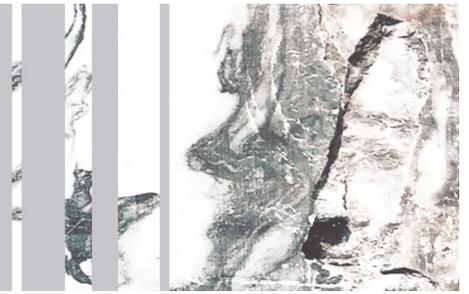


EXODUS

Daily Devotions Week 2



Day 1

Before beginning today's lesson, be sure to pray and ask the Lord to reveal Himself to you through His Word.

Read Exodus 2:1-10 and answer the following questions.

In a few sentences, describe the circumstances around Moses' birth.

The circumstances surrounding Moses' birth were less than ideal. It's difficult to imagine what his mother must have felt or what she must have thought when she gave birth to a boy, knowing the king had issued an order for all male children to be killed. She hid him for three months. Three very long months. Three months full of extreme caution, fear, and dread. Finally, when she could no longer hide him, she did what she could to ensure a future for her son. Imagine the courage and trust it required for Moses' mom to place him in a basket, gently place it among the reeds, then muster up the courage to let go and walk away.

Miriam, Moses' sister, stood nearby to see what would happen to her baby brother. Imagine the relief she must have felt when she realized Pharaoh's daughter felt sorry for Moses instead of disdain. Thinking quickly, she sprang into action and offered to find someone to nurse him.

Fear could have driven Moses' mother to hold on to him. By doing so, she would have lost him. Instead, she chose to surrender him to God. Because she was willing to lose him, she ultimately found him.

Read Jesus' words in Matthew 10:37-39 and consider the following questions.

Are you holding on to anything in your life that the Spirit is prompting you to let go?

Do you trust God to meet your every need in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)? Explain.

If you are able, describe a time in your life that you experienced God's faithfulness when you let go of something.

Day 2

Read **Exodus 2:11-22** and consider the following questions.

What did Moses do to the Egyptian beating a Hebrew?

How is the Hebrew described (verse 11)?

How did the Hebrew respond when confronted by Moses for beating a fellow Hebrew (verse 14)?

How did Moses respond?

In this passage, we see the character of Moses begin to take shape. As an adult, Moses identified and related to the suffering and hardships of his own people, rather than the Egyptian royalty he was raised by. Moved by compassion and a sense of justice, he intervened to stop an Egyptian from harming a fellow Hebrew.

Although most of us (probably) haven't killed anyone, we all know what it's like to think we've gotten away with something... only to discover we weren't as slick as we thought we were. God had not yet called Moses to be the leader of His people, yet Moses prematurely assumed the role and dished out what he believed to be justice. However, his good intentions backfired, and when his crime became known, he ran and hid. Can you relate?

Moses started a whole new life in Midian. He married, raised a family, and worked as a shepherd. Life in a foreign land was a far cry from the royal lifestyle he'd known in Egypt; and working as a shepherd certainly would have seemed like a far cry from being the leader of God's people. However, as we will soon see, Moses' past could not thwart God's future plan for his life, and neither can your past thwart God's future plan for your life.

Moses thought he messed up God's plan for his life. However, while in Midian, a place far from all he had ever known or experienced, Moses found favor. God's blessing and provision showed up even in a foreign land.

Have you ever believed that your past decisions/mistakes/sins have left you in a "foreign land" far from God's will and ability to use you?

How can this portion of Moses' story encourage you?

Describe your current situation. Are you in a "foreign land?" If so, take a few minutes to consider how God is currently blessing and providing for you and record your thoughts below.

How can Romans 8:28 encourage you when you are in a "foreign land?"

Day 3

Read **Exodus 2:23-25** and consider the following questions.

What took place in Egypt while Moses was in Midian?

Describe what the Israelites did because of their slavery.

Did God hear them?

Read Exodus 2:24 and fill in the blanks.

God _____ their groaning and He _____ His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Moses may have believed God was finished with him, but in reality, quite the opposite was true. The Israelites were still in slavery and crying out to God. No cry ever goes unheard by God. No cry ever goes unanswered by God. These verses reveal powerful and important truths about God's character consistent from Genesis to Revelation:

God remembers His covenant.

Before we dig into the meaning and purpose of the covenant, it's best to understand the Scriptural meaning of *remember*. When we read that God remembers something, does it mean that He had previously forgot it? Of course not. God is omniscient, meaning, God knows everything. God doesn't have a short-term memory problem. When Scripture says that God *remembers* something, it means God *acts* on it.

