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Exodus 1:8-22

1. Just as God's promises to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob gave the Israelites hope, how do God's promises encourage you in what is going on in your life today?
2. Read Exodus 1:8-10. Dan said, "When circumstances seem hostile to you, remember the essence of the Christian faith is not certainty. It's trusting God in uncertain times." What are some recent changes in your life that have caused anxiety or hardship?
3. Read Exodus 1:11-14. Describe a time in your life when pain and hardship have been a catalyst that brought positive change in your life. Looking back, how did you see God working (redeeming) that painful experience? How might these examples help you in what is going on in your life right now?
4. Read Exodus 1:15-22. Why does it seem that throughout history, when God's people around the world experience persecution they grow and get stronger?
5. Discuss this quote: *"What the Exodus...taught first, that wherever you live, it is probably Egypt. Second, that there is a better place, a world more attractive, a promised land. And third, that "the way to the promised land is through the wilderness."*

Imagine being delivered from something that is holding you in bondage.

- What truth do you need to know to experience deliverance?
- What support do you need around you as you go through the wilderness?
- When you think about leaving the old life that Christ died to deliver you from, what new blessings does God promise you to embrace and enjoy?

6. Looking at verses 19-22, where might God be challenging you to stand up to power and show courageous obedience?
  
7. Reflect on these four reasons we can have hope from Exodus 1. Which of these reasons for hope resonate most with you today? Why?
  - A. God's people will receive the fulfillment of His promises
  - B. God's promises don't change even when our circumstances do
  - C. God's presence is assured in our suffering
  - D. God's blessing is on those who show courageous obedience