

WEEK ONE



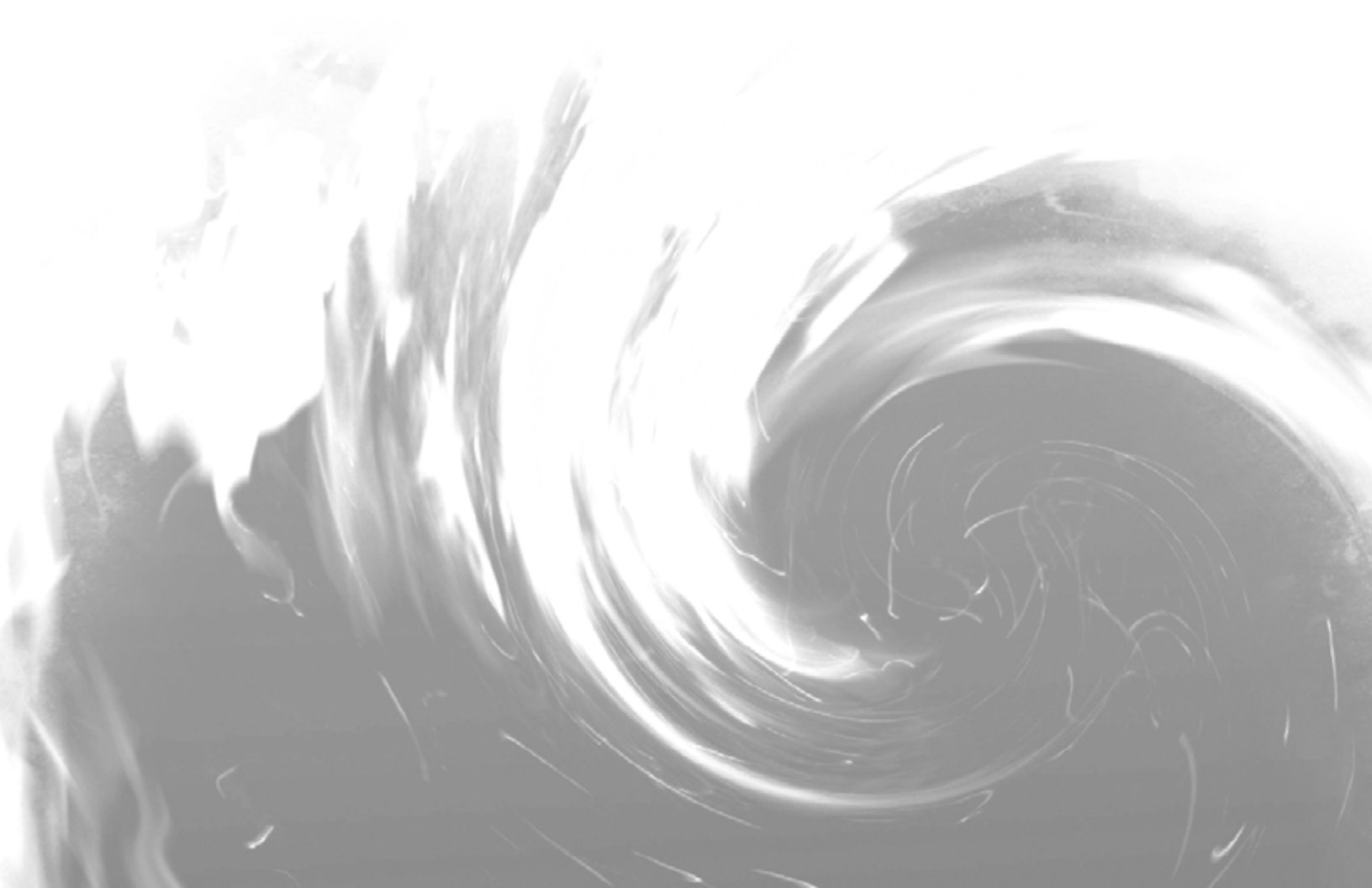
# The Call from the Burning Bush

“Paying Attention to God’s Shiny Objects”

