

# NEARLY NAMELESS



LITTLE KNOWN STORIES OF WOMEN IN THE BIBLE WHO MADE A BIG IMPACT

## SHIPHRAH & PUAH.

Shiphrah and Puah are names we should know. These women were courageous *and* faithful *and* intelligent. Talk about a triple threat!

When Pharaoh ordered them to secretly kill all the Hebrew boys during childbirth, they quietly and courageously disobeyed. They disobeyed Pharaoh in order to obey God.

Shiphrah and Puah quietly resisted Pharaoh and saved the lives of countless children. They did not call him out publicly. They simply (and bravely) did not obey. Because of their bravery and faithfulness to God, He blessed them. But later on Moses was not quiet at all. He very loudly called Pharaoh out and boldly led the Israelites out of Egypt.

Walking in the ways of God is so much more than checking off a list of do's and don't's. It is life. It is relationship. It is discernment and wisdom and getting to know His voice. (Jesus flipped all these do's and don't's all over the place in Matthew 5:21-45 anyway!)

But here's what we can say: Following Jesus is worth it, even when it's hard. Following Jesus is worth it, even when it's quiet and know one ever knows. And we (like Shiphrah and Puah) can find, through our friend and Savior Jesus, the courage to do what is right.

# IN THE BIBLE.

## EXODUS 1:8-22

Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. 9 He said to his people, “Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. 10 We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don’t, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.”

11 So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king. 12 But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became. 13 So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. 14 They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.

15 Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: 16 “When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live.” 17 But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king’s orders. They allowed the boys to live, too.

18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. “Why have you done this?” he demanded. “Why have you allowed the boys to live?”

19 “The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women,” the midwives replied. “They are more vigorous and have their babies so quickly that we cannot get there in time.”

20 So God was good to the midwives, and the Israelites continued to multiply, growing more and more powerful. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live.”

# QUESTIONS.

*Feel free to talk through some or all of these questions*

- 1.) What can you learn from Shiphrah & Puah?
- 2.) How can you practice listening for the voice of God this week?
- 3.) How can you know when to quietly do what is right vs. calling out sin publicly?
- 4.) What does this story tell you about God?

## TAKE TEN:

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?