

EXODUS: BEFORE THE SEA WAS PARTED - WK 2 MEET MOSES JULY 17, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL: PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE

If you want to know God better, memorize and apply His Word!

GETTING STARTED

Today, we are going to get to know Moses better. **General Discussion:**

• What do you know about Moses? (He led the Exodus from Egypt, etc.)

• What do you admire about Moses? (He was a great leader, etc.)

As we go through this study of Exodus, we will look at Moses' life in detail. Before we start this week-by- week study of the story of the Exodus, we want to make sure we understand the man who is such an important part of the story.

As we talked about last week, the main point of the story is not about the exodus itself, nor is it about Moses himself. Rather, it is about the presence of God. Today, as we get to know Moses better, we will find that God was everpresent in the life of this great man.

DIGGING IN

The Bible mentions Moses over 800 times. Don't worry, we will not be covering them all. However, we are going to look at Moses' life from the beginning to the end. We will even cover some New Testament scriptures to learn more about him and how his life can encourage us to live like Jesus.

Read Exodus 2:1-10 Discussion Questions:

1. What do we know of Moses' father? (He is "a man of the tribe of Levi.")

2. What do we know of Moses' mother? (She was also a Levite, and she hid Moses after he was born.)

3. Why is Moses hidden? (If students don't already know the answer, refer to Exodus 1:15, 22.)

4. How long is Moses hidden? (Three months.)

5. What do you think of Moses' mother's plan to have the Pharaoh's daughter discover him?

6. Who named Moses? (Pharaoh's daughter.)

7. How was God present in the life of Moses, even in his infancy? (God protected and preserved him.)

We know a little bit more about Moses family from Numbers.

Read Numbers 26:59 Discussion Questions:

1. What is Moses' father's name? (Amram.)

2. What is Moses' mother's name? (Jochebed.)

3. What are the names of Moses' brother and sister? *(Aaron and Miriam.)*

Moses is a Hebrew, a Jew. His mother was a descendant of Levi, one of the sons of Jacob.His father, too, was a descendant of the Levites. They were a priestly tribe. Moses' birth narrative is compelling. The story of his death is equally interesting.

Read Deuteronomy 32:48-52, 34:1-12 Discussion Questions:

1. God instructs Moses, basically, to go and die. What is His reason according to verse 51? (*Moses broke faith with God and did not uphold God's holiness among Israel.*)

2. Disobedience at the end of Moses' life keeps him from entering the Promised Land. Does this seem unfair to you? (Yes, in some ways, as he had done so much!)

3. Chapter 34 tells the story of Moses' death. He does what God says. Where does Moses die? (*In Moab.*)

4. Where is Moses' grave? (No one knows.)

5. What does verse 10 say of Moses' standing in the history of Israel? (*There has never risen a prophet like Moses, who the Lord knew face to face.*)

6. What is so significant about Moses' life? (*The signs and* wonders he did are unmatched by other men.)

What a life Moses lived! We will discover it in greater detail throughout our study. Between his birth and adoption into Egyptian royalty and his lonely death on top of Mount Nebo, God worked mightily through Moses. However, even as he descended into his mysterious grave, his renown was not complete.

Did you know the New Testament mentions Moses 85 times, a couple thousand years after he lived on earth? Again, we do not have time to track down all those verses, but we do want to look at a few.

Read Luke 9:28-36 Discussion Questions:

1. Who does Moses appear with in this passage? *(Elijah and Jesus.)*

2. What are these men doing with Jesus according to verse 30? (*Talking with Him.*)

3. What are they discussing? (They are discussing the "departure" of Jesus; interestingly, the Greek word is "exodus".)

4. What do the disciples want to do? (Peter suggests that they build a shelter to honor the Old Testament heroes as well as Jesus.)

5. Does Moses stick around? (No, he disappears.)

6. What is left? What is heard? (Only Jesus is left, with the Father insisting all should listen to Him.)

Moses and Elijah are here to represent two things that a first-century Jewish person in the time of Christ would have revered: the law and the prophets. In essence, they are the old covenant fulfilled in Jesus, and clearly serve as key figures in this way.

MAKING IT REAL

Read Hebrews 3:1-6 Discussion Questions:

1. About whom does the author of Hebrews want the reader to think? (*Jesus.*)

2. What quality does the author use to describe Moses? *(He was faithful.)*

3. According to this passage, who is greater than Moses? *(Jesus.)*

Moses is a key figure in the Bible, but above all, he helps point the reader to Jesus. Even the story you'll soon know very well—the Exodus—is a foreshadowing of the captivity from which Jesus rescues all of us.

The point of a life well-lived is that it always points others to Jesus.

Read Hebrews 3:5 again Discussion Questions:

1. How does this verse describe Moses? (A faithful servant in God's house.)

2. How does this faithfulness hold up in Moses' life? (Moses' faithfulness was expressed in the fact that he bore witness to that which God had done, was doing, and would do in the future.)

Faithfulness is a quality we see in Moses' life. He was faithful to his calling. He was faithful to the One who called him. He was not perfect—he doesn't step foot in the Promised Land because of his disobedience, but he never quit.

General Discussion:

• Do you think "faithful" is a word people would use to describe you? (Allow for discussion.)

• To what are you faithful? Are you more faithful to something other than Jesus? (Some students will honestly admit they are more faithful to academics, sports, or another relationship in their life.)

• How can our disobedience sometimes keep us from continued faithfulness? (*Guilt derails us; consequences of sin discourage us, etc.*)

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray that your students will model faithfulness by pointing people to Jesus, just like Moses.