Mountain of Worship: Mt. Horeb



*Three Word Prayer: Here I Am*

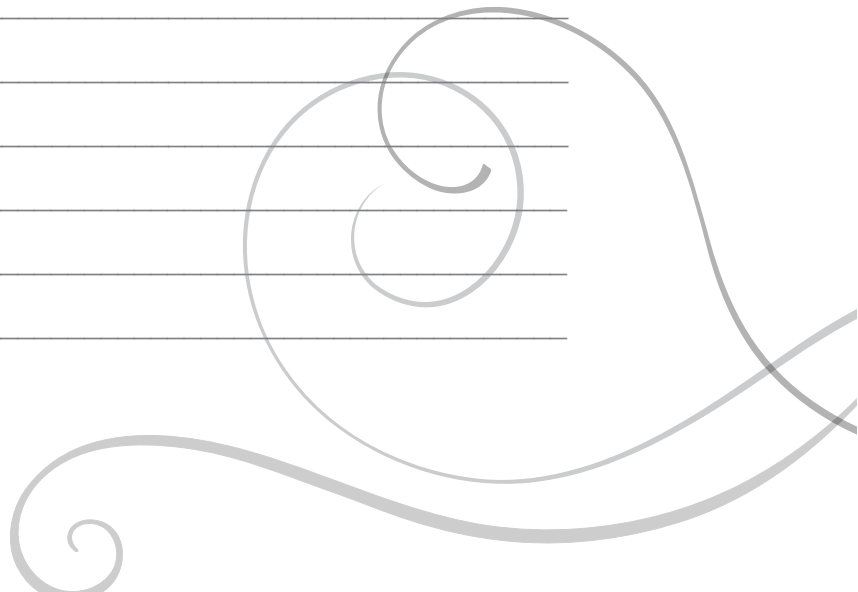




THIS WEEK

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_





*BEGIN WITH PRAYER*

Each week of this course, you'll be given a three word prayer as your prayer focus of the week. As God reminds you, pray it throughout each day before you attend the next class. Ask the Father to deepen your understanding of that prayer.

*Heavenly Father, come down among us in power and glory. Rain down Your Spirit and revive us again. Move us; stir us; awaken our hearts to want more of You. Lord Jesus, awaken me from my spiritual sleep. Please, Lord, energize my spirit, soul, and body with Your Holy Spirit's fire. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

This study is all about worship. During *Fan the Flame*, we're going to study what God desires of His worshipers. Many of you sing your worship at church, but may wonder how effective your worship really is. Is it impacting your life? Your world? Is your worship pleasing to God?

With our world erupting in earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, fires, and wars we need true worshipers on the job. With political events careening out of control, the world needs believers whose hearts are fanned into white hot passion for Christ Jesus and His kingdom. That happens when believers worship.

Some of you have crises closer to home. Your own life or that of a loved one is a battlefield where you feel like you're on the losing side. While we profess our love for Christ and believe in His Word, we sometimes feel helpless to engage our faith when we need it most. We need rekindling in the consuming fire of God. We need true worship.

Or perhaps life for you is peaceful and calm. Maybe it's just a little too peaceful. You feel bored at church and disengaged from other believers. While they seem happy to go through the motions of religious activity, your heart yearns for more. How will you leave your lethargy and step into sincere worship?

**READ JOHN 4:23**

*23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.*

What kind of worshiper does the Father seek?

---

How do those worshipers worship?

---

🕯️ How do you think a true worshiper engages in worship of God? What should he do first?

---

Scripture reveals how God taught His true worshipers to worship Him according to the power of the Spirit and in pure truth. Often the physical places of those lessons with God were mountains, and where mountains and fire appear together, intense scenes of worship occur. In each session of *Fan the Flame*, we'll examine a different mountain where God taught His people how to come before Him in true worship. Our study begins with the story of Moses and his journey to Mt. Horeb, where we discover what it means to worship God through obedience to His call.

READ EXODUS 1:8-14.

*8 Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. 9 "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." 11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly.*

What was the problem facing the people of Israel?

---



APPLY

Write out the key words that tell you about their condition:

