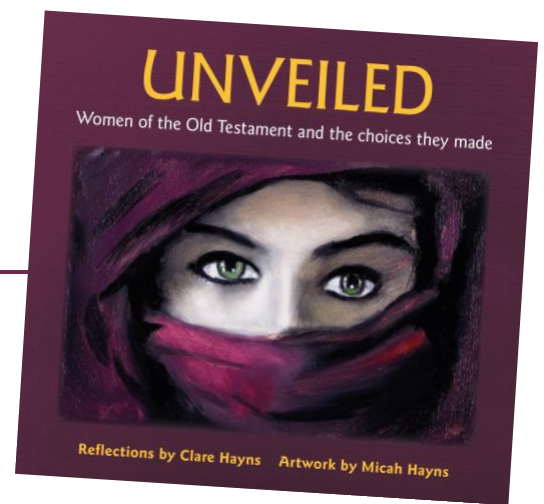


Unveiled

Women of the Old Testament and the choices they made



Discussion and reflection questions

Shiphrah and Puah: the rebel midwives

Recommended reading:

- Exodus 1:1–22 The rebel midwives
- Psalm 22:9–10 God as a midwife

Questions

1. *Call the Midwife* has been one of the most successful dramas of the last 20 years. What is it about midwives that's so compelling?
2. In the video, Clare uses these words to describe midwives:
Unflustered, clear thinking, plain talking, patient and encouraging.
 - a. What qualities do we value in our colleagues?
 - b. What qualities do we value in those around us?
 - c. What qualities do we strive for in ourselves?
3. Shiphrah and Puah's actions are perhaps the first recorded act of civil disobedience in history. Do you think there are occasions when it's justified to lie or break the law for the greater good?
4. Shiphrah and Puah risked their lives for others in their community. Have you ever witnessed an act of self-sacrifice or bravery in your community?
5. In Psalm 22:9–10, the imagery of the midwife is used to describe God. Do you find this helpful/surprising? How?

Prayer

You may know people whose role it is to care for and protect children, either as midwives, doctors, teachers or social workers. As you look at the artist's image of the arms holding the baby, perhaps you can pray for them by name now.

Creator God, who made the universe, yet can number the very hairs on our head; as a midwife brings forth a new life into the world, you long to nurture new life in us today. Help us, your children, to trust in your love and protection, knowing we are safe in your loving arms. Amen

