

Moses and the Wanderings



“Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh? What shall I say to them? Suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you...’ I am slow of speech and slow of tongue... O my Lord, please send someone else.” God said, “I will be with you... I am who I am. I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak... now go.”

– EXODUS 3:11, 12A, 13, 14B, 4:1, 10B, 12-13

FOCUS THIS WEEK

There's an old saying, "God doesn't call the gifted. God gifts the called." When the Almighty calls, God isn't looking for excuses, perfection or talent. It's not your power, intelligence, or status that will make you a "sacred agent" of God—it's your availability and willingness. Are you willing to boldly act when everyone else around is expecting everyone else to act? Moses was a reluctant "sacred agent" at first, but God didn't take "no" for an answer. He told Moses: "I will be with you. Now go!" When Moses finally went to Pharaoh, things started to change. By answering God's call, Moses found God's power unleashed through him.



SHARE

highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion.



READ

and highlight the theme verse, Exodus 3:11, 12a, 13, 14b, 4:1, 10b, 12-13. What jumps out at you?

What do you find challenging or comforting? What is the verse telling you?



TALK

about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art. What do you see in the art? Where are you in the art? How might the art apply to the theme verse?

B. ROLE PLAY

1. A new kid in school is being picked on and laughed at by the popular kids in school. What do you say and do?
2. Your coach is cursing a blue streak, using God's name in vain, and swearing at teammates every time they make a mistake. What do you say to the coach?

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. When Moses finally led Israel to freedom, they complained a lot. Do you have any friends who complain a lot? Have you ever had a friend who was ungrateful for all you did? How did it make you feel? How do you think God feels after giving us life and breath, only to have us grumble, complain and act in an ungrateful manner? *The point here is to get them talking about someone else, then to bring them to see themselves in the question. How do we grumble against God? How do we show gratitude? Ingratitude? If we are grateful, will we obey? Will we help others?*

2. **School of Hard Knocks:** Moses received the best education the world had to offer in the court of the Pharaoh, but God took another 40 years in the wilderness to train him to lead. Why is it so difficult to have patience when things aren't going your way or progressing as quickly as you would like them to? Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. Share your own story. Remind them, "No pain, no gain." It is working out that makes muscles develop. This is also true spiritually. The hard times can make you stronger.

3. **What are some excuses people have for not helping the poor, the addicted, people in trouble, and people of other races?** Affirm all thoughtful answers. Remind students that God can and does use everybody.

D. TERMS OF THE WEEK

Review these key terms and write definitions.

Exodus: Literally: "Out on the road." Israel wandered 40 years to find the Promised Land.

Moses: An Israelite whom God chose to set the Hebrew slaves free and to bring them to the Promised Land.

Promised Land: The land promised to Abraham for his descendants. Modern Israel.

Ten Commandments: God's law given to Moses that laid the foundation for Israel's faith and much of our present law.

E. QUOTATIONS

choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

*How far would Moses have
gone if he had taken a poll
in Egypt?*

– Harry S Truman

*All are found by the one
they truly seek.*

– C.S. Lewis

*Not all who wander are lost.
But some are.*

– Bumper Sticker

F. WRAP UP

Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about



PRAY for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer.



BLESS each other by name. Face one another as you make the sign of the cross. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. Ask for their blessing as well!