- From the point of view of the Egyptians

---

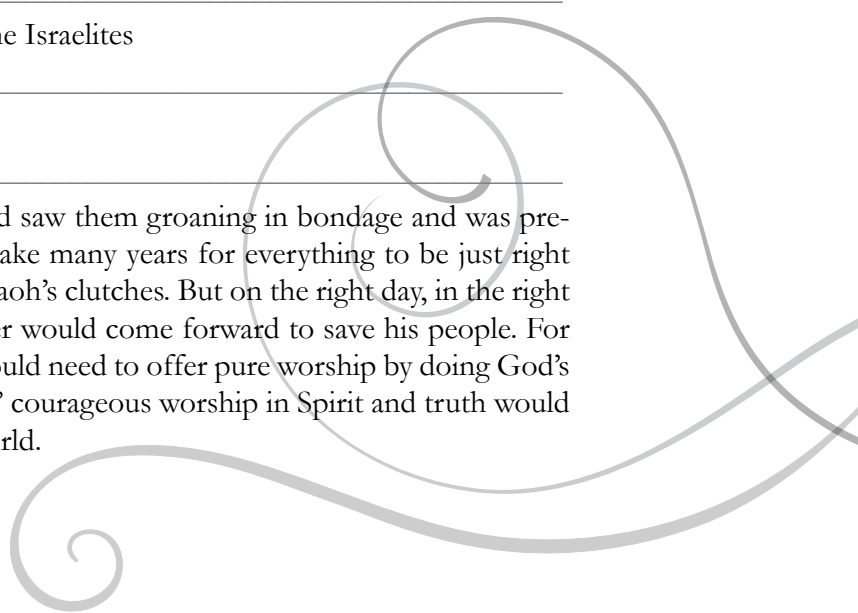
- From the point of view of the Israelites

---

- From God's point of view

---

The people of Israel were in crisis. God saw them groaning in bondage and was preparing to send their rescuer. It would take many years for everything to be just right for the redemption of Israel from Pharaoh's clutches. But on the right day, in the right place, at the right time, a true worshiper would come forward to save his people. For the Israelites to be rescued, this man would need to offer pure worship by doing God's will for his life, not his own will. Moses' courageous worship in Spirit and truth would change the history of Israel and the world.



We don't have to look far to find people who need rescuing. There are all types of oppression: spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical. Let's face it; brokenhearted people are hard to be around sometimes. After an initial attempt at empathy or sympathy, you might find it difficult to remain involved with a hurting person. It takes commitment, both spiritual and physical, to serve others.

We don't have to feel guilty that we can't solve all the problems of the whole world, nor even of all those we hear about. The great freedom of living in Christ is that as true worshipers we are only responsible for our own personal God-assignments. The Holy Spirit will guide you into which situation He is calling you. He will equip you with everything necessary to meet the need. Your job is to be flexible, available, and obedient as you listen to His voice.



APPLY

🔥 What do you believe God is calling you to do right now where you live?

---

🔥 What is your response?

---

🔥 How is your response an act of worship?

---

God called Moses to rescue His people from oppression and he was marked out by God from his birth.

READ EXODUS 2:1-10.

*1 Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" 8 "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."*



APPLY

Who were Moses' parents and why is that important?

---

According to Exodus 2:2, Acts 7:20, and Hebrews 11:23, what did Moses' parents see when they looked at their newborn?

---

How did they exhibit their faith?

---

How was the rescue of Moses by Pharaoh's daughter a precursor of events to come?

---

READ ACTS 7:21-22.

*21 When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. 22 Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.*

What kind of life did Moses have in his first forty years?

---

🔥 Why is it important for us to understand Moses' history?

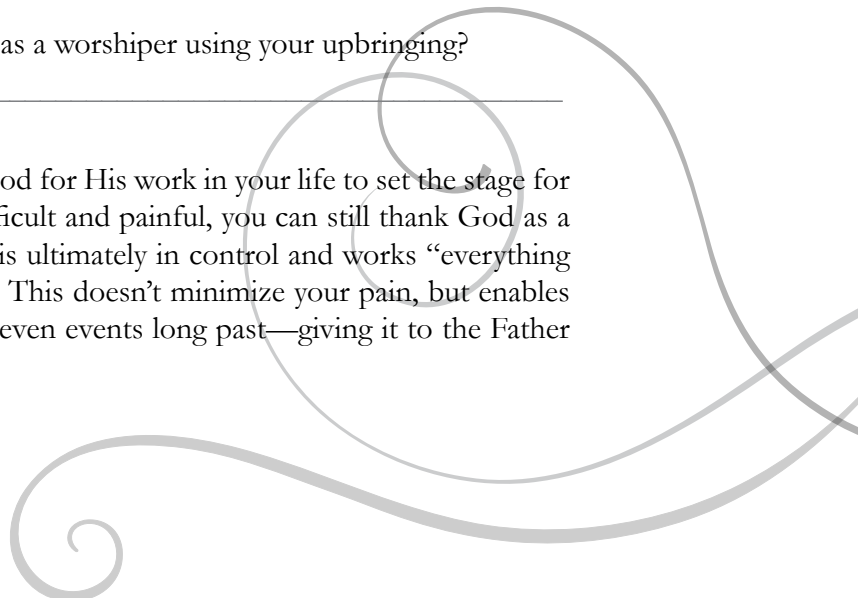
---

Recall events from your early history where you identify God's hand on your life and perhaps even early signs of your spiritual gift in action. By writing down some key points from your early years up to the time you left home, you may see a pattern emerging. If time allows, share with your group one or two key events in your story that highlight God's preparation for ministry.

