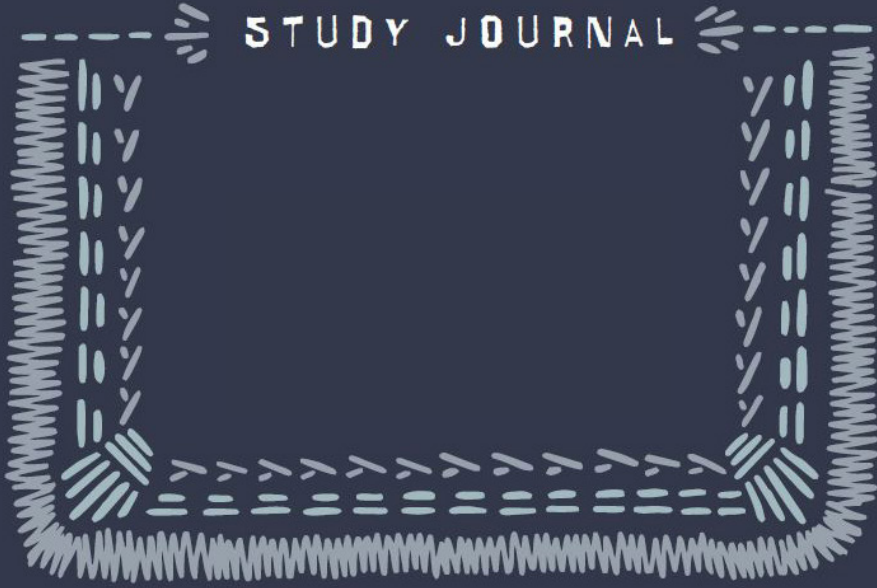
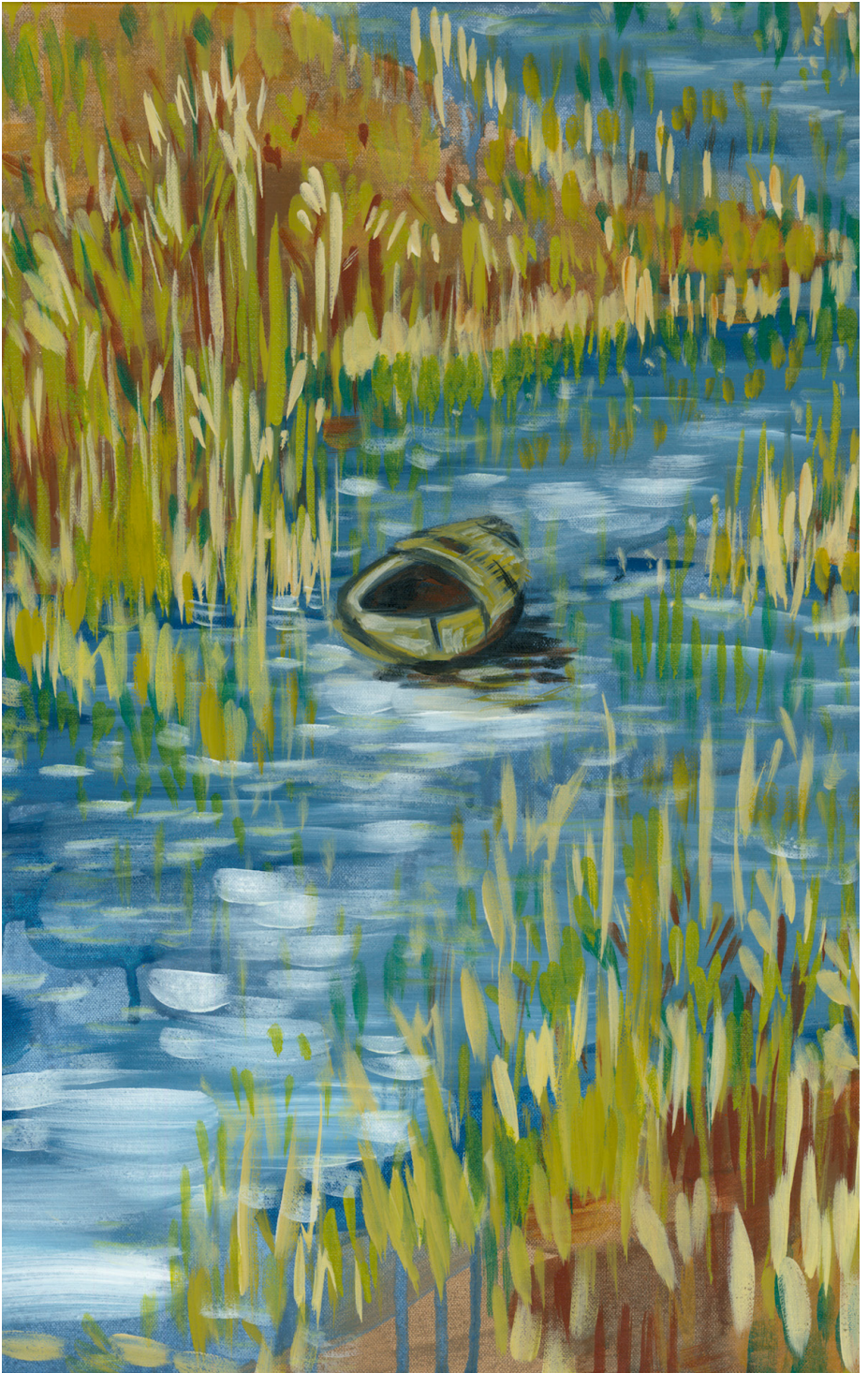