For us to grasp the significance of this text, we need to have an understanding of God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Read Genesis 12:1-8. List all of God's "I will" statements.

Read Genesis 15:1-21 and answer the following questions.

What did God promise Abraham in verses 4-5?

What was Abraham's response (verse 6)?

God promised to bless Abraham with many descendants and that they would inherit the land. Abraham believed the Lord (verse 6). Yet, in verse 8, Abraham asks, "How can I know?"

Can you think of a time when you believed God but had a difficult time marrying your "belief" with your "know"?

Sometimes we believe God's promises but have a difficult time transitioning a "belief" in our head to a "know" in our hearts. **If you can relate to this, use the space below to describe it.**

Even though Abraham believed God, he still wondered, "How can I know?" God answered Abraham in the most amazing way, and we will soon see how He has done the same for us.

In **Genesis 15:9-19**, we read the description of Abraham cutting the animals in two, arranging the halves opposite each other, and a smoking firepot with a blazing torch passing between the pieces.

This may sound confusing to our twenty-first century western ears. However, Abraham knew exactly what the Lord was doing. Consider the following excerpt from Warren Wiersbe's book, *Be Obedient*:

What is described in 15:9–17 was known in that day as “cutting a covenant.” This solemn ritual involved the death of animals and the binding of people to a promise. The persons making the covenant would sacrifice several animals and divide the bodies, placing the halves opposite each other on the ground. Then the parties would walk between the pieces of the sacrifices in declaration that, if they failed to keep their word, they deserved the same fate as the animals. (See Jer. 34:18–19.)

But Abraham's experience was different. He killed the animals, laid them on the ground, and spent the rest of the day fighting off the birds of prey that were attracted to the flesh and blood. When the sun went down, Abraham fell into a deep sleep; and then God appeared to him and spoke to him. But God alone passed between the parts of the sacrifices! (Gen. 15:17) It was God who made promises to Abraham, not Abraham who made promises to God. There were no conditions attached; the covenant of grace came from the generous heart of God.¹

Look back to Genesis 15:12. What happened to Abraham?

Consider this excerpt from *The Bible Readers Companion*:

Usually covenants were confirmed by both parties. This implied that each party accepted the obligations expressed in the covenant. How significant Abram's deep sleep becomes. God alone passed between the parts of the sacrificed beasts. Abram has no part in making the covenant, so nothing Abram does can cause it to be canceled (emphasis mine).²

Read Luke 22:7-20. Write what Jesus said in verse 20.

When we struggle with the same question that Abraham had, “How can I know?”, we must look to the cross where God Himself made a new covenant with us – not by the blood of animals – but by the blood of His Son. Just as Abraham had nothing to do with the covenant God made with him, you and I have nothing to do with the blood covenant Christ made with us. This covenant of grace, of forgiveness, of mercy, comes from the heart of God. It is a binding covenant by the will of God, not of our will or our actions. We must simply respond as Abraham did; we must believe God.³

Day 4

Read Exodus 3:1-6 and consider the following questions.

What was Moses' job?

Who was he working for?

What caught his attention?

How did God address Moses?

What did God instruct Moses to do in verse 5?

How did God identify Himself to Moses (verse 6)?

What was Moses' response?

Moses had lived in Midian for forty years. By now, he was certainly in a routine. Any thoughts of his former life in Egypt were probably few and far between. That particular morning most likely started like all the rest. Moses got up early, helped Zipporah get the kids off to school, kissed her goodbye and headed out for the day to shepherd his father-in-law's sheep. He had no idea that his entire life was about to change, let alone change the course of the Israelites' history and go down as one of the most significant stories in the eternal Word of God. Moses would learn many things through his encounter with God, including:

God had not forgotten him in a foreign land.

God's purpose for him had not been thwarted by his past.

God would do whatever necessary to get his attention at just the right time.

God wanted to be seen, heard and known by him.

Consider the following questions.

Have you ever felt forgotten by God in a "foreign land?"

Do you have a difficult time believing that God still has a purpose and a plan for your life?

Describe a time when God did something to get your attention. How did you respond?

No matter what has happened to you, no matter what you have done, God has not forgotten you. If you are breathing, God has a purpose for you. It's never too late to respond to God.

God caused the bush to burn without being consumed for one purpose – to get the attention of Moses. God was watching Moses closely and when he went over to look, the God who spoke the world into existence spoke personally and intimately to Moses by calling him by name.

Read Isaiah 43:1 and note below what you learn.

Read John 10:1-4 and note below what you learn.

The God who called Moses by name is the same God who calls you by name. The God who revealed Himself to Moses through a burning bush is the same God who reveals Himself to you through His Word.