🔥 How did God shape your life as a worshiper using your upbringing?

---

Write out a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His work in your life to set the stage for your worship. If your early life was difficult and painful, you can still thank God as a sacrifice of thanksgiving, knowing He is ultimately in control and works "everything together for our good." (Romans 8:28) This doesn't minimize your pain, but enables you to make an offering of your life—even events long past—giving it to the Father in an act of worship.





*BEGIN WITH PRAYER*

*Lord, I want to serve You according to Your will, not mine. Please give me the grace neither to go ahead of You nor lag behind Your will, Your plan, and Your timing. Today, I am aware of Your presence and choose to stay right here with You. Lord Jesus, I ask for the gift of faith. Enlarge my ability to believe You and Your promises to me. I open my heart to receive this gift. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

In our zeal for God as His worshipers, we can get ahead of ourselves. Preempting the divine plan, we sometimes charge ahead and then ask God to bless it. True worshipers wait until the Spirit moves and then they follow that leading with obedience. But even our heroes of the faith struggled with disciplining their worship in that way.

*READ EXODUS 2:11-14.*

*11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12 Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" 14 The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." 15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian...*



**APPLY**

According to verse 11, how did Moses choose to identify with his race?

---

Why would the grandson of Pharaoh choose to do such a thing?

---

What was God's call on Moses' life? (see Exodus 3:10.)

---

How did Moses understand his calling but preempt God's timing?

---

You probably have some idea of God's calling on your life. When you look at your giftedness, your passions, the season of life where you are, and the godly authorities

around you who see things in you that even you might not see, then you begin to have a good picture of God's assignment for you. Perhaps you have specifically heard God's voice speaking to you, guiding you to take on a particular mission. On the other hand, maybe you haven't a clue what God wants you to do.

Whether you are certain of His calling or you are in the dark or perhaps somewhere in between, it is critical to understand God's timing and not move ahead of Him. When you understand your mission and are passionate about it, hearing the needy cries, it is tempting to jump right in. Instead, I want to encourage you to wait for God to speak to you, telling you when and what He wants you to do. That is why it's important to practice God's presence hour by hour and day by day.

Moses must have sensed that God had uniquely qualified him to be Israel's deliverer. I wonder when he discovered he was Israeli instead of Egyptian. Was his fortieth birthday the day Pharaoh's daughter made the big announcement to him? We don't have those details spelled out in Scripture. In any case, Moses chose his fortieth year to investigate the plight of his people. What he saw was disturbing. Here he was, living in all the comforts of Egypt while his countrymen slaved to provide them. His heart was moved to rescue them. He may have sensed that this is why God allowed him to live in the palace, accepted into Pharaoh's family. What better person could there be to relieve the suffering of his people? He must have been in shock when his first attempt at ministry to his people didn't go well.

READ ACTS 7:24-25.

*24 He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. 25 Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.*

Moses might have thought he had the wrong impression from God about becoming a rescuer of Israel. Helping them only landed him in trouble!

APPLY

🔥 Have you ever experienced "trouble" when trying to serve others? Has it discouraged you from continuing?

How was Moses' attempt at serving his people unacceptable worship?

Serving God from our own strength and in our own timing is a big temptation. While we sing "Here I Am to Worship" on Sunday, actually bowing down to say He is our God, choosing to do His will in His way, is quite another thing. True worship takes on an entirely different meaning when it involves waiting on God for something we really want and following His plan alone. Sometimes we self-righteously try to help God out by engineering our own plan. It isn't worship at all, but creates a catastrophe.



READ JOHN 18:2-11.

*2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. 4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." 9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me." 10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"*

🕯️What was Peter trying to do?

---

🕯️How did Jesus respond to Peter's attempt at serving Him in this scene?

---

Why was Peter's action unacceptable worship?

