



Near and Now

When My Calling Requires Difficult Choices- Jochebed
By Kelly Rayner

Warm-up Question

Recall a time you had to trust another person. How did it go?



Photo by lauren lulu taylor on [Unsplash](#)

Discussion Questions

1. What do you see in this image?
2. What do you feel looking at this image?
3. What stories from your own life does this image bring to mind?
4. What stories of the world does this image bring to mind?

She placed the child among the reeds

Read [Exodus 2:1-10](#)

Bible Story Reflection

She placed her child among the reeds. I myself am not a mother. I have been blessed with friends that have little ones in their lives and have the honor of being a godmother. Growing up around the water and now watching little ones, I cannot imagine putting an infant in a basket among the reeds. It is not hard to find examples of why this action is not safe, even when all the variables seem to be in the right place. But for Jochebed, this option seemed better than the alternatives for her son.

At the start of this lesson we are reminded of the decree that threatened Moses's life. Pharaoh had declared that any male child born to Hebrews was to be killed in infancy. Fearful for his life, Moses's parents hid him until he was 3 months old and they recognized they could no longer protect him. Filled with faith and trust that God would protect him, they placed him in a waterproof basket made of reeds, setting him to drift away from them. As he drifted, his cries opened the heart of Pharaoh's daughter, who took him in as her own, further setting God's plan forward.

God rewarded Jochebed's and Amram's trust, providing the interception of Miriam, which allowed Jochebed to be Moses's nurse, giving her the chance to raise him and provide him with the teachings of his people, even as he lived and experienced the cultural and life of Egyptian royalty. As we move through our own lives, we are reminded of our own trust and faith in God. They call us to them, reminding us that they have great plans for us and to have faith in those plans. But God also recognizes our struggles and worries in faith and just as he moved Pharaoh's Daughter's heart and provided the interception of Miriam he also provides us a community of trust to lean into.

Discussion Questions

1. How might this story change if told from Jochebed's perspective? What about the daughter of the Pharaoh?
2. What are your measurements of trustworthiness in others?
3. In what ways is it easy to trust God? How is it hard?
4. In what ways does God show his faithfulness to us in this story?
5. How does Miriam's role (Moses's sister) show trust?
6. How does God show his trust in us?
7. How can we live into our calling to be more trusting both in God and in each other?
8. How does our trust in ourselves reflect the trust we have in others?

Activity Suggestions

Break the group into pairs and give one person a simple image. That person must describe the image to another person. After 5 minutes stop and reveal the images. How did you experience trust in this activity?

Divide into small groups (ideally 2-3 people). Take turns having one person stand with their backs to the other(s). The others will take turns approaching the person until that person says stop. Take a moment to see how close you are and how you feel during the activity.

Using a piece of paper, divide it into three sections. At the top of the sections write: myself, others, and God. Use the space below to either draw or write out ways that you find and build trust within each.

Prayer Concerns

Those struggling to trust, those who have great trust, and those who bring us together in community

Closing Prayer

It is not always easy to know how to live into my calling, O God. Guide me to the choices you would have me make today. In the name of +Jesus, Amen.

