The movie is Schindler’s List.  
It’s about the holocaust in Germany during WWII.

The Jewish people had settled in the country a few hundred years before.  
  They had been prosperous.  
  They own land and buildings and are bankers and merchants.  
  But racial and religious prejudice and hatred grow – they are different.  
A new political figure rises to power who doesn’t trust the Jews living among them in war.  
  And who wants to exploit this people.  
  And so he oppresses them and forces them into hard labor.

This is the story of the Jews and the Nazi’s....  
This is also the very same story of the Jews and Pharaoh.

Exodus 1:6-14

Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, 7 but the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them.

8 Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. 9 ”Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites (Heb. kootz – dread, abhor, sickening feeling) 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly.

I want to show you another clip that shows another act against the Jews that the Nazi’s & Pharaoh had in common.

Because of the nature of some concentration camp images,  
I have to start the clip a little past where you see what’s beginning to happen,  
So, let me set it up.

This is a Jewish workers camp.  
The Jews kept here were skilled workers so they were being kept alive.  
Many of them, even have their children with them.

One day, all the adults are gathered to be selected for transport.  
They knew what it meant to be selected for transport.  
Those who went into the trucks never came back.
At the beginning of this scene, these women are happy because they have been told they were not selected for transport, so they can go back to their barracks.

Show Video clip 2 - Schindler’s List
Side 1. In the middle of scene 25. Time 2:04:27 – 2:06:40

The children are being taken off to be exterminated.
  Some of them get pretty creative with their hiding places.

Hitler is accused of the murder of 1.5 million children.

I have been to the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem.
  They have a special monument to these children.

  Outside the main building you walk down hill along a path and around a stone wall.
  You walk into a dark room with hundreds of mirrors all around you, above and below.
  And there are candles lit that reflect in the mirrors in every direction to infinity.
  And as you look at the million lights, there is a perpetual recording being read
  of the names of many of the children who were killed.

Now here’s Pharaoh and the Jew’s story.
Picking up where we left off in Exodus 1.

Exodus 1:15-26
The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah,  
  “When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.”  The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”
  The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”
  So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous.  And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.
  Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

Pharaoh is just like Hitler.
Around 4000 years before the holocaust, the Jews faced the same brutal circumstances.

He tries to be more secretive with his genocide,
  but when it doesn’t work that way, he says kill all the Hebrew boy babies.

That is the setting.
That is what it’s like in the land of Egypt for the Jews at the beginning of the book of Exodus.
Sometimes we tell our children about Moses & Egypt and we make the scenes into coloring book pages. Look it’s baby Moses in a basket on the river. What color are the reeds?

But the scene at the beginning of the book of Exodus is closer to Auschwitz than it is to coloring book pages.

For the next few weeks we are going to explore the story of Moses in the book of Exodus.

Title slide - Poster image

- We are going to look at the man and his character and experiences.
- We are going to look at our God and how he acts and who He is.
- And we are going to try to see ourselves in their story to relate their experiences to ours in both their example and what principles we can learn.

Today I have three things I’d like to suggest for you that this story in God’s Word teaches us. These are

Three Enduring Truths for Life


I say 3 truths for life, with an allusion to the fact that today is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, a day that American Christian church sets aside each year to focus on the fact that God is the giver of life, and that life is precious to God, and especially that abortion seems inconsistent with biblical teachings.

This text is related to that issue.

Pharaoh said ...

Exodus 1:16

“When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.”

Perhaps they were to suffocate the boys. Sometimes in ancient cultures they would just expose a child to the elements with no care or they would drown or bash the infant.

Today, we have developed methods that are considered a little more humane. We can have a simple medical procedure. But the taking of a life in abortion is just as brutal.

We insert forceps into the womb and tear the unborn fetus apart.
In a partial birth abortion, the abortionist injects saline into the womb initiating labor. They deliver the infant feet first.
When the infant is partially out, the abortionist inserts a scissors into the back of the soft head of the infant and opens the scissors and then suctions out the brains.

Pharaoh didn’t have the knowledge or technology to abort the Hebrew infants,
So he commands they be killed immediately.

But the midwives resisted the command.
And God blessed them for it..

St Augustine, an early Christian theologian from the 5\textsuperscript{th} century wrote about this text and said, “God blessed their piety, he did not bless their deceit.”

God blessed that they feared Him more than Pharaoh.

And the implication is that they knew it was wrong to kill a newborn.
God was opposed to the killing of the infants.