---

Peter was zealous for Jesus, but jumped ahead of God's plan. He took his sword and instead of the sword of the Spirit, it became a sword of his flesh. Cutting off Malchus' right ear was not God's assignment for Peter. While it seemed like a good thing to protect Jesus from His attackers, Jesus didn't need saving, Peter did. Peter's heart was stirred and impassioned from three years of intense discipleship at Jesus' feet, but he still wasn't the seasoned minister God was ready to use. He would have to be broken of his agenda, his will, his insecurities, his fears, and his unclean mouth for God to use him. He had heard the call of Jesus but would need to wait on the Father to place him into action. By swinging his saber without the leadership of the Spirit, it just made a big mess.

Knowing God's calling and then hearing from Him to wait can truly test you as a worshiper. But it is the waiting and listening, training yourself to rein in your passion, that is high and holy worship. It is worshiping in the flow of the Spirit and according to the truth that comes from the heart of God that is acceptable. God is Spirit, and His true worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth.

Moses did follow through on the calling from God on his life, but only when God was ready. The Lord would season him before opening the door for the full revelation of what was to come. Today, just focus on being patient with God's timing as an act of worship. Pray. Wait. Listen. And at the right time, He will show you how to worship Him in Spirit and truth.



# Day 3

## BEGIN WITH PRAYER

*Father God, I bow my heart and soul in reverence to You. You are God. You reign and rule on the earth. There is no God like You. I worship You. Lord Jesus, here I am. I am listening to Your voice. You are my Shepherd and I choose to follow You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

While we sometimes cannot see what God is doing as He weaves events in our lives for His purpose, He sees and knows exactly what He is doing. God's plans are perfect and crafted for our good to produce in us the right character traits, maturity level, and ability to carry out His will. He is patient and longsuffering as He waits on us to grow up into Him. It is sometimes exasperating to wait to see what He is doing, but exhilarating when we discover His plan was right all along. Moses must have felt like his life was over as he ran through the desert to escape Pharaoh's executioners. Prepared to rule in Pharaoh's house, now all those dreams were dashed. Attempting to act on that inner impulse to help his native people had only resulted in disaster. What was left for him to do?

## READ EXODUS 2:15-25.

*15...he [Moses] sat down by a well. 16 Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock. 18 When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?" 19 They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock." 20 "And where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat." 21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. 22 Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, "I have become an alien in a foreign land." 23 During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. 24 God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. 25 So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.*

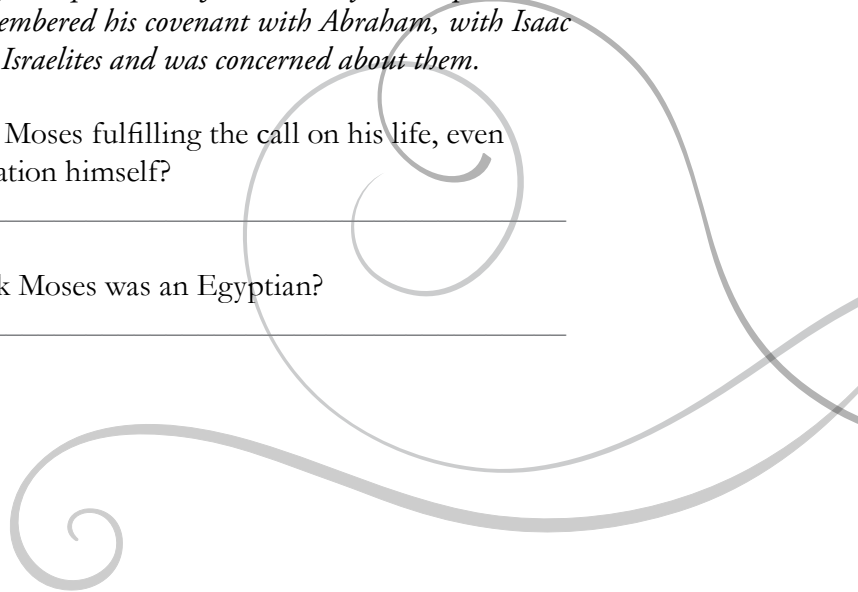
APPLY

According to verse 17, how was Moses fulfilling the call on his life, even while he was in a desperate situation himself?

---

Why did Reuel's daughters think Moses was an Egyptian?

---





APPLY

How did Moses' life appear to have taken a different turn away from the problems of his people, the Israelites, and his upbringing in Pharaoh's court?

