



On January 7, we kicked off a semester-long series, walking through the book of Exodus. So far, we've learned about the Israelite people and their slavery to the Egyptians and Moses' early life as a child during this season. We've also seen Moses on the run after killing an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite. Eventually, Moses settles in Midian as a fugitive in a new land where he starts a new life and a family. While tending his flocks in the wilderness, he encounters God in a holy moment through a burning bush. During this moment, God laid out His calling for Moses – a calling Moses protested because he felt he wasn't the man for the job despite God's promise to go with him. Today, we're considering the following: "When You Don't Feel Like You Can Do What God Has Called You to Do." Have you ever had to wrestle with that thought?

**Key Passage:** Exodus 4:1-17

**Discussion Questions:**

1. It's easy to reflect on Moses' life and see him as a spiritual giant in the Bible. After all, he saw the power of God on display in ways that few people have ever seen in history. Yet, his story doesn't begin from a place of confidence – nor does it always go smoothly. How do these honest stories in the Bible regarding the giants of the faith encourage your faith?

We often think of Moses as a spiritual giant in the Bible. He is one of our favorite people in the Bible, a man who ultimately sees the power of God on display in ways that few in history would see in person. Yet he doesn't begin from a place of confidence in the call of God and in the fact that God would be with him. Instead, his response is one of insecurity that God could not use somebody like him. If you ever feel like everybody else has it all together and never struggles to have faith or follow Christ in His calling upon their lives, let Moses' life be a testimony to you.

2. In Exodus 4:1, we see Moses again verbalize his doubt regarding God's calling on his life. Moses imagined the elders of Israel wouldn't respond to his leadership even though God had already made it clear that they would.
  - a. How has this kind of doubt shown up in your life?
  - b. What promises have you struggled to confidently stand on when facing a faith decision?
  - c. God gave Moses three tangible signs to perform before the elders of Israel to assure them that God had indeed sent Moses to them. What lesson(s) did Moses learn from these three signs?
  - d. How can reflecting on God's faithfulness in our past help strengthen our faith when it comes to our future?

Moses learned a lot about God's authority from these three miraculous signs. By throwing down the staff and seeing it turn into a snake and then back into a staff, God was demonstrating uniquely that

He had ultimate authority in Moses's life.

3. In verses 10-12, we see Moses again highlight his shortcomings and how they're an obvious (to him) barrier to his ability to fulfill God's calling upon his life. All Moses can see is how he doesn't measure up to what he imagines is necessary. How has this kind of thinking been a part of your story? How can accepting the reality of your limitations help you fulfill God's calling rather than hinder you?

We've already seen Moses speak from his insecurity and doubt. Now, he simply confesses his inability. Moses cannot help but think about his shortcomings and lack of abilities. How does God respond to Moses' insecurity? God reminds Moses of who created him. "Have I not created your mouth?" When we begin to wrestle with doubt because of our inabilities or perceived limitations, these verses remind us that God created us exactly as He wanted us to be. God has given you the exact gift that you have. God has created you to look like you look. God has created you to have what you have or don't have. We often get frustrated with our lack of gifts. If so, you're in good company with Moses and a host of others – who – eventually took a step of faith and relied upon God to do only what He could do in and through them. Trust God to fill in the gaps.

4. In verses 13-17, we see Moses' final protest, "Please, please, please send someone else". Why do you think Moses was still unwilling to go after all God had already promised and demonstrated? Why is it a temptation on our part to prefer that other people step up? What do these final verses teach us about how God uses people in our lives to help us fulfill our calling?

Moses had possibly run out of excuses by this point, and all he had left was the request, "Please don't make me go!" But God didn't let Moses off the hook. God was angry with Moses, yes, but in His anger, He demonstrated compassion by sending Aaron as his partner in ministry. God equipped Moses by sending Aaron to be with him. Likewise, God has provided others to help you fulfill God's call on your life (spouse, friends, co-workers).