



## Scotts Hill Baptist Church

GOD'S EXIT PLAN • WHO AM I? • EXODUS 3:1-22 • 2/2/2025

### MAIN POINT

When God calls us to serve Him, He does not just send us in our strength. He goes with us, empowers us, and brings about the completion of His plan.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

God called Moses to lead the work of freeing His people from their enslavement to Pharaoh. Moses had been in self-imposed exile for 40 years, hiding in Midian, to escape the wrath of Pharaoh for killing an Egyptian overseer. In light of the monumental scope of the task, Moses had significant apprehension for assuming the role God was calling him to. The passage for this week is a look at what happens when God is the focus when He calls someone to serve Him.

**What other examples in Scripture did God call who seemed like unlikely candidates?**

**Describe a time when you were shocked to learn the background of a person whose walk with Christ you respect. How do you think they felt when God first began to challenge them with the call on their life?**

**What does God's calling of unlikely candidates tell you about who He can and will use to accomplish His purposes? How does that relate to you?**

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 3:1-10.

At the close of Exodus 2, God saw and took notice of the misery of the Israelites. While God was preparing to do something about the Israelites' circumstances, Moses was just going through the motions of his daily routine, until God appeared to Moses in the bush that was not consumed by fire. God began to unfold for Moses His plan. He not only knew, but deeply felt the misery of His people. God announced, He was coming down to rescue them. He would evacuate them to a land of blessing. That sounded wonderful to Moses until God told him he was the one to lead the effort.

**Passages like these emphasize the awe and holiness of God. What experiences have led you to sense the magnitude of God's holiness? How did you respond in that moment?**

**Moses' identification as an Israelite meant that he no longer identified with the oppressive enslaver, but with those who need to be freed. How does that change in identification relate to salvation? How does it resonate with your change of identity in Jesus Christ?**

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 3:11-15.

The exhilaration of learning that God was finally coming to deliver His people must have had the opposite effect when Moses learned that he was the instrument through which God would bring about the deliverance. When Moses posed his initial protest to God, God provided Moses with a promise and a fulfillment sign. God gave Moses His covenant name, "Yahweh." The force of His name, based on the Hebrew verb for "to be," connotes that God is the Creator and Sustainer of everything that exists. His sovereignty over all things and all history is without rival or question.

**When was the last time something about your past caused you hesitancy in saying "yes" to an opportunity God had placed before you? How did you respond?**

**How important is the vibrancy of your relationship with God when you consider daunting tasks? Why do you think so?**

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 3:16-22.

With greater detail, God unfolded how His plan would proceed. Part of the greater detail was how the individuals Moses spoke with would respond to his message. God revealed that the elders of Israel would accept him and the message, which must have been an immense relief to Moses considering how he left the people of Israel four decades earlier. Pharaoh would not receive the message, but God revealed that ultimately the victory was His.

**Even with this explanation, God didn't reveal everything that would happen as Moses led the people. Describe a time when you had to trust God in a crucial situation. Did you know how every step would work out, or did God gradually and consistently show faithfulness?**

**God also told Moses that Pharaoh would reject the request. Why is it important to understand that following God's lead does not always lead to easy or enjoyable experiences?**

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**How have you sensed that God might be drawing you to serve Him in ministry to others?**

**When you think of God calling you to serve Him, how do you respond? Do you feel like He couldn't use you because of past mistakes? Do you begin thinking about ways God could use your strengths?**

**How does it impact your willingness to say "yes" to serving God when you understand, like Moses, that God will be with you, and that His power is ultimately responsible for accomplishing the task?**

**What do you need to come to God with and lay at His feet today?**

## PRAYER

Pray that God will open the hearts of those in your group to the idea of serving Him. Pray that their intimacy with God will embolden them to trust God to empower their service, even when the calling is difficult.

## COMMENTARY

## | EXODUS 3

3:1. Moses was born into the tribe of Levi in Egypt. When his parents could no longer hide him, his mother placed him in a watertight basket and floated the basket down the Nile River. One of Pharaoh's daughters found the baby and adopted him.

Later, when Moses was grown, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. Moses killed the Egyptian. The next day Moses tried to settle an argument between two Hebrews, and one of them revealed he had witnessed Moses' crime. Moses escaped to Midian [MID ih uhn] where he met Jethro [JETH roh](also called Reuel), a priest. Moses married Jethro's daughter and became a shepherd for his father-in-law (2:1-22).

Midian lay east of the Gulf of Aqaba [A kuh buh] in the northwestern corner of Arabia. One season as Moses traveled toward Egypt to find pastures for the sheep, he arrived at Horeb [HOH reb], another name for Mount Sinai, located in the south-central part of the Sinai peninsula. At Horeb God would call Moses to shepherd His people.