---

What would Moses have learned firsthand as a shepherd in the wilderness of Midian?

---

How was God using this "wilderness" period of his life?

---

What wilderness experiences have you faced?

---

How did God use them to mature and develop your life in Him?

---

Moses' time in the desert of Sinai, working as a shepherd, was the perfect "stage two" preparation for his ministry. During his first forty years, he received all the best education of his day to prepare him for leadership. He cut his teeth on governing a nation. The second phase of his training looked like his life had been thrown away. But God was completing his intense preparation by taking him out of the classroom, and into the bootcamp of the desert where he would eventually be shepherding a large flock of his people. Curiously, they would often remind him of his silly sheep, as he led them through the desert, the geography of which he had learned by heart. When your life takes a downturn and you cannot imagine how God will use your current situation for your good and His glory, think of Moses.

READ EXODUS 3:1-4.

*1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." 4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."*



APPLY

Where was Moses when God called him?

---

How did God draw Moses' attention?

---

🔥 What has God placed in your life as a "shiny object" or "burning bush?"

---

What was the three word prayer Moses uttered in response to God's voice?

---

🔥 How is that prayer an act of worship?

---

READ ACTS 7:23, EXODUS 7:7, AND DEUTERONOMY 34:7 to discover the three segments of Moses' life.



APPLY

According to Acts 7:23, how long did Moses stay in Pharaoh's house?

---

How old was he when God instructed him to lead out the people of Israel?

---

How old was he when he died?

---

How did God use his first eighty years to prepare him for the last forty years of his life?

---

How impressive was his ministry resume or work experience when God called him at eighty years of age?

---

🔥 How qualified do you need to be before God can call you into His service?

---

How is God using your history to prepare you for your future?

---

God has called us to worship Him by paying attention to the “burning bushes” and “shiny objects” He has placed in our lives. When we turn aside to look at what He is doing, the stage is set for an incredible time of worship. God may be taking you through a desert to bring you to a mountain to worship Him. What at first looks like the end may in fact be the beginning of God's new chapter in your life. Look closer to see if it is a call to worship as you never have before. When there is a “fire” on your “mountain,” take off your shoes, bow your heart in worship, enter into His presence and get ready for an adventure. True worshipers know that worship leads you higher, deeper, and farther into the heart of the Father than you thought possible. And that journey begins when the Father catches your eye, calling you to turn and look!



**BEGIN WITH PRAYER**

*Father, break off rebellious attitudes in me that tempt me to run away from Your presence. Exchange my stubbornness for Your faithfulness. Lord, let me run to You, not away from You. Guide my feet onto Your path. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

What is worship? The Greek word for worship is *proskuneo* and means “to kiss the hand as in an act of reverence; or to fall upon one’s knees and bow the head to the ground in reverence.”<sup>1</sup> Both of these positions of worship indicate a bowing not only of one’s body but of one’s heart. Full submission to the will of the one being worshiped is the barometer of true worship. Moses was completely willing to worship God upon their first encounter, but when God called Moses into service, Moses hesitated to pay the price of a true worshiper. Would you?

**READ EXODUS 3:5-12.**

*5 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” 6 Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. 7 The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt.” 12 And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”*



**APPLY**

🕯 Besides ending their suffering, why did God send Moses to take the people of Israel out of Egypt?

---

Why did God have Moses remove his shoes when he was in God’s presence?

---

🕯 What position of worship did Moses adopt for his body? For his will?

---

🔥 Have you ever heard God's voice calling you to do something but you didn't want to do it?

---

Amazingly, we see Moses going ahead of God activating his "rescue ministry" before it was time, then when God does actually call him into service, he drags his feet. Does that sound familiar? Perhaps you vacillate between going ahead and lagging behind God. Maybe you have felt that gentle nudge in your heart to serve God as an act of worship, but chose instead to ignore it. If so, you aren't alone.

READ JONAH 1:1-3.

*1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." 3 But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.*

To discover why Jonah might have wanted to run away from God's call, read Genesis 10:8-11 and skim Nahum chapters 1-3. (Nineveh was the name for the current day city of Mosul, Iraq.)

What five steps did Jonah take in the opposite direction to God's call?

---

READ I CORINTHIANS 10:13 (KJV).

*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*



What was Jonah's "way to escape?"

---

APPLY

Can we run away from God? (See Psalm 139:7.) \_\_\_\_\_

Write out an honest prayer about your response to God's voice.

