

SEQUIM COMMUNITYCHURCH

Heart to Heart Bible Study

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

November 8, 2016

Jochebed

AN EXAMPLE OF COURAGEOUS FAITH

Nothing about Jochebed's humble origins hinted at the greatness that would come from her. She was born in captivity in Egypt. Her people were slave laborers. To keep the rapidly growing slave population under control, Pharaoh ordered that all Hebrews boys be put to death as soon as they were born. Shortly thereafter, Jochebed gave birth to a baby boy. Her older son, Aaron, had been born before Pharaoh's decree. Her daughter, Miriam, was unaffected, as the decree targeted boys. Desperate times call for desperate measures. So Jochebed crafted a waterproof basket for her newborn and place him in the Nile River, near where Pharaoh's daughter regularly bathed. It was an audacious plan, but one that worked to perfection. Pharaoh's daughter found the child and decided to keep him as her own. A strategically positioned Miriam offered to find a Hebrew woman to nurse and care for the baby, whom Pharaoh's daughter later named Moses.

Read Exodus 2:1-10; 3:1-15 & Hebrews 11:24-26.

Small Group Opener:

Why is being a mother so hard? _____

Please look up these verses and answer the following questions:

1. Evil is a fact of life in this fallen world. When her third baby was born, the Pharaoh in Egypt put forth his evil hand of oppression to harm God's people (*Read Exodus 1:11*), ordering that every boy born to the Jews be murdered (*Read Exodus 1:11*). What could Jochebed – a godly woman and devoted mother – do against such evil? _____

2. Read Exodus 2:1-9. Notice that no names are mentioned. Who (*according to Exodus 6:20*) was Amram's wife, and what were the names of the children? (*See also Exodus 15:20*). _____

• How did Jocheded show remarkable faith? _____

• How does Jochebed show great courage in the midst of a very challenging situation? _____

3. Where might others point to in your life as evidence of your trust in God? _____

- How does Jochebed's courage motivate you to take a more active role in the challenges you are presently facing? _____

4. Read Hebrews 11:24-25 to see the honored results of Jochebed's faith in courage.

5. Next, read Deuteronomy 6:5-7 and write out God's two basic guidelines for your life as a mother:

6. Read Proverbs 22:6. What does Solomon promise to mothers who seek to raise Godly children?

- Re-read Hebrews 11:24-26. At age 40 years of age, Moses chose to identify with God's people rather than remain in the pharaoh's palace and that was the first step toward the important role God had for him.

7. The lives of Jochebed's children is quite a legacy. Exactly who were her celebrated children?

- Read Exodus 30:30 concerning Aaron
- Read Exodus 15:20 about Miriam
- Moses' leadership is detailed in Exodus 2:10 & 4:11-12; 24:3.

GOING FURTHER - ADDITIONAL STUDY

The Apostle Paul gave the Ephesians a word of encouragement: "Finally, be strong in the Lord!" (*Ephesians 6:10*). That is "Be of good courage! As Christians we, perhaps above all else, should be resolute in the face of difficulty and evil.

- Read Joshua 1:7. What do learn about our attitude as Christians as we face our "daily battles" in life? _____

Consider a few kinds of "battles" that we all must take on as those seeking to be fully devoted followers of Christ. One battle is that of following Christ above all else in life. An exceptional response of faithfulness can be seen in the life of Abraham. Read Genesis 22:1-18. What was Abraham asked to sacrifice to follow God? _____

- Now read, Matthew 10:32-39, what Jesus states about what we maybe called to do in our obedience to Him?
- What is your response to the following quote, "Run the knife of sacrifice into the very heart of it (life) and do this freely, joyfully – for a sacrifice is not pleasing to God if it is offered with a countenance cast down." _____

A second battle we all face is living life in a manner that is "set apart" from the world's worldly ways. Read Romans 12:2. What is Paul commanding us to do? _____

The Christian must stand against what is not right by remaining fixed and principle,d showing that our citizenship is not of this earth but is holy and eternal. It takes courage to put up with what might be rejection of one form or another. Being distinctive can have it's price.

A third point of conflict in life is staying the course of courageous faith over the course of our life.

- What does James 1:2-5 teach about persevering in our faith? _____

- What else to we learn from James 1:12? _____

Persevering is hard work! Taking up the cross of your faith daily means never giving in and never giving up when it comes to being faith to God's Word and God's ways.

- Like a warrior going into battle we must put on our spiritual armor everyday.
Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Note each piece of armor and its corresponding help in a Christian's life of faith:
