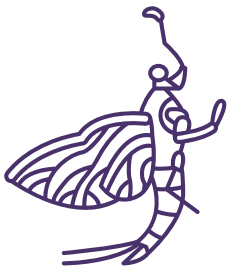




SOAP BIBLE STUDY

PURPOSE



SHIPHRAH & PUAH
EXODUS 1:15-21



MAYFLY MOMENTS MICRO MODULES



Introduction

FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN
CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH
GOD PREPARED BEFORE THAT WE WOULD
WALK IN THEM.

EPHESIANS 2:10 (WEB)

Greetings, Sisters in Christ.

I wanted to take a moment to encourage and remind you that we all have a divine purpose.

Some of us, as we're walking in the path that God has laid out for us, will lead us to impact thousands. Maybe hundreds of thousands. Names we may never know personally. Yet, they will remember you because of the light you brought to their darkness.

Some of us will have the opportunity to touch the lives of a select few. They will know your name and you will know theirs – holding each other dear in each other's hearts for the experience.

And some of us are purposed to live in total obscurity – quietly completing the tasks that God has assigned, bringing you little recognition but Him all the glory.

As it should be.

"...Everyone who is called by my name, and whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, yes, whom I have made." - Isaiah 43:7

Introduction, cont'd

In this focus on Purpose, I want to shine the light on two little-known women from the Bible - Shiphrah and Puah, two Hebrew midwives.

In a world that often demands conformity to unjust systems, their story from Exodus 1:15-21 offers a powerful example of moral courage and steadfast faith.

These women were faced with a direct command from Pharaoh to kill Hebrew baby boys. Yet, they chose to defy this order because of their reverence for God.

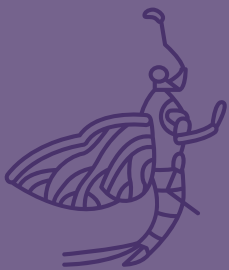
Their actions not only spared the lives of countless children but also played a key role in God's plan for Israel's deliverance from slavery.

Despite the risk to their own lives, Shiphrah and Puah demonstrated an unwavering commitment to justice, showing that when God's principles are at stake, His followers must act with integrity and courage.

Using the SOAP Bible study method, let's see what we can learn from their example and how we can apply these lessons in our own lives.



SCRIPTURE



Read Exodus 1:15-21 carefully.

Pay special attention to the midwives' response when facing a power seemingly greater than their own.

SCRIPTURE, cont'd

Exodus 1:15-21 (WEB)

15 The king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah,

16 and he said, "When you perform the duty of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birth stool, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

17 But the midwives feared God, and didn't do what the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the baby boys alive.

18 The king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said to them, "Why have you done this thing and saved the boys alive?"

19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women aren't like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

20 God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied, and grew very mighty.

21 Because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

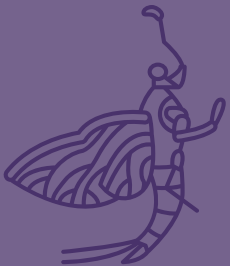


OBSERVATION

Did you notice in our very first verse how the lowly were called before the mighty?

Review their careful, wise response to what was surely an extremely stressful meeting!

Let's take a closer look at the other qualities that helped these women successfully walk in their purpose.



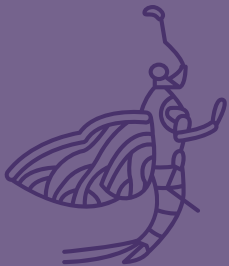
OBSERVATION, cont'd

Shipuah and Puah were:

- **Humble:** Shiphrah and Puah were Hebrew midwives, most likely of low social status in Egypt.
- **Devout:** Despite the Pharaoh's cruel decree to kill male Hebrew infants, they acted out of fear and reverence for God rather than submitting to the Pharaoh's orders.
- **Courageous:** The midwives' actions stand in stark contrast to the oppression of the Hebrews under Egyptian rule, demonstrating their courage and moral integrity.
- **Wise:** Their response to Pharaoh's interrogation was both wise and bold. Rather than confronting him directly, they provided an explanation that allowed them to maintain their position without immediately inciting Pharaoh's wrath.
- **Faithful:** God rewarded them for their faithfulness. He blessed them with their own families, and the Hebrew people continued to prosper under their care.



APPLICATION



Have you ever been in a situation when you were called to give an account of your actions by a superior? A boss, a parent, or a political leader? How did it make you feel? Were you nervous? Anxious? Were you defensive?

Or did you feel confident because you'd made the right decision? Even with being in the right, as Christians, we should realize that right and righteousness aren't the same thing. We are only truly victorious because of God's righteous favor over our lives.

Let's review what can we take away from this retelling of Shiphrah and Puah's story.

APPLICATION, cont'd

Fear of God Over Fear of Man

Have you ever heard the phrase “Go along to get along?” Or maybe you’ve used it yourself. It’s an often-used phrase that gives us the illusion of keeping the peace. Meaning, that if you do what “the crowd” says or does to not make waves, to not draw attention to yourself or even your faith, you are hiding your light. You may be missing an opportunity to stand out and stand up for what’s right.