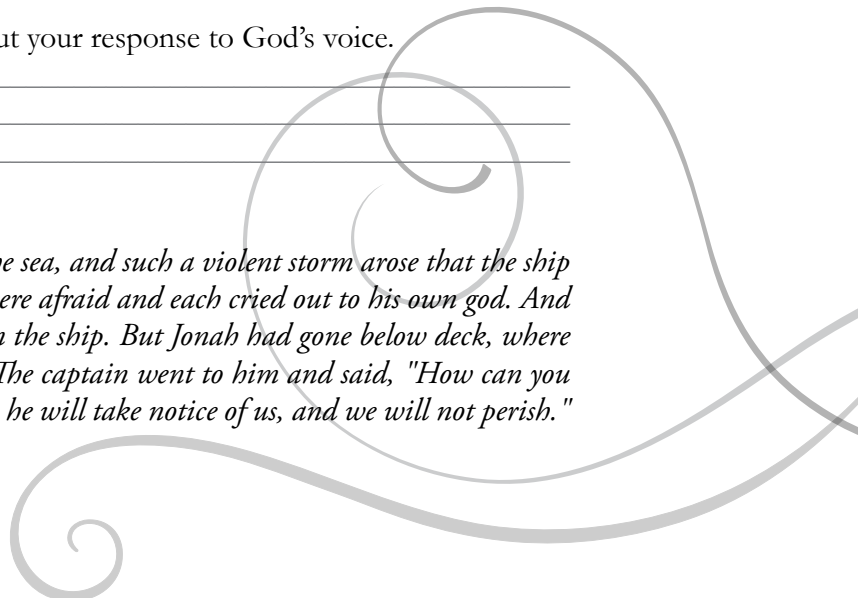
---

---

---

READ JONAH 1:4-17.

*4 Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. 5 All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. 6 The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish."*



What was the consequence of Jonah's running from God?

---

How did the sailors worship in the best way they knew at the time?

---

🔥 Why do you think Jonah could sleep through the storm?

---

What did the captain know about worship?

---

*7 Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" 9 He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." 10 This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) 11 The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" 12 "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."*

What do you learn about God from these verses?

---

*13 Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. 14 Then they cried to the LORD, "O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased." 15 Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. 16 At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him. 17 But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.*

How did the sailors now worship?

---

What must it have been like for Jonah inside that fish?

---

While David and I were living in Australia, we traveled around that beautiful country. One time we were able to go to the Ningaloo Reef on the west coast where we had the opportunity to swim with whale sharks. It was definitely one of my wildest adventures. The first time we were told to step off the back platform of the boat into the

water to see the whale sharks (who eat plankton, not meat, thankfully), I thought we'd have time to adjust our goggles to see the great fish from a long distance. But that day, the whale shark must have been swimming faster than the boat captain calculated and when we got into the water and looked ahead, the whale shark was upon us with a very large open mouth! David and I swam like crazy just to get out of his way! We survived that encounter and went on to have a fantastic day learning to observe and actually swim with these lovely sea creatures.

Whale sharks are the largest fish in the ocean. (I'm sure you remember that other whales are mammals, not actually fish.) To say these fish are huge is an understatement. They are between 40-60 feet (12-18 m) long and weigh up to 20 tons. On average they live 100-150 years. They feed by vacuuming in large amounts of water as they swim, filtering the water filled with plankton. According to those who observe them, they've been seen "coughing" to remove food caught in their gill rakers. Could a "great fish" like a whale shark actually be used by God to swallow then cough up Jonah? I have always believed the Jonah story as fact not fiction, and after meeting whale sharks in person, I can easily see how the Jonah story might have happened. I can imagine the agony of Jonah's life during those three days. But his watery wilderness turned into a powerful worship experience.

READ JONAH 2 from your Bible.

What happened to Jonah's worship?

---

What happened as a result of Jonah's worship?

---

READ JONAH 3:1-9.

*1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: 2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." 3 Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. 4 Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." 5 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. 6 When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. 7 This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. 8 But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. 9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."*

What might be the consequence in your life of running *from* God's call?

---





APPLY


What might be the consequence in your life of running *to* God's call?

---

How does Jonah's life call you to worship in Spirit and truth?

---

The people of Iraq in Jonah's day repented and worshiped the one true God as a result of Jonah's witness. His lonely worship experience in the belly of the great fish resulted in a transformed man ready to lead others in worship. Worship is not stagnant; it is not confined to the walls of our worship centers and the stanzas of our songs. True worship leads us up and leads us out and requires our lives to be laid upon the altar. Worshipping in Spirit and truth demands our all.

