**BCM Bible Study: August 26/27, 2020**

**Exodus 1: Where is God?**

Setting the Stage: **Read Exodus 1:1-7**

* Take a moment to reflect on what happened before Exodus – what do you know about the life of Joseph?
* Look at how Genesis ends: **Read Genesis 50:15-20**. What do we learn about God’s character in v.20?
  + Romans 8:28 states a similar idea. Why is it sometimes difficult to believe that God is working in difficult times?
  + When have you seen God do what Joseph says in v.20?

An Oppressed People: **Read Exodus 1:8-22**

* What are the ways that the Egyptians oppressed the Israelites in this passage?
* Verse 8 states that Pharaoh did not know Joseph. (This could mean he really didn’t know about Joseph or that he chose to act in spite of knowing about him) Why is this significant?
  + Had Pharaoh known Joseph and heeded the lessens learned, how might this have impacted the way he ruled?
  + In the same way, how does remembering the past actions of God influence the way you live now?
* What was Pharaoh’s motivating factor in his actions against Israel? How do you see fear driving his actions?
* How do the Hebrew midwives show us an example of faith?
  + Living by faith sometimes means acting in ways that put us at odds with society. What might this look like today?
* Have you ever been through a season when God seems absent and the world seems out of control? Have you felt that way during the pandemic?
  + What doubts and struggle do you need to bring to God?
  + What promises can we rest on in the midst of sever struggles?
  + The Pharaoh lived in fear; we are called to live by faith. What do these different mindsets (fear/faith) look like in daily life?
* Despite the oppression of Pharaoh how do you see a glimpse of God’s sovereignty in this passage? (see v.12)
  + In these hard days, have you seen evidence of God’s redemptive hand? How is he already bringing beauty out of ashes?

Challenge: Take time to write a prayer to God this week. Tell him about your doubts and fears. Ask him to help you live by faith. Ask him to bring his kingdom and bring about healing. Praise him for his faithfulness in the past. We will reflect on this to begin next week.