

Show Me Your Glory

Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 2 Exodus 3–4

God's call of Moses as deliverer of His people allows us to witness first hand the power of God and the frailty of man. It is an interesting study in contrasts and contradictions; an excellent learning tool on the subject of obedience for any serious Bible student. Every man or woman searching for their purpose in life must learn that their weakness is God's opportunity to prove that He is willing and able to supply supernaturally what is lacking naturally.

Read Exodus 3–4.

Day One: God Appears to Moses

By now Moses was eighty years old and had been in the desert of Midian for forty years. At one time he was passionate for God's people, but tending his father-in-law's flock of sheep was probably what he thought he would be doing for the rest of his life. Then one day he led the flock to Mt. Horeb, known as the mountain of God (v. 2). What he saw and heard next would forever change his life!

1. As you re-examine Exodus 3:1-10, what are your initial impressions of:
 - a. What Moses saw? vv. 1–3

 - b. What Moses heard God say? vv. 4–6

2. What motivated God to act on behalf of His people? vv. 7–10
 - a. Who did God tell Moses would deliver His people?

 - b. Where was God planning to take them?

 - c. Who would God send to Pharaoh?

3. Moses had known something about God, but not everything he would need to know to fulfill God's plan. What did the burning bush reveal to Moses about God?

The Angel of the Lord who appeared to Moses in a flame of fire (v. 2) was the Lord Jesus Christ! God told Moses to take off his shoes and to regard the very ground he stood upon as holy, because God is holy. Moses turned away and *hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God* (v. 6).

4. **Personal:** Do you have more to learn about the holiness of God and your need to reverence Him? Looking from your point of view, what does the burning bush teach *you* about God?

- Have you heard the call of God upon your own life? Does it take a burning bush experience to get your attention? Please share your thoughts.

- If you don't encounter something of a burning bush, how *can* you know when God is speaking to you?

Heartbeat . . . (Memory verse) *"And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"* Exodus 3:14

Selah . . . (Complete this portion of the lesson on any day you choose.)

Fill in the blanks below that are applicable to you: i.e. something that you would like to discuss in group or perhaps further investigate on your own.

- For group discussion: _____

- For further study: _____

Day Two: Man's Weakness is God's Opportunity

What to look for . . .

God did not intend for individuals to just live and work for themselves while on earth; rather He created human beings to love and worship Him. Behind the seeming unpredictability of God's call is the reality that our lives are in His hands, and that He is carefully orchestrating the times and circumstances of events with His intended purpose in mind. The question we must ask ourselves is: when God does call, how will we respond—with immediate obedience, or with hesitation and excuses?

Read Exodus 3:1–15 for review.

The Lord appeared to Moses at the burning bush, announcing who He was and declaring that He had heard the cries of His people. Moses considered that good news; but as soon as God's words reach Moses' ears, he heard the other shoe drop!

1. What news came next that riveted Moses' attention? v. 10

Go back to Egypt? Certainly not! This was definitely not what Moses had in mind. He wanted God's people to be delivered, but at the same time he did not expect God's finger to be pointing at him! Moses probably thought of his past failure, and that his position as a prince of Egypt had been reduced to that of a shepherd. He did not yet know that God delights in using those who have a sense of their own unworthiness.

Predictably what happens when a person's focus turns inward is that they become consumed with *doubt*—about themselves and about God. This mistake leads to the list of "whys" that includes every reason this person should be passed over and exempted from service. Moses almost immediately begins to make excuses that are disguised as questions. Today we'll take a closer look at two of them.

2. What was excuse #1? v. 11
 - a. What was God's response? v. 12
3. What was excuse #2? v.13
 - a. What was God's response? v. 14

When Moses asked, "Who am I?" he was really asking, "Will you be with me?" God replies, "*I will certainly be with you*" (v.12). Next Moses asks God for a definition of Himself and God responds with the words, "*I AM WHO I AM*" (v. 14). Literally translated it means, "I was, I am, I always will be!" In Hebrew the words "I AM" are closely associated with God's personal name *Jehovah* or *Yahweh* or *YHWH*. This title is found over 6,000 times throughout the Old Testament and suggests the timelessness of God or the self-existent One.

By now Moses should have seen and heard enough to convince him that God is who He says He is! But don't judge Moses too quickly; put yourself in His sandals for a moment.

4. Personal: Have *you* heard God calling you to serve Him? If so, how have you responded? If you've not yet responded, what has hindered you? Please explain.

Challenge . . .

