



## Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 12, 2019

**This Week's Focus:** God uses men and women from all backgrounds and walks of life to bless his people and declare his glory in the world.

**This Week's Text:** Exodus 1:8-2:10; 1 Samuel 1:1-7; Ruth 1:1-16; 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-16; Luke 1:26-38

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth." **Ephesians 1:7-10**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- Share what the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text.
- Read Exodus 1:8-2:10. What evil edict did the Egyptian Pharaoh enforce in an attempt to shrink the population of the Hebrew people? What was the basis of Jochebed's (Exodus 6:20) and the midwives' courage to resist the law of the land? Discuss the difference between the fear of God and the fear of man (Luke 12:4-7) and how each impacts our worldview and lifestyle. What are some ways we can dismantle sinful cultural maxims or "norms" with the gospel? How did God use Jochebed to bless his people?
- Read 1 Samuel 1:1-7. What was the source of Hannah's despair? Where did she turn in her distress? Where do you typically turn for comfort when you experience turbulence in your life? What is prayer, and how does God use prayer to accomplish his will (James 5:13-18)? Discuss how regularly rehearsing the gospel enriches our prayers and reinforces our faith and trust in the goodness and sovereignty of God. Share some examples of how God has answered your prayers, perhaps in a way you did not expect. How did God use Hannah to bless his people?
- Read Ruth 1:1-16. How did Ruth show great faith in God? Why is this astonishing for a Moabite woman? What were the costs for trusting in God, and how did God lead her to redemption? Have you ever or are you currently struggling to trust God? Discuss how the gospel reminds us of the steadfast love of God and reinvigorates our hope. How did God use Ruth to bless his people?
- Read 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-16. Who is Eunice? What did she do faithfully to help instill a sincere faith in her son Timothy? Do you have a high view of the truthfulness and authority of God's

revealed word (Scripture)? Who has God brought into your life that you can disciple and to disciple you? What are some other "authorities" and philosophies that you are prone to adopt over God's word? How did God use Eunice to bless his people?

- Read Luke 1:26-38. How did Mary respond to the angel's message (verse 38)? Discuss how the cross freed us from slavery to sin and made us servants of Jesus Christ (Romans 6). How does the gospel both justify and sanctify us (Ephesians 1:7-8; 2 Peter 1:3-11)?
- How do these passages encourage you to live on mission by demonstrating and declaring the gospel to those in your community and spheres of influence?