



## PROTECT WHAT MATTERS

### Exodus 1:15-22

*"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."*

- *"Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: '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.'"* (Exodus 1:15-16)
- **Children have always lived in a dangerous world (Exodus 1:15-22, Matthew 2:16-18).**
- **All children are precious in God's sight.**
- Jesus - *"But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.'"* (Matthew 19:14)
- **Before they ever come into our world, children are faced with danger.**
  - **Since 1973 there have been more than 60 million abortions in our nation.**
  - **For every 1000 live births, there are 135 abortions.**
- **In today's world, children are facing incredible pressures and dangers.**
  - **48,000 of America's children are in prison.**
  - **5 out of every 10 American children live in a broken home.**
  - **1 out of every 6 children in America has a mental illness.**
  - **1 out of 4 fourth graders has already experienced alcohol intoxication.**
  - **190,000 teenage girls in America will get pregnant this year (and this doesn't include those who get pregnant and get an abortion).**
- *"But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders. They allowed the boys to live, too . . . So God was good to the midwives, and the Israelites*

*continued to multiply, growing more and more powerful. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.” (Exodus 1:17, 20-21)*

- **We have been called by God to protect our young people from the pressures and dangers that they face.**
- ***How can we protect our young people from the pressures and dangers they face?***

***We Can “Protect What Matters” By Helping To:***

**GUARD THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

- *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us.’” (Genesis 1:26)*
- **It is our first and foremost responsibility as a people to protect life because people are made in the image of God.**
- *“Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die; save them as they stagger to their death. Don’t excuse yourself by saying, ‘Look, we didn’t know.’ For God understands all hearts, and He sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.” (Proverbs 24:11-12)*
- *“If we’re pro-life. we’re pro-life from womb to tomb.” - Leonce Crump, Phil Robertson, Eugene Cho, and pretty much every other evangelical speaker in 2020*
- *“Every life counts: from the beginning to the end, from conception to natural death.” - Pope Francis, Twitter*
- **We can guard the lives of our young people by: 1) supporting legislation that protects the unborn, 2) supporting organizations that support foster care and adoption, and 3) supporting organizations and policies aimed at addressing poverty, crime, and family wholeness.**

***We Can “Protect What Matters” By Helping To:***

**GUARD THE HEARTS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

- *“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” (Proverbs 4:23)*
- **We need to teach our young people to value what God values.**
- *“But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after My own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.’” (Acts 13:22)*
- ***What does God value?***
- ***God values faith.***
- *“But because the midwives feared God. . .” (Exodus 1:17)*
- **Our first and foremost allegiance should be to the Lord.**
- ***God values righteousness.***
- *“Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah. . .But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king’s orders. They allowed the boys to live, too.” (Exodus 1:15,17)*
- **What is legal is not always moral, and what is moral is not always legal.**
- ***God values sacrifice.***

- *“So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. ‘Why have you done this?’ he demanded. ‘Why have you allowed the boys to live?’”* (Exodus 1:18)
- **In taking hold of Jesus we have to be willing to let go of anything that isn’t Jesus.**
- Jesus - *“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?”* (Luke 9:24-25)

**We Can “Protect What Matters” By Helping To:**

**GUARD THE MINDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

- *“The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, ‘Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?’”* (Genesis 3:1)
- **The serpent sowed sin into the garden of Eden by causing Adam and Eve to question what God had told them.**
- ***How do we guard the minds of our young people?***
- ***Guarding the minds of our young people takes fences.***
- Paul - *“Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God’s people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.”* (Ephesians 5:3-4)
- **The devil is seeking to use ungodly entertainment, ungodly websites, and ungodly friendships to undermine God’s will for our young people.**
- ***Guarding the minds of our young people takes focus.***
- *“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.”* (Proverbs 22:6)
- **The best way to help young people keep out the bad stuff is by helping them to focus on the good stuff.**
- *“How can a young person stay pure? By obeying Your word.”* (Psalm 119:9)

**We Can “Protect What Matters” By Helping To:**

**GUARD THE SOULS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

- **While life is a precious gift from the Lord, it is not the most precious thing God has given us.**
- Jesus - *“And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”* (Matthew 16:26)
- **The best thing we can do to *Protect What Matters* is to help young people develop a vibrant relationship with Jesus.**
- **Most young people do not get to observe devoted Christians passionately practicing their faith.**
- *“Let each generation tell its children of Your mighty acts; let them proclaim Your power.”* (Psalm 145:4)
- *“But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king’s orders. They allowed the boys to live, too.”* (Exodus 1:17)
- **Protecting our young people is a burden that belongs to more than just parents.**

- Adults can help *Protect What Matters* by serving in ministries/organizations both inside and outside of our church, such as:
  - Celebration Ministries:
    - [Celebration “Kidztown” Children’s Ministry for kids birth - 4th grade](#)
    - [Celebration “Midpoint” Junior High Ministry for 5th - 7th graders](#)
    - [Celebration “The Social” Youth Ministry for 8th - 12th graders](#)
  - Community Ministries/Organizations:
    - Celebration’s *Life Transformation Center*
    - [RESET Camp](#)
    - [Trinity Community Center](#)
    - [Jesus Project](#)
    - [Next Generation](#)
    - [Each One Save One](#)
- *What is God saying to me through this message?*