



# BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: EXODUS



## BEST NAME

Puah and Shiphrah: midwives, activists, advocates. They humbled the most powerful man in the world. Their courage ensured a movement of liberation.

## COOLEST CHARACTER

Miriam: sister of Moses. She's a prophetess, a protector, and a proclaimer. Everyone should get to know her.

*Pharaoh, Pharaoh, oh baby, let my people go!*  
*HUH! Yeah, yeah, yeah...*

## FAVORITE STORY

I love manna in the wilderness. It's very helpful in understanding the difference between having enough and having excess. On a side note, I always wonder if manna looked like the flaky remains of glazed Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

*Strong Woman*



## 4 SITTINGS

Try reading Exodus in 4 sittings:

- **Sitting One:** Chapters 1-6, Setting the Stage
- **Sitting Two:** Chapters 7-15, The Conflict with Pharaoh
- **Sitting Three:** Chapters 15-24, Wilderness and Law
- **Sitting Four:** Chapters 25-40, Tabernacle and Worship

## BEST PLAGUE

The scholars will ding me, it's actually a sign or wonder, and plagues are never positive, so maybe *intense* is a better adjective? Regardless, I'll go with frogs. I love frogs. But frogs, frogs, frogs everywhere, even in your bed chamber, or kneading bowl, or "coming up on you," is a bit much.



## WORST PLAGUE

Don't forget there are ten plagues, the last of which is the plague upon first-born sons of Egypt. Clearly that's the worst. It's in a category of trauma all on its own. Locusts are insufferable, too. They not only swarm every imaginable space, but they devour the remnants of anything the previous plagues destroyed.

## TROUBLESOME STORIES

All that violence. Egyptians tossed in the sea; Amalekites exterminated; plagues that harden Pharaoh's heart (feels like God could soften as easily as harden); double standards; the treatment of Miriam by both God and community in comparison to Aaron and Moses.

## THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

God is vested in Israel; God stands in solidarity with the oppressed; God's investiture in human agency is an historical and ongoing redemptive act in creation; God's communities are rooted in hospitality and welcome.

## IF I WERE TO CAST THE LEAD FOR THE MOVIE VERSION OF EXODUS

OH, I'M OFFERING A REVISED SCREENPLAY, TOO. MIRIAM IS THE HEROINE, PLAYED BY VIOLA DAVIS, AND MOSES IS THE SUPPORTING ROLE, PLAYED BY DENZEL WASHINGTON. WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS IS REDUCED TO 20 YEARS, AND JUST TRY TO TELL ME YOU WOULDN'T PAY GOOD MONEY TO SEE THAT MOVIE!