If you've been reluctant to answer God's call to serve, perhaps it's because you, like Moses, are not convinced about who God is and whether He will be there for you. The Lord Jesus Christ added to the definition of God's name in the Gospel of John, which lists the seven great **I AM** statements. Look up these references, noting who Jesus is, and next to each one note the personal application. The first one is done for you.

The Truth	The Application
➤ John 6:35 – "I AM the bread of life.	He feeds my soul. He is my satisfaction at all times.
➤ John 8:12	
➤ John 10:9	
➤ John 10:11	
➤ John 11:25	
➤ John 14:6	
➤ John 15:1-5	

Has His name taken on deeper meaning to you through this exercise? Do you believe that He is in fact all these things? He is described in Revelation 1:4 as, "*Him who is, who was, and who is to come.*" He is "*Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today, yes and forever*" (Hebrews 13:8).

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Three: Man's Weakness Reveals God's Sufficiency

It is by the title "*Jehovah: I AM WHO I AM*" that God chose to be known among His people. God then spelled out for Moses exactly what would take place when he returned to Egypt. Read Exodus 3:16–22 through 4:1–17.

1. In your own words, briefly summarize what God foretold in Exodus 3:16–22.

2. Overwhelmed by what was being asked of him, Moses offers two more excuses. What was excuse #3? Exodus 4:1

3. In response to Moses' objection, what three signs did God give him to convince the elders that he was indeed God's messenger? vv. 2–9
 - a. First sign:

 - b. Second sign:

 - c. Third sign:

God allowed these signs to attest to the authority He was placing upon Moses. It was further proof that God's strength would be sufficient to meet any weakness in Moses.

4. God's assurances were not enough for Moses. What fourth and final excuse did he make? v. 10
 - a. What was God's response? vv. 11–12

 - b. Amazingly, Moses refused to believe God and made one more desperate plea (v. 13). How did God feel about it? What did God graciously offer to do for Moses? v. 14

5. What role would each man play in God's plan? Vv. 15–17

6. Personal: God would have you, His child, believe that when He calls, He enables. Have you ever tried to evade God's will for your life? Is it because you don't believe that He is sufficient for your every need? Compare your response with that of Moses and then with Isaiah's in Isaiah 6:8. Remember, as you come to know God better you will learn to trust Him more. Please share your thoughts.

Day Four:

Moses Returns to Egypt

In the closing verses of chapter 4, with the help of God's encouragement, Moses willingly accepts God's call. Read Exodus 4:18–31.

1. What does Moses ask for and receive from his father-in-law, Jethro? v. 18
2. As Moses steps out in faith, what encouragement does God give him? vv. 19–23
 - a. What clear word of instruction?
 - b. What about Pharaoh's heart?

Moses would indeed perform the miraculous signs God promised, but each time Pharaoh disobeyed God his heart would become harder and God would strengthen what was already there.

- c. How does God refer to Israel in verse 23? What would ultimately happen if Pharaoh refused to let God's people go?
3. What had Moses neglected to do that nearly resulted in the judgment of God? vv. 24–26
 - a. Why was this so displeasing to the Lord? See Genesis 17:10–14.
 - b. Who stepped in to avert God's anger? How did she respond to Moses?

Moses had apparently neglected to circumcise one his sons, which displeased God very much. His wife Zipporah was not Hebrew and probably found the rite of circumcision distasteful. When confronted with losing her husband, she took matters into her own hands.

4. Who arrived to companion with Moses on the journey? vv. 27–30
 - a. Upon hearing that God was about to rescue them, how did the people respond? v. 31

Our response to God's grace and goodness can only be to bow down in worship—He deserves nothing less! Psalm 50:15 says: *"Trust Me in your times of trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give Me glory."* Do you trust Him? When He answers, be sure you give Him the glory!

Day Five:

Praying with Purpose

Selah . . . Be still and consider how to *work out* in your daily life what God has *worked into* your heart through your study of His Word. Then pray each aspect through.

❖ **A Point Pondered:** Is there an example from the lesson or a truth from Scripture that has taken on a new meaning this week? Please note it below.

❖ **A Path Pursued:** Knowledge must be applied in order to make a difference. Name one thing can you act upon in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading.

❖ **A Promised Possessed:** If God has spoken a particular verse or word of hope to your heart, write it down and pray it back to Him.

❖ **A Praise Proclaimed:** God loves to hear you praise Him! What aspect of God's character particularly blessed you this week? Will you praise Him today?

❖ **A Prayer Presented:** Write out the most pressing request on your heart and lift it to the Lord.

Other requests:

Notes