

## Life as an unfolding story

Scripture used: Hebrews 11:23-24 (NLT)

### OVERVIEW

#### Big Idea:

Life is an unfinished story, and its ending and meaning are yet-to-be-determined. Whatever our station in life, we can lead deeply meaningful lives that outlast our time on Earth. Like an avid reader who gets surprised by the unanticipated ending of each new book, we need to stay open-minded and curious.

### KEY POINTS

1) **Point #1 - The world is an unfolding story**

The story in our scripture is that Moses' parents hid him because "he was no ordinary child." The historical context: Jews had been enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. The Pharaoh was very concerned by their fertility and increasing numbers which threatened the status and authority of the native Egyptians. So Pharaoh ordered Jewish male babies to be killed periodically as a sort of population control. Moses' parents showed grit and resourcefulness in protecting their child and thus saving his life. We live day-to-day, yet life is an unfolding story, full of twists and turns. The beginning of 2018 is a good time to regain that perspective.

2) **Point #2 - Choose to view the world as directed by God, not just random chance**

Baby Moses is put in a basket to float down the Nile. The basket drifts into reeds. Pharaoh's daughter finds it. Moses' very own mother is hired as a slave nurse for the child. We should have a posture of faith and trust that God exists and is at work in our lives. We can look at the world and our lives with two lenses: 1. one lens postulates that events are dictated by random chance; or 2. the other lens insists that events are dictated by Providence: the Lord's dispensation to the people of the world.

3) **Point #3 - Use incremental resolutions to achieve God's life purpose for you**

It's important to reflect on the high points of our own story. Why are we here? Why did we get educated, married, have children? Divine direction takes place when will, purpose, and wisdom intersect; it often occurs at the confluence of small decisions. Pastor Hurmon used a quilt and its patches as an illustration of the different aspects of life. Many assume that God either controls everything or absolutely nothing. In fact, God does not control everything, but works with us to achieve His purpose. Moses grows up privileged and carefree in Pharaoh's household. Yet he hears the call to be a liberator of his people. The tragedy of slavery is transformed into the Exodus and the triumph of the Promised Land. The fate of Moses' family is changed forever. The decades of slavery are wiped away, just like our enslavement to addiction, poverty, domestic violence, etc. can be redeemed. We should take what life gives us, but each new year should see us making a handful of incremental resolutions and asking God's help in implementing them!

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What do you believe when it comes to events in your life? What is God telling us in Hebrews?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Where have you felt the intervention of divine providence in your life? What have been your twists and turns, and do they drive to a destination of grace?
- 3) **DO** - Discuss with your Life Group what your incremental resolutions will be for 2018, and how you will ask for God's help in implementing them and keeping yourself accountable. Come for Part 2 next week.