



# LADIES OF RENOWN

## Courageous Integrity

*When Obedience Costs Something*

Shiphrah and Puah

Exodus 1:8-22

**Big Idea:** Integrity is choosing to obey God over people, even when it comes at personal risk.

### I. Corrupt Cultures Create Pressure to Compromise [Exodus 1:8-14]

*Application: Integrity becomes most visible when the pressure to compromise increases.*

### II. Godly Fear Produces Courageous Obedience [Exodus 1:15-17]

*Characteristics of Courageous Obedience:*

- [1] Obeying God when no one is watching.
- [2] Telling the truth when lying would benefit you.
- [3] Protecting what God values even when culture rejects it.
- [4] Remaining faithful when compromise would be easier.

### III. Courageous Integrity Leaves a Lasting Legacy [Exodus 1:18-22]

*Application: You may never realize who your obedience protects, who your example strengthens, or how your faithfulness shapes future generations.*

*Small acts of integrity can become part of God's greater rescue story.*

[Exodus 1:8-14] Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. [cited in Acts 7:18] <sup>9</sup> And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. [Psalm 105:24] <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, [Psalm 83:3-4, 105:25] lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them [Exodus 3:7, Deuteronomy 26:6] with heavy burdens. [Exodus 2:11, 5:4-5, 6:6-7, Psalm 81:6] They built for Pharaoh store cities, [2 Chronicles 16:4] Pithom and Raamses. [Exodus 12:37, Genesis 47:11] <sup>12</sup> But [#1] the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. <sup>13</sup> So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves [see chapter 5:17-19] <sup>14</sup> and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. [Exodus 2:23, 6:9, Numbers 20:15, Acts 7:19, 7:34]

[Exodus 1:15-17] Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." <sup>17</sup> But [#2] the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. [Proverbs 16:6, Daniel 3:16-18, 6:13, Acts 5:29]

[Exodus 1:18-22] So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." <sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. [Eccl. 8:12] <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews [Acts 7:19] you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

#### Study Question [Challenge and Prayer]

**Question:** Where in your life are you most tempted to compromise your convictions in order to avoid pressure, conflict, or discomfort?

**Challenge:** Choose one area this week where you will intentionally practice courageous integrity . . .

- [a] by speaking truth kindly
- [b] refusing compromise
- [c] standing up for someone vulnerable
- [d] obeying God even when it is inconvenient or uncomfortable.

**Prayer:** Ask God [1] for the courage to obey Him even when it is difficult, [2] help you to fear Him more than the opinions of people, [3] to strengthen your integrity, [4] guard your heart from compromise, and [5] help your life reflect faithfulness in both small and great moments — using your obedience for His glory and for the good of others.