

Week of October 31st through November 6th, 2011
“Accept the Call”

Outline of the Passages:

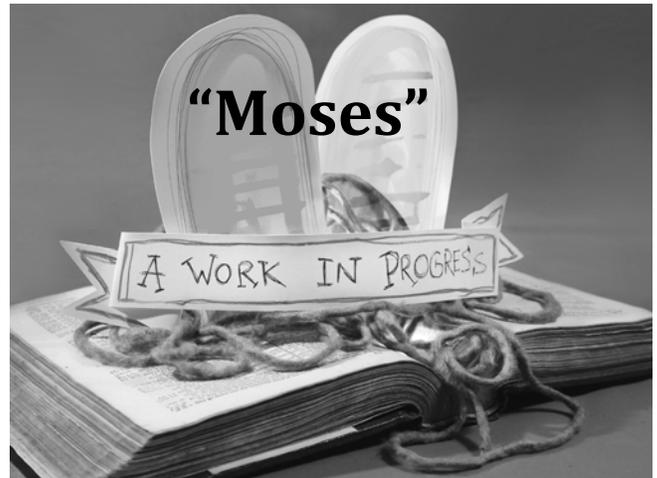
1. Encounter God’s Presence (Ex. 3:1-6)
2. Understand God’s Name (Ex. 3:10-15)
3. Depend on God’s Power (Ex. 4:10-12)

What’s This Lesson About?

We will examine the call of Moses at the burning bush and how Moses had one excuse after another for not heeding the call.

How This Lesson Can Impact Your Life:?

You will discover the unique call God has placed on your life to serve Him.



1. Encounter God’s Presence (Exodus 3:1-6)

- a. Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian.
 - i. At 80 years old, Moses was in his second career, that of shepherd.
 - ii. For Jethro, his father-in-law of Midian
- b. He came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
 - i. We are not sure today which peak is Mt. Horeb in Sinai Mountain Range.
 - ii. Pictures of the Sinai Mountain Range today.
- c. Then the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush.
 - i. Exact type of bush is unknown.
 - ii. Under normal circumstances, any bush in this mountain range would have burnt up quickly.
 - iii. Why wasn’t it burning up? Because God was in the bush see Deuteronomy 33:16 “May the best gifts of the earth and its fullness and the favor of Him who dwelt in the burning bush...”
- d. “Do not come closer,” He said. “Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”
 - i. The Hebrew noun translated “holy” identifies something that is removed from common use and set apart or consecrated for the use of God.
 - ii. The place became holy because God was present.
 - iii. That’s why the Bible when referring to the people of God calls them Holy – 1 Peter 1:15-16 “But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
- e. Then He continued, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”
 - i. Our God is a promise keeping God – the God of Moses’ fathers.
 - ii. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

- Abraham = the Father of many nations;
- Isaac = the Only Son of his father;
- Jacob = Wrestles with God until he is blessed;

Spiritual Exercise #1

God does not use a burning bush to speak to us today. Today, God uses the written Word of God to speak to us. When do you make time for God to speak to you? If you do not have a regular quiet time, what would be the best time of day for you to do so (circle your response):

_____Morning _____Mid-day _____Just before bed

How much time are you willing to set aside to listen to God? _____ minutes

2. Understand God's Name - Exodus 3:10-15

- a. God has a specific task for Moses – I am sending you to Pharaoh in order to free My people.
- b. Moses' first excuse: "Who am I that I should go?"
 - i. Moses has learned humility since he left Egypt;
 - ii. God promises His presence, so Moses will not stand there alone;
- c. Moses' second excuse: "What is Your name God?"
 - i. God tells Moses His name is "I AM." Hebrew is a language of only consonants. This divine name of God would look like this YHWH and was pronounced Yahweh [YAH weh].
 - ii. In the Middle Ages, Jewish scholars used the word Adonai – "Lord", in place of YHWH;
 - iii. By the 15th century there was an attempt to use the vowels of "Adonai" with the Hebrew consonants YHWH with the result that a new word was made up: "Jehovah."
 - iv. The word Yahweh is first person singular of the verb "to be," thus translated "I am" in most Bibles. It can also be translated "I cause to be," picking up on the fact that this God is Creator of all things.
 - v. This God is also the same God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob;

Spiritual Exercise #2

Have you used any excuses you when asked to serve? Mark only those that are illegitimate!

- ___ "I'm not ready. I need to grow more as a Christian first."
- ___ "That's not where my talents lie."
- ___ "I just have too much going on right now."
- ___ "I've done enough. It's someone else's turn."
- ___ "That probably isn't even God speaking to me."

3. Depend on God's Power - Exodus 4:10-15

- a. Moses' fourth excuse: I can't talk very well and I wouldn't know what to say;"
 - i. There is no evidence in Scripture that Moses had some kind of speech impediment;

- ii. In fact, Stephen said that Moses “was powerful in his speech and actions” (Acts 7:22).
 - iii. Moses’ real motive was to offer an excuse for NOT going;
 - iv. God is becoming a little angry with Moses and his reluctant attitude;
 - v. Moses is told to rely on God’s Power – after all God made the mouth and gave it the ability to speak;
 - vi. If God created the ability to see and speak, could He not give Moses the power to speak before Pharaoh?
 - vii. If God could do such a thing for Moses, could He not give us the power to speak and to serve?
- b. Moses’ fifth and final excuse: “I don’t want to go. Send someone else.”
- i. The real truth comes out – I don’t want to go!
 - ii. God does not take “No” for an answer;
 - iii. Moses will go and he will speak on behalf of God to Pharaoh;
 - iv. God promises, “I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say.”
 - v. In the same way, God gave us the Holy Spirit to help us be faithful witnesses (John 14:26).

Spiritual Exercise #3

Have you heard God’s call to service? Check any statement(s) below that describes God’s plan for your life:

- Called to live a life of purity
- Called to be the “salt” and the “light” in my present family or workplace
- Called to engage in the specific profession of _____
- Called to the Professional ministry
- Called to share the gospel

Pray that you will obey God’s call and thank Him for His promise to equip you for service.

Biblical Truths of This Study

1. Regardless of our walk in life, God has called us to serve Him.
2. God will always equip us to carry out our call.
3. We need to examine our lives to see where God has equipped us to serve. Then we need to serve.
4. God will provide His presence and His power to help us accomplish His purpose for our lives.