

# Exodus 1

## A New Battle Begins

**Scripture:** Exodus 1

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 50:15 *"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."*

**Lesson Focus:** We begin the book of Exodus by first going back to Genesis and helping the kids understand the key characters and promises that God had made to them. This sets the stage for the drama that unfolds where we will highlight how God is a promise-keeping God and worthy of our trust and devotion!

**Activities and Crafts:** Book of Exodus coloring picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Activity for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders: Shiphrah and Puah Pinwheel Craft

**Starter Activity:** Introductory Video

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room after worship for a short introductory video that will help us shift gears from the New Testament (where we have been for over a year now) to the Old Testament. This is an excellent, animated, overview video of the first half of the book of Exodus. You can preview it [here](#). Before we watch it we will have a little bit of discussion and ask the kids a few questions to help them better focus on the video.

Q: If you could go back in time to any point in history, where would it be? Why?  
Well, today we are going to turn back the clock almost 4000 years as we start the book of Exodus. This book of the Bible tells the amazing story of how the small family of Jacob in Egypt became the huge nation of Israel. These are historical events that happened 1500-2000 years before Jesus walked the earth! \*

As you watch the video, pay attention so that you can answer these two simple questions: Who are the good guys and who are the bad guys? (watch video now) \*

Pharoah is clearly the leader of the bad guys, but it might not be obvious who the good guys are. While Israel is rescued by God, did you notice that they were behaving very badly immediately after they were rescued? Ultimately, God is the good guy in this story, the great Rescuer and mighty Deliverer! And as we read through this book the next several months, we're going to see how it prepares the way for and points forward to Jesus, sent to rescue **US** from sin and the punishment we deserve! Let's get started!

## Bible Study:

**Exodus 1:1-5:** The book begins with a listing of all of these people who had moved to ancient Egypt. Clearly this is a continuation of a bigger story and to understand the Exodus story we must pause and learn a little about what happened before in *Genesis*. \*

Imagine if you watched "*Inside Out 2*" without having watched the first movie. You'd be confused wondering who these various silly characters are inside Riley's brain. \* Or imagine being introduced to Star Wars by watching "*The Empire Strikes Back*", the second movie. Without having watched the first one you would have no idea who Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and Darth Vader are and what all the fuss and fighting is about!

Well, in the first book of the Bible (*Genesis*) we learn who Jacob and these other guys are. \* Jacob (also known as Israel) is the grandson of Abraham (not Abraham Lincoln!). (**Teachers:** See the simple family tree diagram below and consider drawing this on the white board as you explain these various characters and promises to the kids)

We read in *Genesis* that God made some very important promises to Abraham:

**Read Genesis 12:1-3.** First, God promises to make him and his family into a great nation of people. \* At the beginning of Exodus they are just a family of 70 people \*, but by the end there will be over a million of them united as the nation of Israel!

Second, God promises to bless all people through him. This ultimately points to Jesus who came through the nation of Israel many years later to be the savior of the world! \*

**Exodus 1:6-7 \*** Another important character from *Genesis* was Joseph, one of Jacob's sons. He was sold to Egypt as a slave by his brothers, but by God's grace He became the second in command next to Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. In this position God used him to rescue his family (and the Egyptians!) from famine and all 70 of them moved to Egypt where they settled and grew to be many in number. \*

**Exodus 1:8:** A few hundred years have passed and the memory of the great Joseph has faded away among the new Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

**Exodus 1:9-10:** Not only was Joseph forgotten after those few hundred years, but the family of Jacob (now being referred to as the "children of Israel") became so big that Pharaoh began to not see them as friends anymore, but as a threat!

Q: Have you ever seen one of those huge ant hills in trails or open spaces? (**Teachers:** We will leave a picture of one of these in your classroom and consider using it to help kids understand just how Pharaoh saw the children of Israel) \* These ant hills are amazing as these ants multiply and work together to create these huge habitats. \* They are fine out in open spaces, but they are a threat if they grow too close to your house! Well, in the same way, Pharaoh thought the children of Israel were growing a little too powerful and too close to his kingdom and devises an evil plan to handle this threat.

