



Several weeks ago, we began a new series on the book of Exodus. If you're coming to the series today, here's a quick recap of what we've studied: The people of Israel are in captivity and slavery in Egypt. Much of the story so far has centered around an Israelite named Moses, raised by royalty in the home of Pharaoh's daughter. He then kills an Egyptian who was beating a fellow Israelite. He gets found out and flees to start a new life in Midian. Last week, we introduced the story where he's in the wilderness one day, tending to his flocks, and God shows up in a burning bush and calls him by name. God tells Moses he is on holy ground and should remove his sandals. Today, we continue that story as God lays out His call for Moses' life.

Key Passage: Exodus 3:7-22

Discussion Questions:

1. Exodus 12 tells us that the Israelites have lived in slavery for about 400 years. For context, America declared independence on July 4, 1776, 247 years ago. The Israelites had been in slavery longer (150+ years) than America has existed as a nation.
 - a. How do you imagine the Israelites felt during these 400 years of slavery?
 - b. Have you ever experienced a season when you felt like God was silent?
 - c. Why does God not always rescue us immediately? (See Genesis 50:19-21)
 - d. Read Exodus 3:7-9. What do these passages reveal about God and His proximity to our pain?
 - e. How should we respond when God seems silent?
2. After 400 years of slavery – God was suddenly breaking the silence. Review Exodus 3:7-9 and note how often God says, "I ____." What must it have felt like for Moses to hear these words directly from God, considering how long the people of Israel had been suffering in Egypt?
 - a. How would you have felt when God broke the silence with these statements?
 - b. How does the momentum of this one-sided conversation take a sudden turn for Moses?
 - c. How would you have felt if you were in Moses' shoes?
3. Why did Moses protest God's plan for him to be the one to lead Israel out of Egypt? Has there been a moment in your life when God called you to do something, and you felt, "I'm not cut out for that." Why do we discount that God could use us to do something rather than someone else?
4. How does God respond to Moses' objection? What promise does God give Moses? Where are we given similar promises in the New Testament? How have these promises sustained you in uncertainty?
5. In Exodus 3:18-22, God gives Moses a peek into what will happen. Would you be more or less reluctant if you knew exactly how God's plans would turn out? Why does God not give us all the details?