 Share with your group the calling you believe God has on your life. Pray for each other to be faithful to that calling.



BEGIN WITH PRAYER

*Lord, please give me the gift of faith to believe Your voice and Your calling, not only for me but for those around me. Break off prejudice and preconceived ideas about what Your calling might be and clothe me with confidence in Your present tense speaking voice and Your plan. Lord, take the scales off my eyes, that I might see Your truth, Your way for me. I come into Your presence to ask, seek, and knock for Your will to be completely done in my life. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

READ HEBREWS 11:24-27.

*24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*

APPLY

How did Moses worship God according to these verses?

---

What did Moses give up to walk by faith?

---

What did his faithful worship provide for him?

---

How could Moses see Him who could not be seen?

---

Interestingly, the writer of Hebrews mentions that Moses took on disgrace “for the sake of Christ.” Yet he lived long before the time of Jesus Christ.

🕯️ What is the writer of Hebrews saying in your opinion?

---

True worship takes courage. It requires giving up present safety to take hold of a future promise. It requires you to step out of the boat.

READ MATTHEW 14:30-32.

*30 Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"*

*31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.*



APPLY

What was Peter able to do when he truly worshiped Jesus?

---

What was Jesus' rebuke of Peter?

---

What is the answer to lack of faith?

---

What can you apply to your life right now from this lesson?

---

Some individuals hear God's voice, see their "burning bush," have a conversion experience, and receive a calling into ministry all in one event. Such was the experience of Saul, a man whose zeal was misdirected, but once on the right course, led him to be one of God's greatest worshipers.

READ ACTS 9:1-20.

*1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. 10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." 13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." 17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as*

*you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.*



APPLY

What was Ananias' calling from God?

---

What was Saul/Paul's calling?

---

What about Ananias' and Paul's callings would be hard to believe if you didn't know any of the rest of the story?

---

What does this tell you about the people to whom God may call you?

---

How might that calling affect your worship?

---

Paul had a rough time at the beginning of his ministry. Almost no one believed he had changed and was ready to preach the gospel. His past record preceded him everywhere he went.

READ ACTS 9:21-30.

*21 All those who heard him [Paul] were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ. 23 After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him, 24 but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. 25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall. 26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.*

Which groups of people disbelieved that Paul's calling and worship were genuine?

---

What was the reaction to Paul from the:

- Jews of Damascus? \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul's followers? \_\_\_\_\_
- The disciples in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_
- Barnabas? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Apostles? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Grecian Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

When God calls you to do something new or unexpected, you may face opposition. In fact, it is almost certain that you will have trials along the pathway of obedience to God's calling on your life. When you face these trials, pray for a "Barnabas." As soon as you know what God has called you to do, enlist a prayer support team.

Over the years, we've had many people praying with us and for us and encouraging our every step of ministry. With every new opportunity, whether it is establishing a long term work in a new country or a one-time weekend event in a church, the first thing we try to do is enlist a prayer team to pray diligently and regularly prior to our going. This team is the most vital part of the work. Without a prayer team soaking the event or the ministry in prayer, it would be useless to try to accomplish anything in the name of Jesus and to advance His kingdom. Prayer is not part of the work; it IS the work.

When people pray together, then they can understand collectively what God wants to do in that place at that particular time. From those prayers, comes the support and encouragement needed to go into battle. And of course, when you are following God's call to take spiritual "ground" in Jesus' name and to lead His worshipers, it always evokes a spiritual battle and you must not wage that alone.

Look again at Paul's experience. What were his spiritual battles?

\_\_\_\_\_

How did the disciples help him?

\_\_\_\_\_

🔥 Who can pray with you to become your prayer support team?

\_\_\_\_\_

🔥 Which prayer group do you need to join for support of another ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_

🔥How does Paul's life and ministry call you to worship in Spirit and in truth?

---

🔥What was the most important aspect of worship you learned this week?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

ROMANS 10:14-15

*14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

This entire week is about being called by God and how our response is an act of worship. Where is God calling you? In your "belief?" In your "hearing?" In your "teaching?" Does He want to send you? Ask the Lord to reveal to you where and how you may respond to His call—as an act of worship.

Notes:

1. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of Greek Words, James Strong, Greek word number 4352.

