**1. Motivate**

When have you seen one person’s trash become another one’s treasure?

* someone dumpster dives for cool stuff
* a neighbor has put out something really cool/useful/pretty for trash pickup
* an arts and crafts project someone has made out of odds and ends of junk
* a student finds a used textbook on eBay for cheap that would have cost > $100 otherwise
* you find a car on Facebook Marketplace for really cheap – runs good, just needed tires
* you can gift your car to a charity

**2. Transition**

In today’s society some lives end up treated as “throw-away”

* Reality is that life itself is a gift from God
* God calls us to protect and preserve all lives

A video introduction to the Bible story is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/yfmb364u>. If you have no wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/mr22xnh4>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Fear of God

Listen for civil disobedience.

Exodus 1:16-17 (NIV) "When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." 17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

The king had a wicked plan to curb Hebrew population.

* Issued a command to the Hebrew midwives
* Kill all baby boy children – ok to keep the baby girls

What would devaluing male lives accomplish?

* population of boys would decrease
* in the future, less males to rebel or join an enemy against Egypt
* females could still work the fields
* still have slave girls to work in Egyptian homes

What are some ways *our culture* devalues life?

* abortion
* growing acceptance of euthanasia, doctor assisted suicides
* scandal of Planned Parenthood’s selling of tissue of late term aborted babies
* existence of prostitution, human trafficking
* growing existence of substance abuse at all levels of society

How did the midwives respond, at least in practice?

* they feared God
* didn’t do what the king told them to do
* they let the boy babies live

What risks would be involved in disobeying the orders of a king?

* killed for disobedience
* cold have resulted in military or police actions carried out against the whole Hebrew population
* risk the anger of the king in more ways than just the babies

Why does the Bible imply that this civil disobedience was acceptable?

* they feared God more than the king
* the command of the government went against God’s laws
* they were willing to face consequences of what they did

What would be your options if an authority told you to do something within the law but against God’s law?

* go along to get along
* leave that jurisdiction
* say OK but the not do it
* defy the authorities

What parallel does that have in our society today in our culture?

* in some states it is legal to terminate the life of a fetus
* this is a command of a government that goes against God’s laws
* people who fear God should be ready to oppose this
* some Christians who have refused to do business with a LGBTQ customer have gotten in trouble
* some bosses may demand that workers lie or cheat customers or the legal system

What is the difference between “fearing” God and fearing people?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Fearing God | Fearing People |
| * in awe of God’s power and authority
* willing to defy man’s law and obey only God
* willing to go against popular opinion
 | * afraid of what people might say
* afraid of what they might do
* now willing to go against popular opinion
 |

⇨ Inappropriate decisions by our government and our culture are the *results* of people’s need for Jesus in their lives

⇨ Communicating this truth and praying for revival may well do more to change the prevailing attitudes than only protesting.

3.2 Action to Protect Others

Listen for more civil disobedience.

Exodus 1:22; 2:2-3 (NIV) Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live. … 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

Pharaoh increases infanticide policies.

* Now the Egyptians were to be openly involved in the infanticide
* Was not to be implemented on the sly by the midwives
* Was to be carried out by “all his people”
* Throw the baby boys in the Nile

What is the connection between Pharaoh’s latest command and the birth of a baby boy to a Hebrew couple from the tribe of Levi?

* the parents saw that he was a “fine child”
* MSG says they saw “there was something special about him”
* CEV says “he was a beautiful child”
* they hid the new baby boy from those who came looking for babies to throw into the Nile

What risky decisions did the mother take to protect her child? What action did she take?

* hid the baby for 3 months – as long as possible
* wove a papyrus basket for him, waterproofed it
* hid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile
* maybe figured no one would look in the very place where babies were being drowned

How does God work in people’s hearts despite unjust and wicked laws against them?

* guides people to act
* motivate them to do the right thing
* give them wisdom in what steps to take
* protect them in miraculous ways

Note some fascinating parallels between Moses and Jesus

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Moses | Jesus |
| * Israel needed a deliverer, God sent a baby: Moses
 | * the world needed a Savior, God sent a baby: Jesus
 |
| * Moses born in Egypt
 | * Jesus spent part of His childhood in Egypt
 |
| * Pharaoh killed baby boys
 | * Herod killed baby boys
 |
| * Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness
 | * Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness
 |

 3.3 Provide for Others

Listen for intervention.

Exodus 2:4-10 (NIV) His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" 8 "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Even if the mother anticipated that Pharaoh’s daughter would come to the river, what was the risk if the young woman discovered the child?

* would have no way of knowing the politics or loyalty of the daughter to the king
* could have been a disaster – she might have called for soldiers
* she might have reported the hidden baby to the king

In what ways were the three females in this story—the mother, the sister, and Pharaoh’s daughter—able to provide care for the baby?

* sister stood by, guarded the hidden baby
* the princess saw the baby and apparently was attracted to him
* she knew he was a Hebrew, but wanted to protect and save him, keep him
* the sister cleverly volunteered someone to nurse the baby – conveniently, the baby’s mother
* the real mother was able to care for her own baby, at least for a time

Where do you see God at work in this story?

* putting it in the mind of Moses’ mother to disobey the egregious actions of the Egyptian authorities
* giving her the idea of hiding the baby – how to do it, where to hide him
* having the princess go to that spot along the river
* putting in the heart of the princess to rescue the baby
* bringing the timing and the location and the older sister all together at the right time and place

Statistics:

* On any given day, over 400,000 children are in foster care.
* Over 100,000 of those in foster care are waiting to be adopted.
* The average age of a child in foster care waiting to be adopted is 8.5 years old.
* support fostering families

How can we support adoption and foster care as a means of providing for children?

* help adopting families through the many legal steps – training and counseling

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Pray.

* Do you know of someone the world doesn’t value?
* Place them on your daily prayer list.
* Ask God to reveal to them how He views them.
* Pray God would also impress upon them that He has a plan and purpose for them.

Cultivate.

* Spend some intentional time cultivating a relationship with a person who can do nothing for you in return.

Seek God.

* Seek God’s direction in how you could serve …
* As a foster care family
* A crisis pregnancy counselor
* As a volunteer in a nursing home ministry.

Crossword Puzzle

Clues and Words taken from Exodus 1:16-17,22–2:10 (NIV) Find help at <https://tinyurl.com/mr22xnh4>

