



Group Life Leader's Discussion Guide

Date: 5/11/2025

Sermon Title: Our Spiritual Mothers

Scripture: Exodus 1:22-2:10

Gathering:

As you gather with one another be sure to greet each other and check-in. Ask and inquire from group members how their week has gone? Share that we will close with prayer requests at the end of group today.

OPENING PRAYER (Group leader or someone prays this prayer to open or create a similar prayer.)

Gracious and nurturing God, Thank You for those who have mothered us in body and in spirit. Today, we remember and give thanks for the women who, like the midwives, Moses' mother, sister, and Pharaoh's daughter, have shown courage, compassion, and wisdom. Open our hearts during this time of discussion to see where You are at work through the people who guide and nurture us, and help us to be that same support for others. In Christ's name, Amen.

Opening Question:

1. Who has played the role of a spiritual mother in your life—someone who has nurtured your faith, guided your decisions, or stood beside you in difficult times?

Looking at Exodus 1:22-2:10:

1. How do the women in Exodus 1:22–2:10 show courage and compassion?
2. What risks did the midwives (Shiphrah and Puah) see Exodus 1:15-20, Moses' mother (Jochebed), his sister (Miriam), and Pharaoh's daughter take in protecting Moses?
3. What do their actions teach us about faithful resistance and advocacy?

God working through unlikely people in this story:

4. Consider that Pharaoh's own daughter defied his decree. How does this complicate our view of who God can use?
5. How does this story of Moses reflect Wesleyan theology that affirms prevenient grace—God at work before we are even aware?
6. Moses was protected by a network of women. What does that say about the importance of communal care in spiritual and physical development?
7. How can the church be a community that "mothers" one another?

Sermon Questions:

8. In the sermon Pastor Clayton shares about Jochebed, mother of Moses, does a courageous thing by placing the child in God's hands. What parallels can we draw between the desperate choices made by mothers like Jochebed in biblical times and the difficult decisions faced by parents in crisis today?
9. Pharaoh's daughter risked her position and possibly her life by disobeying her father's command. Have you ever been in a situation where following your conscience meant going against authority? How did you handle it?
10. Pastor Clayton mentions several women who have made incredible impacts on our world. Who are some women in your life or in history that have inspired your faith or actions?
11. How might recognizing the diverse forms of motherhood (biological, adoptive, foster, spiritual) expand our understanding of maternal love and influence?
12. How does this sermon challenge or expand your view of Mother's Day? In what ways can we honor and recognize the various "mothers" in our lives and communities?

Applying it:

13. How might the story of these three women inspire us to take courageous actions in our own lives, even when faced with unjust systems or laws?
14. In what ways does this story challenge us to reconsider how we might be instruments of God's work, even when divine intervention isn't explicitly mentioned?

CLOSING PRAYER (Be sure to share any prayer requests or praises and have someone close in prayer.)

Loving God, we thank You for the women of Scripture who defied fear and chose compassion. We thank You for the spiritual mothers in our lives, both past and present, and ask that You empower us to nurture others in Your name. Fill us with the courage of the midwives, the devotion of Moses' mother, the watchfulness of his sister, and the bold compassion of Pharaoh's daughter. May we be agents of Your grace in the lives of others. Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. Write a note of appreciation to a woman who has positively influenced your life, whether a biological mother or not.
2. Research and share with the group about a woman in history or in your community who has made a significant impact but may not be widely recognized.
3. Reflect on ways you can support and empower women in your church, workplace, or community. Commit to taking one concrete action this week.
4. Consider how you might use your own position or influence to stand up for those who are vulnerable or oppressed, inspired by the example of these biblical women.