

## **RESPOND**

### **SHIPRAH AND PUAH**

#### **look**

Take a few moments to gaze upon the artwork. Sit still in quiet meditation as you observe the visual qualities of what you see: color, line, texture, movement, shape, form. Now take a deeper look. What parts of the image are your eyes most drawn to? What parts of the image did you overlook? Now engage your imagination. If you were to place yourself in the scene, where would be and how would you interact with what surrounds you?

#### **reflect**

-Imagine this story from the perspective of Shiphrah and Puah. What did they have to give up by disobeying Pharaoh? What did they gain?

-We live in a culture that generally praises obedience and loyalty to elders and those in positions of power. Name instances that merit disobedience. How do you determine if you should comply or resist? How do you discern God's will in these situations?

-Can you name other figures throughout time who have taken a stand against unjust rulers or governments? What has been the impact of their actions?

#### **write**

The midwives are two of the five women (including Moses' mother, sister, and Pharaoh's daughter) whose actions ultimately keep Moses alive, which leads to the liberation of the Israelites. The role of the midwife is to empower, facilitate, and support birth. Reflect on a way you might act as a midwife in your own life, by supporting the wellbeing of another or enabling the birth of something new.

#### **pray**

May I, like the Hebrew midwives, have the courage to say no to injustice and yes to you, O God. Amen

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