices, as can the Holy Spirit, who lives in us.

When have you been faced with a difficult choice? What helped you to make that choice?

First impressions

- This image is a (later) depiction of an Egyptian birthing chair. How did the Hebrew midwives use their power to protect their community?
- What power(s) do we have in our lives?
- What small actions could you take with others to tackle bigger problems such as injustice?



Pray

Lord, let our words be words of kindness,
our thoughts be those of care,
our ears be ready to hear your voice,
our hearts filled with your love,
our hands reach out to help others
and our feet ready to march for truth.
Amen.



LISTEN

Explore the story of Corrie ten Boom, who also saved many lives (story starts at 0.55). Explore other stories of people who have felt empowered by God and their faith to do beautiful things for others.



WATCH

Watch *The Star Thrower* by Loren Eisley. Life can feel like the beach full of starfish – particularly when we read the news. What small actions could we take – individually or as a church – to throw some starfish back into the sea?



Learn

Bees will be busy at this time of year, but you might find some get trapped inside your house. Learn how to help them out if they need it.

