

Immerse Day 21 :: March 1

Women often play crucial roles in preserving their people in difficult times. I am grateful that the Bible records four of these women at the beginning of Exodus. Shiphrah and Puah, the Hebrew midwives, were called before Pharaoh to receive grisly instructions. It's hard to imagine the scene of these slave women in the presence of the seemingly all-powerful Pharaoh. And yet, they chose to follow God's principle of preserving human life – before the people had even been given the 10 commandments! Their bravery spoke truth to power.

Then we have Moses' mother Jochebed. (She is not named in today's story, but we will learn her name on p.93) With a fierce mother-love she, found a creative way to "follow" Pharaoh's rules. She "cast" Moses into the Nile – but she added a little boat. She, like Shiphrah and Puah, followed God instead of Pharaoh, believing that God would act.

And finally, we have Miriam, Moses' sister. She is not named in this story either, but later in Exodus becomes well-known as Moses' sister. Miriam as a slave child herself, guarded the baby Moses and approached the princess with the plan to return her baby brother to their home for a time.

These four women stand as beacons for everyone who feels that the "system" is against them, or too broken to fix. Their actions, putting God ahead of all else, should inspire us to courage in the face of injustice. Remember their names: Shiphrah, Puah, Jochebed, and Miriam. Be encouraged by the example of four women whose faith in action preserved God's people. How might our faith in action preserve and encourage others today?