

SAMPLE



In the Time of Exodus the women who saved Moses



Just Brave Enough

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 JustBraveEnough

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A group study. A start to sermon preparation. A personal devotional.




JUST BRAVE ENOUGH

Just Brave Enough is a project of Called to Nourish, LLC, and a collective of people in ministry who feel called to create resources for worshiping communities. Though we have many gifts, we are of the same Spirit, collaborating through all aspects of the content.

Our Mission is to encourage ourselves and others to engage with scripture. We do this through highlighting stories of women in the scripture. Our hope is that by hearing their stories you will be encouraged to share your own story. Also, all content is written by humans, not AI.

This work was the collaboration of the creators of Just Brave Enough (JBE) who have worked in a variety of church settings. We created these resources with churches in mind. We know your context and needs are unique, if there is something we can help you brainstorm or modify, let us know.



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IN THE TIME OF EXODUS



About this guide

In the Time of Exodus: the women who saved Moses

The brave ones are not always the names remembered or written down. Nevertheless, they make an impact.

In this study we take time to share the stories of some of the named and unnamed women who saved Moses. If it were not for them, would he have been the remarkable leader of the Israelites, would he have been raised with the right upbringing to straddle two societies, would he even be alive? Our guess is it's unlikely.

This is why we must share their stories. We've selected 4 women who are often overlooked: The midwives Shiphrah & Puah, Pharaoh's daughter Batyah, Miriam, and Zipporah. Using this guide and the links to further resources, we hope your wondering dives you deeper into their world, your curiosity opens you to the fullness of their story, and further enables you to connect with your own story.

We have suggested taking six weeks: one to get to know each other and yourself five weeks exploring the stories of the women who saved Moses.

May you take time to sit and retell their stories like the generations before. May the inclusion of them spark inspiration for bravery also in yourself.

*Just brave enough,
Yena, Laura, Lillian, Jessica, Becca*



Table of **Contents**

- 1** Session 1 - I am Brave
- 2** Session 2- Shiphrah
- 3** Session 3- Miriam, as a young woman
- 4** Session 4- Batyah
- 5** Session 5- Miriam, as an older woman
- 6** Session 6- Zipporah



Excerpt from the study guide

Session 1

I am Brave

This series contains reflections of women who were in the right place at the right time, were just brave enough, and decided to act. Before we dive into their stories, let's take an opportunity to first connect to the brave person in our own story, YOU!

■ Connect

We are the result of a lifetime's worth of experiences and relationships. Have you ever thought of what made you who you are today? Consider, who are the specific people who made you who you are today? Take a moment to reflect and share.

■ READ

Psalm 139:14-18

■ MEDITATE

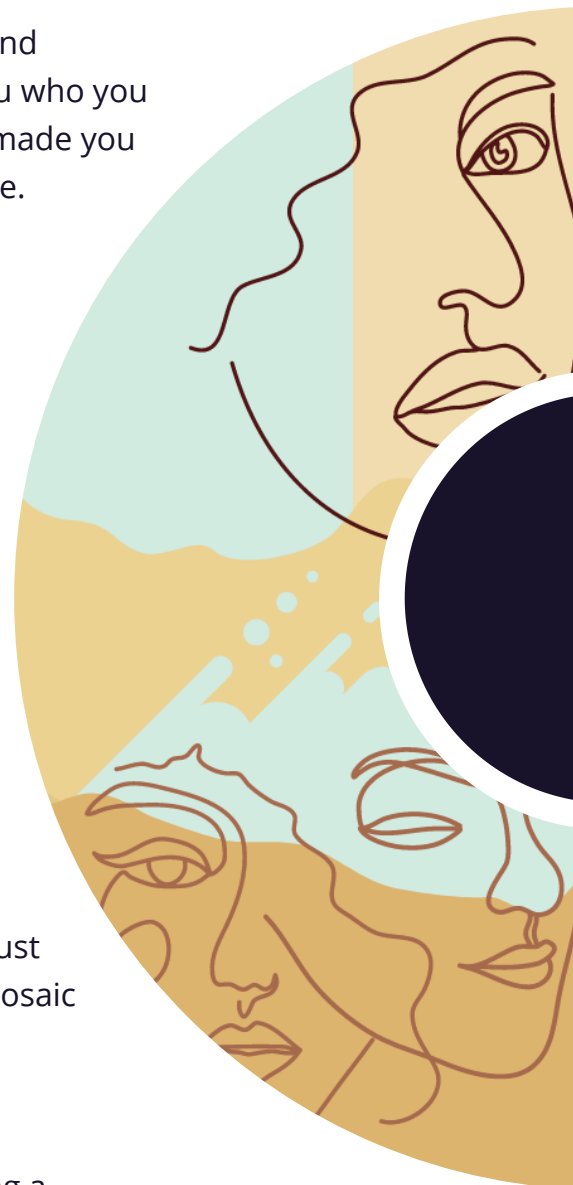
- What does this Psalm reveal about God?
- What does this Psalm reveal about you?

