

## group Bible Study – October 3, 2007

### Read Exodus Chapter 1

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This week we begin our quarter-long study of the book of Exodus. Please join us in reading through this book and thinking about it together with the SPU community!

In group this week, Pastor Dahlstrom will tell us that the mission of God's People is to be a blessing to the whole earth. We exist to do God's work in this place. This mission comes straight out of Genesis 12, when God called Abraham and Sarah to become a new nation—*God's nation*. So this mission to be a blessing to the world is the backdrop of everything that we find in the book of Exodus.

Hundreds of years after Abraham and Sarah died, this little nation found itself in trouble. God had promised to protect them forever, so that they would be able to fulfill their mission in the world. But now they were prisoners in the foreign land of Egypt. God's People had become slaves. Instead of living and dying to do God's will, they were living and dying to do the will of Pharaoh. This is a real dilemma—when we read Exodus 1, it looks like God's plan for the world is in danger of failing.

This week we just have a short reading—one tiny little chapter. Take advantage of that. Read through it several times. Look at the details. Let your mind dwell in this text for the next seven days. Think about what is at stake if God's People remain in Egypt. God has something to say to you.

### Study Questions (for individuals or small groups):

- You are God's People, just like Israel in Exodus chapter 1. You have a mission from God to bless the world with your life. In what ways are you held captive and oppressed today—what is holding you back from living *your* mission?
- In Exodus 1 we find the dangerous story of the Hebrew midwives—two women who rebelled against the power of Pharaoh in order to be faithful to God. Meditate on this story. In what ways do *you* need to rebel against the powers and values of this world in order to be faithful to God's mission?
- Sometimes it is overwhelming to think about our mission to bless "the whole earth." What are some small, practical ways that you can bring new peace and love to the lives of people around you this week? How can you reach out to those who are excluded and hurting?