But Pharaoh issued this edict to get around their civil disobedience.

\textbf{Exodus 1:22}
Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

It was a horrible time to be a Jew in Egypt.
The people were slaves.
They were forced into hard labor.
Their infant boys were taken and murdered

But, where people are faithful to God, to trust him and protect children and the unborn, God blesses.

That leads us to the next
Enduring Truth \textit{for Life}
2. God is still in control even in hard times.

God is sovereign.
Just because times are difficult and things are going bad,
that doesn’t mean that God is not there
and that He is not even using those circumstances for good.

Look at what happens next in the story.
\textbf{Exodus 2:1-10}
Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

“Yes, go,” she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

Pharaoh is murderer Hebrew infants.
God has a plan in place to send a deliver, Moses.
God uses the horrible circumstance to put Moses in Pharaoh’s house.

So Moses would be educated and later have the privilege of appearing before Pharaoh, without being killed.

Just before this story we have the story of Joseph ...
You meant it for harm, God meant it for good.

In Haiti right now ...

How about in your life?
Have you hit bottom yet?
Are you ready to change?

Are you going through some difficulty, that a part of you knows God could be allowing to Change you or your circumstances for the better, if you will be faithful to him?

Tiger Woods had lots of affairs.
His marriage could be over.
But, if he humbles himself and truly repents and changes,
He and his wife could end up with deeper intimacy and more happier than before.

Are you going through a difficult time in your marriage?

Did you lose a job recently, or do you have growing dissatisfaction with your job.
Could God just be leading you to something better?

Hudson Taylor a famous Christian missionary to China from the 19th century who went through some dark days once wrote,

“It doesn’t matter how great the pressure is; what really matters is where the pressure lies. Whether it comes between you and God or presses you nearer his heart.”


A couple months ago I encountered the idea of discontinuous change.

*Continuous* change – things get a little better.
  Things change incrementally.
  Things change in a manner we can control and adjust to.

Raising children is _continuous_ change.

War is _discontinuous_ change.

Sudden unemployment is _discontinuous_ change
  Death of a loved one
  An affair.
  A collapse in our savings.
  A violent crime.

We face discontinuous change more and more in our world and our lives

But,

God is still in control in them all.
God still cares.
God still can.
God still keeps his promises.

_Romans 8:28_

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

I had an Old Testament professor, Wilbur Glenn Williams who took me to Israel in 1998.
  He had been a tour guide for American groups for 40 years.
  He told the story about speaking to a Jew in Israel about the holocaust.
He said the Jew said he thanked God for the holocaust.
  Why?
Without the holocaust, Israel would never have gotten it’s homeland back.

God is still in control even in hard times.
God could even be preparing you for something better, even wonderful.

Three Enduring Truths for Life
3. God has wonderful purpose for every life.

Moses will go on to be Israel’s deliverer, Israel’s leader, and a great man for God. Right from the beginning of his life, God had a wonderful purpose for him.

Here in this story of difficult beginnings and humble hardship, We find one of the best examples of how God has a wonderful purpose for us too.

That general purpose is to glorify God and serve Him.

Every life has the potential for greatness with God.

This doesn’t mean you have to do everything perfectly or right in order to fulfill God’s purposes in your life.

Past failures and imperfection do not prevent us from being used by God and being blessed by God in wonderful ways.

We will learn of Moses’ failures and imperfect path, but He is faithful and God uses him to be a wonderful a man and to do wonderful things.

D. L. Moody once said, “Moses spent his first forty years thinking he was somebody. He spent his second forty years thinking he was nobody. He spent his third forty years discovering what God can do with a nobody.”

You and I may not get stages that last forty years. Maybe it’s more like 20 to 30 years each for us.

If you want to know God’s direction for your life Romans 12:1-2 tells us what to do
And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (NLT)

Offer yourself to God and he will show you what his will is for you.

God has a directive will. Thou shalt not this and thou shalt not that. And God has a permissive will. Who you will marry, where you live, what your job is ... as long as it glorifies and serves God.
Ephesians tells us another place to begin too.

**Ephesians 1:11-12**

It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone. (The Message)

If you want to know what your purpose in life is, this verse tells you to start with Jesus.  
Trust in Him.
Give your life to Him.

Oskar Schindler realized God’s wonderful purpose for his life.  
He helped to rescue 1200 Jews ...  
   He made a list...  
   He paid for them ...

Jesus paid for us ...

If you are going through difficult times ...  
If you have made mistakes.  
If you need purpose in your life ...

Let’s pray.