

Saturday & Sunday, September 8 & 9, 2018 - “Unsung Heroes - Week 1: Shiprah and Puah” - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Exodus 1:15-22, 1 Corinthians 7:1, Proverbs 9:10

* + Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
	+ Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday’s message

Main Ideas

* + Lesser known heroes in the Bible that played pivotal roles in God’s unfolding narrative
	+ Exodus 1:15-22
		- Israelites in Egypt over 400 years, Joseph is sold into slavery
		- Joseph had favor in Egypt and helped his family during famine
		- Israel grew in numbers and in strength
		- Pharaoh ramped up his oppression as the people of Israel grew
	+ Two ordinary women with ordinary jobs as midwives are heroes in this part of history
		- The King ordered all of the Israeli baby boys to be killed
		- This would eliminate the men and allow the women to be used, oppressed, taken advantage of
		- But knowing they would probably be killed **Shiprah and Puah** disobey the orders
		- Because they **FEARED GOD**
	+ 2 Corinthians 7:1: We must learn the balance of trusting in the promises of God and at the same time have a consistent and healthy fear of the Lord
	+ Serviile fear vs. filial fear
		- Servile fear is what you would have towards brutal oppressor (characterized by a broken spirit and a lack of self-worth OR maybe a fear that no matter what you do you are going to disappoint or be punished)
			* Some of us struggle with this kind of unhealthy fear of God (taskmaster, waiting for you to screw up)
			* We can get our view of God wrong because of our story, specifically our relationship with our earthly father
			* Servile fear is NOT what we are called to in scripture and not what Shiprah and Puah had
		- Filial: best understood in context of healthy family where love and discipline exist in proper balance
			* characterized by a child having healthy respect for their father or mother and deep down has a strong desire to please and honor them
			* Sometimes this gets skewed because we don't have perfect parents and it affects our understanding of who God is in a negative way
			* If our view of God is off then our fear of God will be off
	+ Fear of the Lord = a wholesome fear of displeasing God
		- It comes from the right place (wholesome)
		- Shiprah and Puah are heroes because they had a healthy fear of the Lord
		- We can’t have a wholesome fear of God if we don’t know Him…BUT as we live out a healthy fear of the Lord we begin to know Him more and more (Proverbs 9:10)
	+ We start with obedience —> wisdom and understanding —> God’s love and Grace —> wholesome desire to please Him
	+ Second key to their heroism = **COMMUNITY**
		- They decided together to do the right thing
		- There is power when we are on the right track with the right people (this is why we need to connect beyond weekend gatherings)
	+ “So God dealt well with the midwives” v20
		- God deal with all of us in life
		- God rewards this who earnestly seek Him

Questions(Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

* 1. How might your experience with your earthly father be giving shape to your image of God?
	2. Do you have a wholesome fear of displeasing God? How is God calling you to grow in this area?
	3. Where is God calling you to be brave?
	4. How have you seen obedience to God help you know him better?
	5. How has getting to know Him better helped grow your desire to please and honor Him?
	6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

\*\***15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

**Mon: John 6 Tues: John 7 Wed: John 8 Thurs: John 9 Fri: John 10**

**Songs from the weekend: [*In Jesus’ Name* - Israel Houghton] - *[Mountaintops* - The Belonging Co.] - [*Reckless Love* - Cory Asbury] - [Downpour *- Grace Original*]**