**Exodus 1:11-14:** But at first, he doesn't "kick over the ant hill" \* or destroy the children of Israel.

Q: What does he do instead? A: He makes them slaves!

Q: What is a slave? A: A person totally under the control of someone else. The text says that they made their lives bitter and hard. The children of Israel were suffering greatly and as we will see later, they begin to cry out to God for rescue. \*

**Exodus 1:15-16:** Whoa! This truly reveals just how wicked Pharaoh was. \* Even after enslaving them, they continued to grow and multiply so much that now he orders all of the baby boys born to the children of Israel to be murdered! Shiphrah and Puah are like nurses that assist with the deliveries of babies. What are they going to do?

**Exodus 1:17:** Whew! With great courage and risk to their own lives, they chose to obey God and do what was right rather than obey Pharaoh and do what was wrong. These two ladies were secret superheroes!

**Exodus 1:18:** Uh-oh! Pharaoh figures out they were not doing as he commanded and brings them in for questioning. What's going to happen to them? \*

**Exodus 1:19-21:** Shiphrah and Puah give their explanation and Pharaoh appears to let them go! What seems to be more important, however, is that God is the one who protected them and favored them. \* Twice now, Pharaoh has devised evil plans against the children of Israel and twice he has been thwarted!

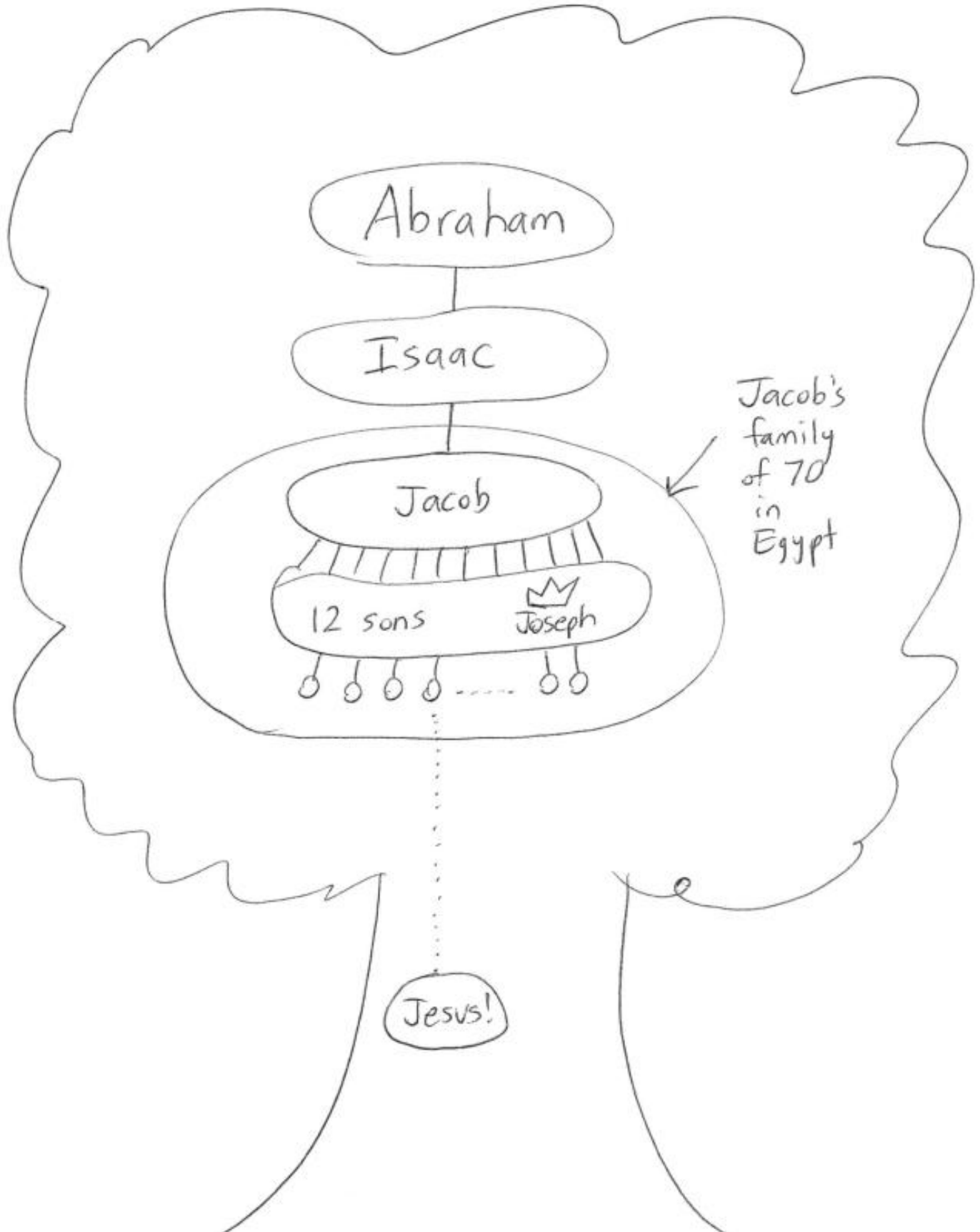
**Exodus 1:22:** Moving on from Shiphrah and Puah, he now commands the Egyptians themselves to do the dirty work of destroying the baby boys of the children of Israel. We will stop here today, but do you think he is going to succeed or be thwarted?

