



## The St J's Group

### Exodus 2:1-10 - Three crises, risks and rewards

#### Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

#### 1. Talk Passage – Exodus 2:1-10

*1 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 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. 4 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 female slave 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. So 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.'*

#### 2. Talk Notes

##### 2.1 Introduction

- Are you facing a crisis at the moment? Are you willing to get on your knees and seek God's solution? When God's presents his solution, how willing will you be to step out in faith and implement it? How willing will you be to take risks for God? Often we miss out on the rewards that God has planned for us because we fail to step out in faith.
- Three women in this passage:
  - ➔ Face a CRISIS
  - ➔ Take a RISK
  - ➔ Reap a REWARD

##### 2.2. Jochebed, Miriam and Hatshepsut

###### Jochebed

- 'Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman' (Exodus 2:1) Jochebed is the wife of Amram and the mother of Moses: 'the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, a descendant of Levi, who was born to the Levites in Egypt. To Amram she bore Aaron, Moses and their sister Miriam' (Numbers 26:59) Aaron was to become the High Priest and Miriam the leader of Jewish women who escape Egypt.

###### Miriam

- Miriam was the sister of Moses. She was also a prophetess and the leader of Jewish women who escape Egypt: 'Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and

dancing. Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea." (Exodus 15:20-21)

## Hatshepsut

- Some scholars believe that Hatshepsut was the 'Pharaoh's daughter' referred to in this passage. Others believe it was a daughter of Rameses II. If it was Hatshepsut, then like Miriam she was going to go onto great things becoming a Pharaoh herself.
- Her Father was Thutmose I and her mother was Aahmes. She married her half brother Thutmose II who died after only a few years on the throne. Thutmose II gave birth through a lesser wife Iset to his heir Thutmose III. But the boy was too young to rule and so Hatshepsut took over, becoming one of a very few female Pharaohs.



### 2.3. A Crisis to Face

- Each one of these women face a crisis in their lives.
  - ▶ Having given birth to a son 'she became pregnant and gave birth to a son' (2:2) rather than a daughter. Jochebed knows that her child is due for termination by being thrown into the Nile: *Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."* (Exodus 1:22)
  - ▶ Miriam faces the loss of her baby brother Moses.
  - ▶ Hatshepsut faces the crisis of being unable to give birth and supplying the heir that her husband Thutmose II and the nation of Egypt seek.
- Where do we go in a crisis? Whose help and advice do we seek? Do we look to our own resources or God's?



Miriam bids Moses farewell

### 2.4 A Risk to take.

- Each one of these women now has a risk to take:
  - ▶ Jochebed can hid the baby Moses no longer she needs to take a risk: *She hid him for three months. 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.* (2:3-4)
  - ▶ Miriam who has been watching her mother hide the baby Moses in the reeds along the banks of the Nile needs to take a risk by approaching



Jochebed casts Moses on the Nile

the royal party: *Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"* (2:7)

- ▶ Hatshepsut faces the risk of breaking her husband's royal decree. *'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.'* (2:9)
- Are we prepared to take a risk for God? God's plans will always require us to step outside our comfort zones and to trust God. Are we willing to take that step of faith in our family, our workplace, our church for God?

### 2.4 A Reward to reap.

- Each one of these women now has a reward to reap:
  - ▶ Jochebed can now wet nurse her baby without fear: *"Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you."* (2:9)
  - ▶ Miriam's reward is a happy Mother and she gets to see her brother live and grow up.
  - ▶ Hatshepsut reward is a son who she can adopt.
- Often we miss out on the rewards that God has planned for us because we fail to step out in faith. We miss out on so much that God has to offer because we fail to trust Him.



Hatshepsut adopts a son

### 2.5 Conclusion

- Are you facing a crisis at the moment? Will you submit to God in prayer? Will you be willing to take a risk for God and reap the rewards he has for you?

## 3. Questions to consider at home

- 3.1 What are the crises that Jochebed, Miriam and Hatshepsut face?
- 3.2 Why does God call us to take risks?
- 3.3 Can you see any similarities between Moses birth and early years and those of Jesus?
- 3.4 What risk is God calling us and our church to?
- 3.5 Imagine for a moment that your church is considering whether to step out in faith and support a new local mission project both in terms of money and manpower - How would know whether you and the church should support such a project? What criteria would you use to make your judgement?