

Introduction:

We pray you and your Connect Group continue to be blessed as we continue through the [Year of the Bible](#) series. Last week we discussed Abraham's faithful obedience and this week we will see how God called Moses to begin to fulfill the promise God made.

Icebreaker: *(optional; use only one)*

- Share a promotion or task that you felt under qualified or unprepared to take on.
- What is a "high" and/or "low" for you personally this week?

Recall: Ask group members to read Exodus 3:1-14

Discussion: *(For assistance with today's text and discussion, see the Commentary section)*

1. Moses is arguably one of the most recognized figures in the Old and New Testament. The Bible records his story starting from his birth. What can you recall about the events that happened in Moses' life prior to Exodus 3? *(See Background section under Commentary for assistance.)*
2. Last week, we looked at the life of Abraham. One of the promises God made to Abraham was that God would make him a great nation and bless his descendants *(see Ge. 12:2)*. But 400 years later, the descendants of Abraham *(the Israelites)* are Egyptian slaves. What do you think the Israelites thought and felt about God's promise to them as slaves?
 - a. Have you ever found yourself in a season of wandering and waiting on the Lord? How so?
3. In verse 7, God acknowledges that He sees the Israelites' affliction and He has heard their prayers. What does this verse teach us about God's nature and character?
 - a. There are seasons when any of us could say we've felt afflicted, forgotten, or distraught. How comforting is it to know that the God of the universe sees you and hears your prayers?
4. God speaks through an angel and then through the burning bush to get Moses' attention. What or whom has God used in the past to speak to your heart?
 - a. Moses is instructed that the ground he is standing on is "holy ground." Do you have a sacred spot in your house or surrounding area that you have claimed as "holy ground" – a place where you go to pray and hear from God?
5. Beginning with verse 11, Moses makes his 1st of five excuses why God should use someone other than him. Pastor Bruce pointed out that each of Moses' excuses were ultimately rooted in fear. What excuses or fears are preventing you from experiencing the fullness of God and being a blessing to others?

Closing: Like Moses, we will all be attacked with the lie that we are not _____ enough for God to use us. Take time to identify and share the lies that the enemy uses against you and personalize this prayer: *God, You know I battle feeling like I am not _____ enough, but I know You can still use me. You are the Great I Am, and with You all things are possible. I want Your will to be done in and through my life, and I'm ready. Use me. Amen.*

Commentary: *(All Scripture references are from the ESV translation)*

Background:

Watch this video to see God painting a picture of God restoring His people back into relationship with Him and delivering them out of the bondage of Egypt: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-1-18/>

Highlights of Moses' Background leading up to Exodus 3:

- Born to a Hebrew family when Pharaoh had declared Hebrew baby boys must be killed. His mother hid him, and then wove a basket + placed him in the river. Pharaoh's daughter discovered Moses and decided to keep him and raise him as her own. Moses grew up in the palace.
- Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave, and he murdered the Egyptian. Afraid for his life, he escaped to Midian where he married a woman from there and worked as a shepherd.
- He spends 40 years in Midian; he was 80 years old when God appeared to Him in the burning bush.

As the Israelites are captured by Pharaoh and live in Egypt under bondage, they start to mingle with the Egyptian culture. They adopt their customs and religious practices, looking more like the environment around them than the people of God. As Pharaoh continues to mistreat the Israelites, they begin to cry out to the God of their Fathers to deliver them from Egypt. God intervenes on their behalf and calls Moses to deliver His people out of bondage. Moses' call at the burning bush marks the call between God and his people.

3:2 The theme of **fire** shows up throughout the Old Testament representing God's presence to His people.

3:7-8 At this time, God's people were in Egypt under a harsh ruler named Pharaoh. During their oppression and enslavement, they continually cried out to the Lord for deliverance (see Bible Project video for more context). God tells Moses that he has **seen, heard, and knows** the **affliction** of his people and has made a way to bring them out of Egypt to the promised land.

3:11 Moses asked the question, **"Who am I?"** The question was focused on himself and his own abilities. God answered in a way that lifted Moses' eyes upward, He responded, **"I will be with you."** This indicates that God's presence is essential to the call. In the Old Testament, we see that when God promises to be with someone, He also empowers and strengthens them to walk out the calling He has given them.

3:13 The Egyptian culture was polytheistic and pantheistic, meaning they believed in multiple gods. Moses was anticipating people asking, **"What is his name?"** in response to delivering the message he had received. The fact that referencing **the God of your Fathers** would not answer that question, shows that the people of God had intertwined with the Egyptian culture and forgotten who the one true God was and still is.

3:14 **"I AM WHO I AM"** reveals God as "Yahweh." The Hebrew name suggests a variety of meaning to God's character, including His consistency to be faithful. "I AM" can be translated as "I will be" in this text, supporting God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises to His people and remain with them always.

H.E.A.R Method: *(If time allows, you may also use the H.E.A.R. method to study this passage)*

When reading God's Word:

Highlight each verse that stands out to you.

Examine what you just read by looking at Scripture within context.

Apply what you just read to your life.

Respond by writing out or incorporating what you just read into a prayer.