■ PRACTICE

Over the next few weeks you will read the stories of women who had little written about them. You will discover them in new ways and identify with them through first person narratives. Hearing each one of these stories will encourage you and invite you into deeper questions regarding their bravery.

The hope is, by sharing their stories, you too are also just brave enough. If you would like to brush up on your Mosaic history, refer to the bookmark included in the free materials.

You might want to stock up on some notecards or bring a journal to record thoughts, because we will be asking you to connect with others in your life.



How to use the study guide

Each session will have the following prompts.



■ **Connect**

This space will have a question focused on connecting the members of the group together.

■ **READ**

This section will list the scripture passage that correlates with the woman .

■ **READ or LISTEN**

Read or listen to the audio file of the correlating narrative.

■ **MEDITATE**

This space will be used to lift out an impactful phrase from the narrative and 3-4 questions for reflection on the scripture and the narrative for small group discussion.

■ **PONDER**

This space will be used to provide further context for the story and further lift out themes or characters that might have gone unnoticed. a

■ **PRACTICE**

A suggestion about how you might respond to this session usually engaging further with yourself or another human.

■ **FOR FURTHER READING**

A suggestion for a book or an article where you might be enriched with further information on the woman or a topic.

Excerpt from the worship companion

Week 4: We Are Powerful: Batyah

Gather and Connect



Call to Worship

As we gather, we remember who we are.

I am (say your own name).

As we gather, we remember who we are.

We are (insert name of community).

As we gather, we remember who God is.

God is our creator, our guide, and our companion on the journey of life.

As we gather, we remember the women who came before us in the faith, today, we remember Batyah, Pharaoh's Daughter.

Who raised and cared for Moses because her connections to others allowed her to care for him. Let us worship the God who cares for us. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions

Long Ago, When Pharaoh's Daughter © 2009 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

O God of Truth and Glory © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

O For a World

Though I May Speak

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Act of Confession and Forgiveness

Call to Confession (read by the leader)

We often forget the names and stories of people who have helped form who we are. We forget because we undervalue one another, we get distracted by our own needs, we miss the story God is telling. Let us confess our forgetfulness and distractibility.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Creator God,

It is easy for us to remember the names of people we see everyday- those we love, work with, and worship with; but it is also easy for us to forget the names and stories of so many who are important to who we are. Remind us that each person we meet holds your spirit, your love, and your care. Help us to be kind, just, and loving to people we meet, for they are your beloved children. Forgive us when we miss the beauty and power of who our neighbors are, and guide us back to noticing and being in community with all our neighbors.

(time for silent prayer)

Act of Forgiveness

Knowing that forgiveness covers all, turn to a neighbor (preferably not someone in your family), learn their name if you don't know it, look them in the eye and say "NAME, you are forgiven, thanks be to God."

Excerpt from the worship companion

Hearing the Word

Time with Children

*Since this takes up a little more time in the service than usual, consider using this as the scripture reading for the day.

