

SERIES	Exodus
BIBLE	Exodus 1:1-2:25
TITLE	#1: The God Who Hears
OVERVIEW	<p>The book of Exodus is a story. A story about the rescue of God’s people from the hands of the oppressors. It is a story of humans and spiritual forces coming in contact with the real God and finding out who is REALLY in charge. Each piece of this story gives us a piece of a picture, which when put together, shows us who God really is. And even more importantly: how He is the foundation that we can actually stand on—no matter what stage of life we are in. This first story is exactly that... a picture of suffering, where everyone feels alone, but where God is listening, hears your voice, and is able to help.</p>
SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN	<p>The Backstory: Through an amazing miracle, God brings the Israelites to live in Egypt so that they can survive a massive famine. The book of Exodus opens upon the group of people who have now grown up in this new country...</p> <p>God Has People Everywhere (Ex. 1:8-21; Rom. 11:4) On the surface, this is a horrendous situation... the country where you live is sending out people to murder your babies right after they are born. Your first thought may be to hide or fight—you have to take matters into your own hands! But what is incredible in this story, is that the very women sent to kill these babies were worshippers of YAHWEH! And instead of killing the babies, they protected them, even at the risk of their own lives. Very similarly to Elijah, many times you are tempted to feel like you are alone, and you have to solve something on your own (that is the enemy’s lie), when in reality, God has His servants all perfectly placed. And He hears you and is able to move to protect you.</p> <p>God Uses Even Your Enemies for His Purposes (Ex. 1:9-2:10) Forced to throw their babies into the river, one family floats their baby down in a basket, hoping God will see and do something. And He does. In one of the most unexpected twists, the daughter of the murderer sees the baby, and puts a protection over him. Raises him as her own child. Again, it is easy to think things are hopeless, and ask where is God? But God is watching, and is more capable than you could ever imagine. He is capable of even using the very enemy that is against you... to become your rescuer.</p> <p>Just Because You Don’t Understand, Doesn’t Mean God Doesn’t Hear (Ex. 2:11-25) Moses—the baby raised up within the enemy’s ranks—decides to take matters into his own hands, with devastating consequences. With a price on his head, and forced to hide in the desert, he finds a family and protection. And if the story were to end here, we wouldn’t understand. But verses 23-25 show us that God was listening. That God was present. That God was going to provide. This is the foundation that gives us hope. The first piece of the picture. God is a God who Hears.</p>
GOSPEL	<p>1 J n. 5:14-15; J n. 9:31 - God promises that if you are His child, He will listen to you.</p> <p>1 J n. 1:9 - Through the gospel we have access to forgiveness. He actually hears your prayers.</p>
NEXTSTEPS	Ask a mentor to help you with understanding how to pray. Provide resources for “how to pray”