3:2. As Moses tended his flock, he noticed a flame of fire burning within a bush, but the branches and leaves were not turning to ash. The burning bush was no natural phenomenon but rather signaled the presence of the Angel of the Lord. God's appearance in the fire in the burning bush anticipated His later appearance in the fire on Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:18). The word translated "bush" also sounds similar to the name Sinai, another tie between Mount Sinai and God's revelation.

3:3. God used Moses' natural curiosity to draw him into His presence. Once God and Moses began their conversation, the bush no longer was the focus. The Bible does not reveal whether the bush burned up or the fire suddenly went out. The bush served only to draw Moses' attention so he could encounter God and receive God's call.

3:4. When Moses turned aside to examine the burning bush, God called out to him. In the ancient world, calling a person's name twice expressed particular affection and friendship. God wanted Moses to realize the love He had for His people and for Moses personally. Moses answered God in typical fashion, stating his willingness to hear (see Gen. 22:1; 46:2).

3:5. As God would later command the people not to approach Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:12), He instructed Moses to come no closer to the bush. God told Moses to remove his sandals, a common practice when entering the presence of royalty. Moses needed to keep a respectful distance and to remove his sandals because he stood on holy ground.

3:6. God introduced Himself to Moses in two ways. First, God stated He was the God of Moses' father. God had a personal connection with Moses' family and Moses. Second, God stated He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the forefathers of all the Israelites. God had made promises to Abraham that He fully intended to keep. Having multiplied His people in Egypt, God would fulfill His other promises of giving them a land, blessing them, and punishing those who oppressed them. Moses needed to recognize God's holiness—His difference from and superiority over His creation. Yet Moses also needed to know God's commitment and faithfulness to him and to God's people. God's holiness demanded exclusive worship and commitment in thought and deed. God's faithfulness indicated His love and encouraged people to trust Him.

3:7. Although the vocabulary describing the Israelites' suffering paints the same picture as in Exodus 2:23, the words used are different. Expressing the Israelites' suffering required using the entire vocabulary of oppression and pain. The people cried out to God, hoping He would notice their terrible situation and rescue them. Earlier God had heard His people's groaning, remembered His covenant with them, and seen their affliction (Ex. 2:24-25); but God had not told His people yet that He had heard their prayers. God's statement to Moses that He knew the Israelites' plight and had heard their appeals for help indicated His readiness to act.

3:8. God stated He had left His heavenly dwelling to come down to speak to Moses and to deliver His people. The Hebrew word translated "rescue" describes a sudden snatching away. Pharaoh and the Egyptians believed they had the Israelites in their tight grasp, but God would snatch His people from the Pharaoh's clutches.

God's deliverance included not only getting His people out of Egypt but also bringing them to a new, fruitful land. God described the land as good and spacious, large enough to support the Israelites' huge population and to allow them to experience God's blessing. The phrase "flowing with milk and honey" describes abundant provisions in a place where life could be fully enjoyed (see Deut. 6:3).

3:9. God restated His awareness of Israel's plight. Perhaps like other Israelites Moses wondered why God had waited so long to act. Yet God had been acting. He had been preparing Moses to be a deliverer, the one through whom God would work to save His people and to fulfill His promises.

3:10. God commanded Moses to go, stating that Moses would not only be part of the Israelites' exodus from Egyptian slavery, he would lead them! God had been preparing Moses his entire life. Moses had learned Israelite traditions from his mother, who had

served as his nurse. He had received an education as a result of growing up in the Egyptian royal court. His father-in-law, the priest of Midian, perhaps gave Moses additional insight into serving God. God planned to send Moses to face Pharaoh and to lead the Israelites out of slavery and into a beautiful land as a free nation.

3:19. Moses cited legitimate concerns regarding his mission. Moses saw himself as a simple shepherd. Furthermore, Moses feared the Israelites would be skeptical and would want to know God's name. Moses may have questioned whether God really could bring His people out of Egyptian slavery and into the promised land. God answered each of Moses' objections by promising His presence, revealing His name, emphasizing His tie to the Israelites' forefathers, and assuring that He would fulfill every promise He had made.

3:20. Though Pharaoh would yield to no human power, he would have to yield to God. God would perform extraordinary deeds in Egypt that would cause Pharaoh to free the Israelites. The use of the Hebrew word translated strike indicates God's miracles would cause destruction in Egypt. God did not announce how many plagues He would send or how severe they would be, only that His deeds would cause pain to the Egyptians. God would defeat Pharaoh and the Egyptians in their homeland, demonstrate His power and sovereignty, and force Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. After God acted, Pharaoh would be so eager to free the Israelites that he would drive them out of Egypt.