# UNRAVELED

SEEKING GOD WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART



STUDY JOURNAL



An Imperfect Ally | Lisle Gwynn Garrity



# UNRAVELED

MOSES' MOTHER GIVES MOSES UP  
SO HE CAN LIVE

*When Our Plans for Our Children Unravel*

READ // EXODUS 1:22, 2:1-10

FROM THE ARTIST // LISLE GWYNN GARRITY

Moses' mother and Miriam plot a clever plan, but it's far from foolproof. The risks far outweigh their chances for success. What if the basket they place him in leaks, drowning him instead of keeping baby Moses afloat? What if the current gets too strong, or the winds pick up, or he gets stuck in a tangle of reeds? What if the wrong person finds him and fulfills Pharaoh's command? What if Pharaoh's daughter is moved with disgust when she sees what floats into her private bathing quarters? Even if Pharaoh's daughter decides to keep the child as her own, what will keep Pharaoh from killing Moses when she's not looking?

Their plan is too perilous, too fraught with danger for any infant to endure. And yet, we know of mothers who risk desert heat, fatigue, illness, dehydration, criminalized border crossings, and facilities with cages to pursue the slight chance—the mere hope—of survival for their child. Why would they do this? Because to stay home and succumb to the sure threats of genocide—or gang violence, or civil war—is far more dangerous.

In this image, I gave the viewer the vantage point Pharaoh's daughter might have had. What melts her heart with mercy when she sees this Hebrew child float downstream? Was a well of rebellion rising up within her, making her eager to subvert her father's orders? Was she poisoned like most Egyptians with bias against the Israelites, but did the innocence and vulnerability of an infant shift her heart toward love? Had she desperately wanted a child of her own? Regardless of her motives, Pharaoh's daughter uses her power and privilege to act as an ally to Moses and his family in their worst unraveling. It's not a perfect solution, but God doesn't need perfection to achieve liberation.



## RESPOND

MOSES' MOTHER GIVES MOSES UP  
SO HE CAN LIVE

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## LOOK

Take a few moments to gaze upon the artwork. Breathe deeply 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 this scene, where would you be and how would you interact with what surrounds you?



## REFLECT

- What has unraveled and/or is unraveling in this story?
- Imagine this story from the perspective of each character—Pharaoh, Moses' mother, Miriam, Pharaoh's daughter. Why does each character do what s/he does?
- What causes Pharaoh's daughter's heart to soften when she finds Moses in the river? Why does she choose to nurture and adopt Moses as her own? What can we learn from her actions?



## WRITE

Consider the role of Pharaoh's daughter in this story. In your own life, what does it look like to be an ally to those whose lives are unraveling due to systemic oppression? An ally is someone who uses their power, privilege, and resources to work for justice alongside those who are oppressed. Be specific about ways you can serve as an ally.

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## PRAY

When necessary, unravel my attachment to power so that I can walk with others in the journey toward freedom. Amen