Before worship, ask several women of many ages to take part in presenting this scripture reading which can be divided up amongst the various characters as seen below. This is not a conversation between them as a skit would be, but they do have relation to one another. When presenting, the characters can all be spaced apart. If who you have cast as Miriam is up for it, consider having them move as the script leads them. First to Pharaoh's daughter, next to their mother, then to their original space. Choosing different age voices is a great way to make this intergenerational.

Take this moment in worship to gather the children and introduce the characters they will be hearing from. Share that this story is in the Book of Exodus in the Bible, and it is about the beginnings of a character of a man named Moses. This story starts off like all our stories do, as a baby! Let's hear what happens.

from Exodus 1:8 – 2:10 (NRSV)

Storyteller: Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live."

Shiphrah: But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?"

Puah: The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

Excerpt from the Narratives

Miriam, younger

Exodus 1:8-22

Lillian Hines

When I close my eyes, I see things. Some scenes stand out so vividly that they are in my bones. I don't want to see these things, but the scenes of my life replay over and over, and as much as I don't want these images to be there, I can't erase them. There are times when I want silence, but I hear things. I want stillness, but I feel things, and it all hurts. I remember the day *eema*¹ realized she was pregnant. *Again*. The household was sad because if it was a boy child, we knew he would be killed. I was born into a society where Israelites were detested by Egyptians, patriarchy ruled, and women were viewed as property, and all connected to oppression and enslavement.

No one ever mentioned or talked about their feelings or emotions. Just like *eema* never said she was scared about bringing another child into the world. After all, if it was a boy or a girl, what chance would either have? We are Israelites. Descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, my people have a rich history, filled with ancient matriarchs and patriarchs who sojourned and traveled towards settlements because of covenants with God. My ancestors survived so much that I wonder if my people took the time to think about how we went from surviving famines to enslavement?

Like everyone else, I had heard the stories. A new king arose who did not know Joseph—but who forgets Joseph? If it weren't for him, the king's people—the Egyptians—wouldn't have survived the famine, so how does this Pharaoh not know Joseph? Was he trying to erase the possibility of how bad it could've been? Or maybe his insecurity that the Israelites—the ones Egyptians find detestable—are the very reason Pharaoh is alive today? Is it possible that Pharaoh has flashbacks like me? I don't know. I only know that when I close my eyes, I see things that I can't forget. Painful images. And how I wish I could forget.

I still feel the weight of sadness during *eema's* pregnancy. None of us was happy because we could feel something. I don't remember how Aaron was spared from genocide, but he was. I was as well, but only because of my gender. So the day *eema* went into labor, my anxiety had me in a chokehold and butterflies took possession of my stomach. I lost count of the times my heart stopped beating, but suddenly a single cry of relief and sadness broke through the air and brought me right back to reality. *Damn, another boy.*



