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**The Birth and Escape of Moses**

**A Mother's Faith, a Son's Brashness**

***Exodus 2***

**Purpose:** To gain insight into both personal courage and brashness, pride and the consequences of failure.

Working downtown on an engineering maintenance project, the man knew that his friend's wife lay dying in a hospital only four blocks away. But he didn't go to see the woman. Lack of appropriate dress demolished his courage to do something bold in Christ's name. Few of us can brag about how bravely we have responded in crisis. Faith, for us, is a comfortable intellectual exercise, not something that demands bold action. That definition becomes even more attractive when we're not sure how to distinguish between faith and foolishness. This study contrasts a privileged kid's brashness with a woman's courageous faith in action.

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**1.** How has God confronted you recently with a demand for courageous faith?

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**2.**  Read Exodus 2. How did God plan for the infant Moses to survive Pharaoh's murderous edict (vv. 1–10)?

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**Question 2.** Pharaoh's daughter would probably be a daughter by one of his concubines, not a princess of royal blood. She would have taken Moses to the harem where he would be brought up learning to read and write, and gaining expertise in various skills and sports (see Acts 7:22). It was not unusual for foreigners to be brought up like this and given responsible positions in the army, civil service or priesthood. The name Moses means “to draw out of the water.” Children often were named after important events (see v. 22).

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**3.** What did Moses' survival cost his mother?

His sister?

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**4.** Why do you think Pharaoh's daughter defied her father's order?

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**5.**  What has been the most costly thing you have had to do for God?

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**6.** Why did Moses flee to Midian (vv. 11–15)? (He was 40 years old at the time.)

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**Question 6.** Midian, on the eastern gulf of the Red Sea, was inhabited by shepherds descended from Keturah, one of the wives of Abraham. They worshipped the true God and their chief, Jethro (also called Reuel), was also their priest.

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**7.** What motivated him to kill the Egyptian?

To settle a fight between two Hebrews?

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**8.** Who did Moses challenge next, and why (vv. 16–22)?

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**10.**  If you had to describe your personality in two or three words, how would you compare it to Moses'?

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**Question 10.** Allow time for people to think before speaking. Do not rush or force people into answering personal questions too quickly. Silent reflection is a valuable time during Bible study.

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**11.** Meanwhile, what was happening to the Israelites in Egypt (v. 23)?

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**12.** How did their condition affect God, and why (vv. 24–25)?

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**13.** God hears the cries of his people today. What difference does that make when you are confronted by circumstances you are powerless to change?

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**Question 13.** Personal responses may come slowly, especially during the first few group discussions. It takes time for a group to establish an identity and a setting where people feel safe with each other. As trust and confidence grow, people will talk about personal ideas in more depth.

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