Pharaoh will most certainly be thwarted! Here's why: This isn't just a battle between Pharaoh and the children of Israel. This is a battle between the devil and God! Remember that God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would make them into a nation through which all the world would be blessed. (**Teachers:** Refer back to the diagram that shows this!)

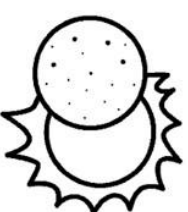
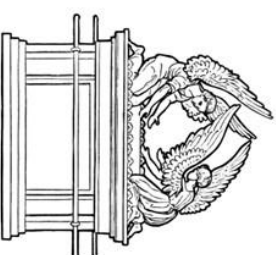
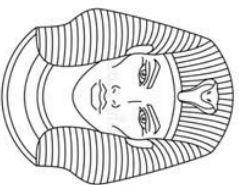
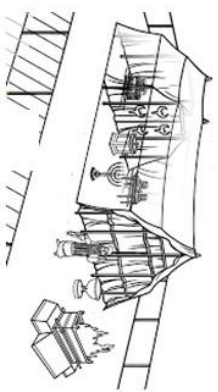
Q: What would happen if Israel got wiped out? A: God's promise would be broken and His plan to bring about blessing to the world would be crushed. The destruction of Israel has been the devil's design throughout history, and yet Israel has survived! \*

**Key Point:** At the beginning I asked you to point out the good guys and the bad guys in the story. You've seen just how bad this Pharaoh was in this chapter. But I hope you have also seen how good God truly is. He kept His promise to Abraham to bless all the nations through him, for Jesus came to save and rescue us! \* Like Shiphrah and Puah, will you trust in Him? Will you obey Him when it is not popular to do so? Will you cry out to Him even when life is hard? God is faithful! Let's trust Him in all things this week!

# Jacob's Family Tree



# Bring It Home



## ראשית First

Read Exodus 1:17

What does it mean  
to fear God?

How did Shiphrah  
and Puah show  
this?

## שניה Second

Read Psalm 50:15

In what ways did  
God deliver  
Shiphrah and Puah?

Where can you call  
upon the name of  
the Lord?

Parent Challenge:

Read Proverbs 29:25. Why is the fear of man  
like a trap?