Sample weekly poster

WEEK 5

MIRIAM, OLDER

Miriam celebrates with the people

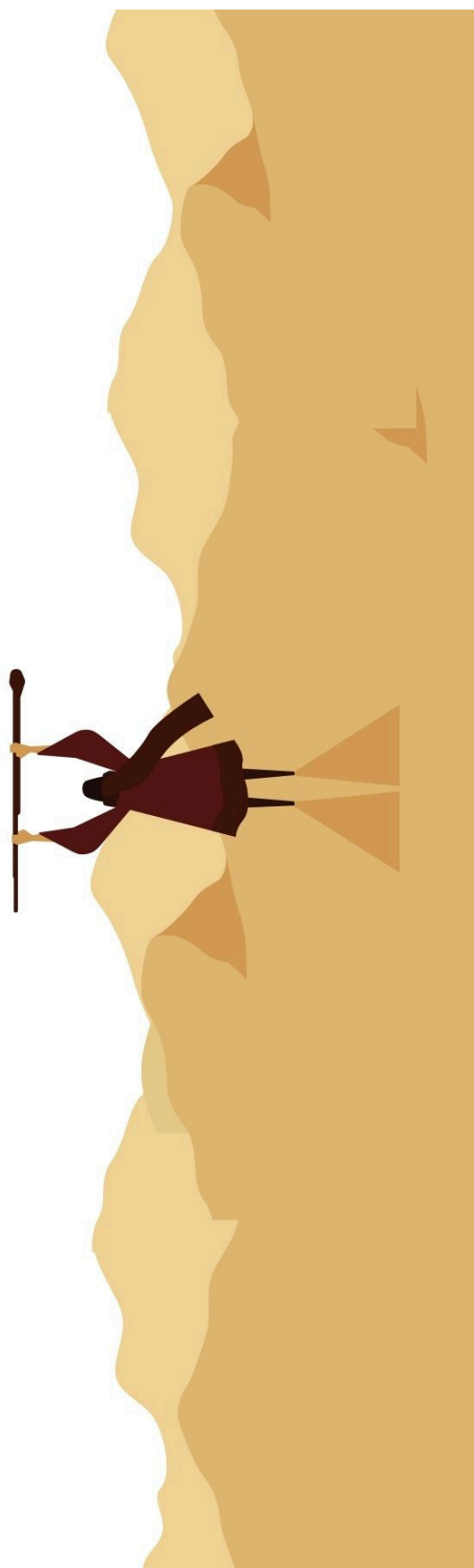


Sample character graphic



BATYAH

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TIMELINE OF MOSES

- **MOSES BIRTH
1525 BC**

- **MOSES IS TRAINED
BY PHARAOH**

- **MOSES KILLS AN
EGYPTIAN MAN**

- **MOSES HERDS
SHEEP FOR 40
YEARS IN
WILDERNESS**

- **THE BURNING BUSH**
- **THE EXODUS
1445 BC**
- **IN ROUTE TO MT.
SINAI**
- **OUTSIDE THE
PROMISED LAND**
- **40 YEARS IN
WILDERNESS**
- **MOSES DIES
1405 BC**
- **ISRAEL ENTERS
PROMISED LAND**

**JUST BRAVE ENOUGH
THE WOMEN WHO
SAVED MOSES**

justbraveenough.com

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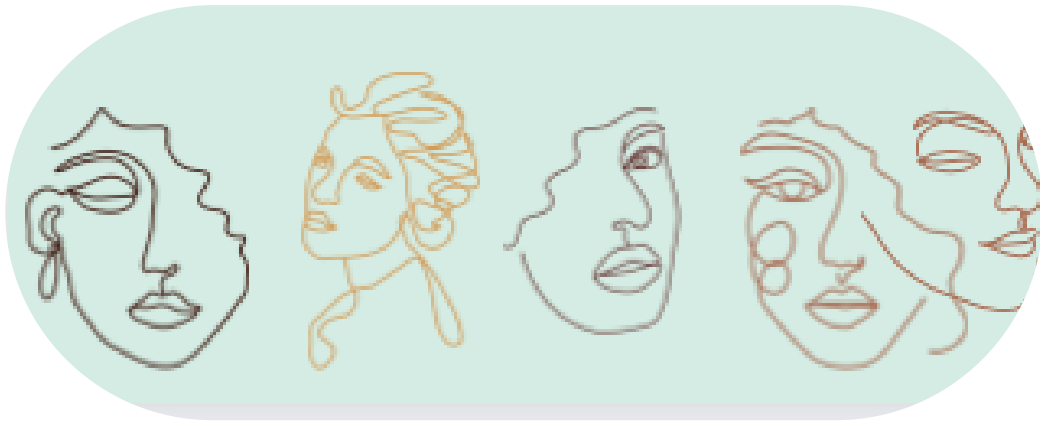


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Blessing

May you...
find the courage and strength to share
your own stories, dear people of faith.
May they be heard,
echoing with voices across time and space to
inspire countless others.

May your...
vulnerability lead to healing,
care lead to support,
and openness lead to growth.


May you feel compelled as you listen
so that you may also be,
just brave enough.
Amen.



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