



DEVOTIONS FOR LIFE

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of October 3, 2021: Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

Life Group Gatherings:

The key to the Life Group gathering is to disciple one another, but this does not need to be as daunting as it may sound. Discipleship begins by building community, which is best set up in the home for regular gatherings. For more on how to structure a Life Gathering go to the bottom of our "Devotion" page at www.aldersgatemn.com.

A Prayer for Groups & Personal Devotion:

God, we give you thanks for all the signs of your love that surround us and we bring to you our prayers for a just and equal sharing of all the riches of the earth. You do not choose that some should have too much while others not enough. You do not choose that some should suffer while others prosper. Your will for all creation is good. So help us to increase our efforts to share. Help us to find ways of bringing justice

Devotions for Life

A LifeGroup Resource

The Story: Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

Context: This week we take a giant leap forward. We left off with Jacob swindling the birthright away from his twin brother Esau, having his life then threatened by Esau for doing so, and fleeing in exile. Eventually they reconcile, and Jacob is solidified as the third part of the patriarchy of "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob". Jacob famously then has 12 sons, his favorite of which ends up being sold by his jealous brothers into slavery. This is where we get the much loved musical "Joseph and the Amazing



"Technicolored Dreamcoat". It is this story that lands Jacob's family in Egypt, and the promise of a great nation begins to be fulfilled as we turn the page from Genesis to Exodus and read in Exodus 1:7, "But the Israelites were fruitful and prolific; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with

and peace in our world.
Help us to find ways
of bringing food and shelter
and clean water for all those in
need. Help us to find ways
of bringing healing and
wholeness for all your people.
Change us, O God, that we
may change the world, by
living in the light of your love
and by taking that light into all
the world. In the name of
Christ. Amen.

Acts of Compassion & Justice:

The story of the exodus is among the most important in all of the scriptures. It's a biggie. It is this story that indoctrinated African slaves in the Americas found hope and strength. It is a guiding story for all who are oppressed. What oppressed group might be on your heart these days? What can you do about it? What do you need to learn? How can you actively work for another's release from oppression in "whatever forms it may present itself?" (Remember that part of the UMC Baptismal vows are "to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they prevent themselves.")

them."

The number of Israelites in Egypt was such a perceived threat to Pharaoh that he enslaved the Israelites and orders their firstborn to be killed. A newborn Israelite was sent downriver in a basket as a desperate move to save him. He ends up being found by Pharaoh's daughter who then raises him as an Egyptian. She names him "Moses". But Moses knows his lineage, and when he sees an Egyptian soldier harming an Israelite, he kills him. He then needs to flee and goes into exile. And that's about where today's texts pick up. Whew. That's a lot! But they are crucial steps in the narrative.

Reading the Story: Remember this is all part of one big story. Read it that way. As you read, take your time. Read it paying attention to what jumps out to you. Is there a word or phrase or idea that hits you? Note if there is a question you have about it? Ask that question, search it, and wonder about it. Finally, ask yourself, "what is this story calling me to today?"

Questions for Discussion & Reflection:

- Have you ever been asked to do something you felt was way beyond your abilities? How did it turn out?
- What is something you'd like to do that you think is far beyond what you can do?
- Have you ever felt totally alone in a task? How did that feel? How did you get through it? Were you alone?
- How many different ways does Moses try to get out of God's call? Why does he try so hard to avoid it?
- Is it ok to argue with God? How does God respond here?
- What is significant about God identifying as "I am who I am"?
- What does it mean that God simply "is"? Does that resonate with you in any way?
- Who do you need God to be? Has God been that in your life? Do you believe God could be?