



EXODUS SERIES: FREEDOM TO LIVE

#4: WHO AM I?

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BIBLICAL TEXT

*"All Moses needed to say was, 'Yes.' We just obey and God proves himself."
—Pastor Lane*

"Moses answered, 'What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"

Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," he replied.

The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground."

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you."

Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous[a]—it had become as white as snow.

"Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

Then the LORD said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground."

Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it." (Exodus 4:1-17)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Exodus 3, God called Moses to a task: freeing the Israelites from slavery to the Egyptians. In chapter 4, God gives Moses several signs that he can perform to prove that God is with him. Despite this, Moses is hesitant to go back to Egypt. His fear and anxiety are so crippling, he even dares to ask God to send someone else. God does not relent. He affirms the calling he's placed upon Moses. However, he promises that he will be with him and he will provide him with human support in the form of his brother, Aaron. Though Moses is less than confident and crippled by fear, God still chooses to use him and provides for him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What were you most afraid of as a kid?
2. What's one thing that you're dreading this week?
3. What example or story stood out to you in the sermon? Why was it significant to you?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. How does God prepare Moses for the task he has assigned him to?
2. What are Moses' doubts and how does God respond to them in this passage?
3. Do you think Moses' response to God in verse 10 is a sign of humility or an excuse? What makes you think so?
4. What does verse 14 tell us about God's plan for Moses?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What are common causes of fear and anxiety in today's world?
2. How does God prepare us for the tasks he gives us? What support does he offer us?
3. What problems/events can keep people from trusting that God is good? What can we do to strengthen our trust in God?
4. How can you tell the difference between humility and an excuse (or false humility)?
5. What "signs" has God given to us that will help us display his power to those around us?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What makes you anxious? How will you apply this sermon's teaching to your situation?
2. One of the ways that we can deepen our trust in God is to remember the ways that he has come through in the past. How has God come through for you in your life?
3. Is there any place in your life where fear of failure or false humility is keeping you from accomplishing God's purpose? Is there anything that the group can do to support you?
4. How can worship and prayer help us to increase our trust in God?
5. How have you seen God use you despite your fear and/or weakness?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What is one thing you could do this week to help you strengthen your trust in God?
2. What is one thing you think God could be calling you to do this week (despite your fear or anxiety)?
3. What's one thing you could do this week that could help you to overcome fear and anxiety (this could be as simple as telling someone about your struggles)?
4. How could you encourage a friend, family member, or co-worker that you think is struggling with fear and/or anxiety?