God chose to meet with Moses in the middle of nowhere. An ordinary desert floor was made holy by a holy God.

Anywhere you meet with God becomes holy by His mere presence. **Will you choose to meet with the Lord today and allow Him to transform your ordinary into holy?**

God revealed Himself to Moses as the “God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (verse 6). This introduction would have resonated deeply with Moses. You may remember from Exodus 2:11 that Moses identified with the Hebrews as “his own people.” The Hebrews were the direct descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The stories of God’s covenant with Abraham and his sons were familiar to Moses. Moses knew he was speaking with the God who made a covenant with Abraham. Scripture doesn’t give us details, but I believe Moses couldn’t get his sandals off quick enough when he realized who was talking to him!

How have you noticed God trying to get your attention lately?

What has been your response?

Is there anything preventing you from hearing God speak to you?

What difference would it make in your life if you remembered that God calls you by name, and His Presence turns ordinary into holy?

Day 5

Remember to pray before beginning today's lesson.

Read Exodus 2:23-25 and Exodus 3:7-9 and consider the following questions.

What stands out to you the most in these verses?

God had a very specific purpose for speaking to Moses. It was time for Moses to change careers and God made clear His reason why – His people needed to be rescued.

This passage teaches us four powerful and unchanging characteristics about God.

1. "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt." – **God SEES.**

The Israelites had suffered at the hands of the Egyptians for 400 years. Not a single mistreatment went unnoticed by God. What kind of situation do you find yourself in today? You can know for certain that God sees every wrong and every injustice. He sees everything.

What do you hope that God sees in your life? Does it bring you hope and peace knowing He sees everything?

2. "I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers." – **God HEARS.**

There's never been a single word said that has not crossed the ears of God. He hears your every whisper, cry, thought, and tear.

Would it make a difference in the way you pray if you remembered that God was leaning in close to hear your every word?

3. "I am concerned about their suffering." – **God KNOWS.**

The word "concerned" comes from the Hebrew word "yada." It means "to perceive and see, find out and discern, to be acquainted with, to know by experience."⁴ As difficult as it may be for us to comprehend, God chooses to experience what His children experience.

Read Hebrews 4:15 and note in the space below what it tells us about Jesus as our high priest.

Read John 11:33-36 and note how Jesus chose to respond to the death of Lazarus (before raising him from the dead).

How would remembering that Jesus empathizes with you, feeling what you feel, help you to endure a difficult situation?

4. "I have come down to rescue them." - **God RESCUES.**

The Hebrew word for "rescue" means "to deliver, to snatch away, to save, to plunder."⁵ Remember Exodus 2:24 when God "remembered his covenant"? Do you remember what it means when God remembers? It means He acts. God was preparing to orchestrate one of the greatest rescues of all time. As dramatic, thrilling and exhilarating as the Israelites rescue from Egyptian slavery was, it merely foreshadowed the greatest rescue of all time – ours!

Read Colossians 3:14. What have we been rescued from and brought into?

If you are a believer and follower of Jesus Christ, Colossians 3:14 is your testimony! God calls you by name, He sees you, He hears you, He knows you, and He has rescued you!

But that's just the beginning...

Read Exodus 3:10 and consider the following question.

What did God tell Moses to do?

Moses' encounter with God served at least two purposes. First, God revealed Himself. Second, God revealed His plan. Every revelation comes with a responsibility. Now that Moses knew God as the One who sees, hears, knows and rescues, he was to carry that knowledge to God's people in Egypt.

Did you know as a follower of Christ, God has revealed Himself to you for a purpose?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and consider the following questions.

What ministry has been entrusted to you as a follower of Christ Jesus?

What is our message to a lost world (verses 20-21)?

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and consider the following questions.

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

What did He promise?

Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ may seem scary, but He promises to be with us just as God promised to be with Moses when he travelled back to Egypt to deliver His people from bondage.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Answer the following questions for each day:

What stood out to you the most?

What was your favorite portion of the text and why?

Did you learn anything new about God?

Did you learn anything new about yourself?

Were you challenged? Encouraged?

How can you apply this portion of God's Word to your life?

What questions do you have?

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1991). *Be Obedient* (p. 50). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Richards, Lawrence O.: *The Bible Readers Companion*. Electronic ed. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1991; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996, S. 35

³ Stamper, Paulette (2011). *Sand Surfers: Encountering God and Discovering Divine Purpose in the Desert* (p. 12). Indianapolis, IN: Ignite Women, Inc.

⁴ Retrieved from <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H3045&t=KJV>

⁵ Ibid