Shiphrah and Puah remind us that following God’s commands is always more important than going along with what others say—especially when it’s wrong or unfair. They respected God so much that they had the courage to stand up to Pharaoh’s terrible orders. That’s a big challenge for us today, too! Sometimes, obeying God means standing out or going against what’s popular, but their example shows us how to stay faithful even when it’s hard.

APPLICATION, cont'd

Acting with Wisdom and Discretion

When Shiphrah and Puah faced an impossible situation, they didn't panic or react recklessly. Instead, they used wisdom and gave Pharaoh a smart answer that didn't stir up more trouble. We can learn from them about how to handle tough situations—standing for what's right while also being thoughtful about how we do it.

When Jesus sent his disciples into the world to begin spreading his message, he cautioned them.

**'BEHOLD, I SEND YOU OUT AS SHEEP AMONG WOLVES.
THEREFORE BE WISE AS SERPENTS AND HARMLESS AS DOVES.**

MATTHEW 10:16 (WEB)

Make no mistake about it, Sisters. Your faith will be challenged. Your integrity will be challenged. Your authority to speak God's Word will be challenged.

Keep your cool and maintain all three when the opposition comes against you.

APPLICATION, cont'd

God Rewards Faithfulness

God saw Shiphrah and Puah's courage and blessed them in amazing ways. They not only got families of their own but also saw the Hebrew people grow stronger because of their actions.

This is a great reminder that God notices our faithfulness, even in small things, and He often rewards us in ways we don't expect.

Sometimes, it's hard to recognize God's rewards. The world is trying to teach us that blessings and rewards are typically monetary. Yes, God can bless with financial gains. A new job. A promotion. Or a sudden windfall that comes at just the right time.

Don't let the skewed vision of worldly gains blind us to other ways God blesses us.

Take a moment to reflect on some of His goodness.

Are you breathing? A blessing.

Is blood flowing through your veins? A blessing.

Can you see the words written on this page? Or can you hear someone reading them to you? Count it all as blessings!

APPLICATION, cont'd

Courage in Everyday Roles

There are so many wonderful women role models in the Bible. Names that are presented over and over as strong, virtuous women filled with divine purpose. Esther, Deborah, Hannah, Mary....

Shiphrah and Puah weren't queens or warriors—they were midwives doing ordinary work. But God used them in a mighty way!

Their story shows us that no matter how small or simple our role might seem, God can use us to make a big difference when we are faithful and diligent in what we do.

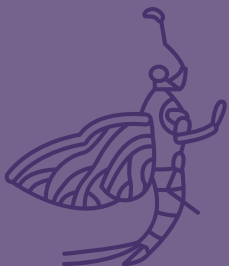
Whether you are the leader of a megachurch flock or ushering in a visitor to a seat in a small, country church, God sees your effort and honors you when you honor Him with your service. Be encouraged that tasks that seem to go unnoticed or unthanked are held in God's highest regard when you do it for him.

**AND WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK HEARTILY, AS FOR THE LORD,
AND NOT FOR MEN, KNOWING THAT FROM THE LORD YOU WILL
RECEIVE THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE; FOR YOU SERVE
THE LORD CHRIST.**

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 (WEB)



PRAYER



Abba, Father:

Thank You for the example of Shiphrah and Puah, who showed us what it means to fear You above all else. Help me to be bold in my faith, just as these midwives were, and to trust in Your wisdom and guidance.

Teach me how to act with courage in the face of adversity, stand for righteousness, and live with integrity, even when it's difficult. May I always seek Your will above the opinions of others, knowing that You honor faithfulness. Lord, help me to see my purpose in everyday tasks and to faithfully carry out the work You've given me.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

SOAP BIBLE STUDY

DATE

S M T W T F S



FAVORITE SCRIPTURE



OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER



MY NOTES



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A large, empty rectangular box for drawing or additional notes, located on the right side of the page.

A grid of small dots for drawing or additional notes, located on the right side of the page.



RESOURCES



Scan the QR Code to hear an inspiring word from the latest Mayfly Moments podcast.



Scan the QR Code to explore Bible-inspired items that enrich your faith through touch.



Scan the QR Code for a collection of faith resources you can save and share



Scan the QR Code to access recipes inspired by food from the Bible to nourish your body and soul.



Scan the QR Code to access our unique selection of scented items to help you meditate and reflect while you study God's Word.





Thank You!

Thank you for reviewing our focus topic:
PURPOSE.

We pray that this micro-mod has opened the door to helping you engage in active, positive dialog as you share your learning with others.

Please contact us if you have any further questions or want to explore other topics.

May your continued study of God's Word be filled with wisdom, inspiration, and a renewed passion to fulfill the divine purpose God has for your life.

Kyrtal G. Livingston

Servant Leader