

LEAD SHEET

EXODUS: BEFORE THE SEA WAS PARTED - WK 3

THE BURNING BUSH

JULY 24, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE

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

GETTING STARTED

General Discussion:

- How many of you have been to a bonfire, saw a burning pile of leaves, or maybe a burning building? What usually happens? (*The fire consumes or destroys everything.*)
- Have you ever heard someone say that God called him or her to do something or perhaps you have had this happen to you? Describe that experience for us. (*Allow students to share.*)

Today we are going to continue looking at the book of Exodus to learn more about Moses. In today's study, we find Moses in a typical day-to-day scenario when God's calling changes his life forever.

As we talk today, keep in mind how you view God and the ways in which He calls us to carry out work for His Kingdom.

DIGGING IN

Read Exodus 3:1-11

Discussion Questions:

1. What did God instruct Moses to do?
(Not to come any closer and to remove his shoes.)
2. Look at verse 6. What is significant about God's historical explanation? *(God reveals who He is and helps Moses to remember the history and people from which he came.)*
3. How does Moses react to God talking to him through the burning bush?
("He hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.")

It would be extremely strange to find a bush burning but not being consumed. Moses' reaction is similar to what ours would be. To find God talking to you through this bush would be another shocker.

When God tells Moses to remove his shoes and not come any closer, He is helping Moses realize the holiness he is encountering. Removing your shoes was a sign of reverence that was common to this culture. God is quick to identify Himself to Moses and uses history to help Moses realize the full impact of this conversation.

As we look deeper into the passage, we see that Moses does not feel adequate in God's presence, yet he is to be a redeemer of Israel.

Read Exodus 3:7-12

Discussion Questions:

1. According to verse 7, why does God appear now?
(The Lord saw His people facing hardships in Egypt and was ready to deliver them from the land of Egypt.)
2. Who does God use to help bring His people out of Egypt? *(Moses.)*

3. What is Moses' reaction to being told that he is to go to Pharaoh? *(He felt unworthy and inadequate to do God's command.)*

4. How does God respond to Moses' question? *(He says that He would be with him and would use it as a sign to Moses.)*

Knowing that God would be with him should have been a huge relief to Moses. However, Moses has a reaction that many of us have today when we question what God has called us to do. Verse 12 should encourage us, just as it encouraged Moses.

God not only remembered His people and saw their oppression, He also came down to help them. God brought the Israelites out of turmoil by using a normal, everyday shepherd to carry out His plan. God didn't question whom He chose, but he does assure Moses that He will be with Moses during this journey.

Read Exodus 3:13-22

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the next question Moses asks in response to God's command? *(He asks how he can explain who God is when the people ask who sent him.)*

2. What is God's response to Moses? *(I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel, "I am has sent me to you.")*

3. God follows this by bringing up the history of who He is. What would this mean to the people with whom Moses speaks? *(It would remind them of their history and the God in which they have heard about.)*

God uses the words "I am" to signify that He is Yahweh, the I am, so Moses understands that the God he has heard about is the very one who is talking to him now. Moses

already knows about God, but he needs to realize that he is indeed speaking with God right now in the form of a burning bush. Moses is speaking with Yahweh. (*Yahweh is the Hebrew translation.*)

Moses wants to make sure he has all of the necessary information to present to Pharaoh. Because he knows the history, he is able to recognize who “I am” is and the impact of this revelation on his life and the lives of others. God prepares Moses for his upcoming challenges for the rest of this section. Moses will have hardships to endure when he encounters the people of Egypt. Nevertheless, God has reminded Moses that He is with him: “I am who I am,” is with Moses as he delivers the Israelites out of Egypt.

Moses is on the brink of a life-changing impact for the people of Israel as he carries out God’s command. He was unsure of himself, but he knew that Yahweh, I AM, was going to be with him in this journey.

Read Exodus 4:1-17

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the first excuse that Moses gives to God? (*“They will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say you did not appear to me.”*)
2. How does Moses describe his speech? (*Not eloquent, slow of speech and of tongue.*)
3. How does God respond when Moses asks God to send someone else? (*He was angered, but agrees to send Aaron, Moses’ brother, to go with him.*)

Moses uses the first part of chapter 4 to get out of going to the people of Egypt; he does not want to do this. Through his series of complaints and responses from God, Moses is finally allowed to have someone go with him, Aaron, but it doesn’t mean that God hasn’t been angered by Moses’ doubt.

Just like Moses, there are many times when we doubt our abilities to do something that God has called us to do. We should remember that God provides Moses with a plan when he was about to face the people of Egypt. Moses has evidence that Yahweh sent him—God gave him that. When we think of our faith journey with God, how many times have we failed to see that Yahweh is with us, preparing us for each encounter as we carry out His Will?

MAKING IT REAL

This passage is more than just a man who was tending sheep and happened upon a talking burning bush. The passage reveals God's character to us and demonstrates that He is active in our lives. Does anything stand out to you that God might be calling you to do? God may not be calling you to go to a Pharaoh or to help an entire people group, but He is calling you.

General Discussion:

- Is there anything that stood out that God might be calling you to do? (*Speak to a friend or family member about Jesus; give up something as a sacrifice, a calling/career, etc.*)
- Do doubts or insecurity hinder you as they did Moses? (*More than likely, we fear failure or feel that we are not good enough, etc.*)
- How can you prepare yourself to be willing to go where God calls you to go, even if you do not feel adequate? (Examine your life experiences. Those weren't an accident. God has already been preparing you! Study His Word, ask mentors what they see in you as a possible calling, etc.)

Just like Moses, God calls us to serve the people around us. Sometimes it is hard for us to realize why God would choose us to do such a task; we cannot say the right things, we do not feel like people will believe us, maybe someone else should go in our place. Remember that God,

Yahweh, the I AM calls us to reach His people, not alone, but with His help!

God did not forget the people of Egypt. He chose Moses to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt and likewise, He will not forget the plans He has for you.

Read John 15:5

Discussion Questions:

1. What is Jesus in this verse? (*A vine.*)
2. What are we? (*The branches.*)
3. What do the branches depend on for survival? (*The vine.*)
4. How do the branches bear fruit? (*By staying connected to the vine.*)
5. In case you missed it, Jesus says it plainly at the end of the verse: apart from Him, what can we do? (*Nothing.*)

God says that apart from Him we can do nothing. Moses may have been slow to believe and an inarticulate speaker, but because he had God, he helped to deliver the people of Israel from Egypt. God calls us into His kingdom and desires to use us each day to be a part of this Kingdom's work. Obviously, we have times where it is difficult to trust in His plan, but as we become more aware of His presence and His ability to empower us, our self-doubts and insecurities will fade away.

CLOSING PRAYER

Talking about God's presence and calling for our lives is momentous. Let's spend some time in silence, praying about God's presence in our lives and how He might be calling us. After a few moments of your own silent prayer, I will close in prayer.