

It is amazing how patient God is with us. But He didn't give up on Moses even then. God brought Aaron to help, but not replace Moses, because God had a plan for Moses and Moses was being given every opportunity to step into his calling.

God didn't give up on Moses and He doesn't give up on us. Even when there is a delay, God waits patiently to open the door to our calling when we are willing to obey.

Do you think God has a calling you haven't seen yet? Are you ready to step out of your comfort zone when God opens the door, or are you going to tell Him "Lord please! Send anyone else?"

Wrap Up

God has plans for each of our lives, and they probably will lead us outside of our comfort zone and require us to lay aside our own plans to align with Him. Moses allowed his past failures to define him and keep him safely tending sheep, but God showed up and gave him an opportunity to return to his calling. Despite God's assurances Moses was fearful and protested that he was inadequate for the job. But God only needed Moses obedience and used what little he had to accomplish that calling. Likewise, God calls us out of our comfort zone and will use what we offer in obedience to accomplish His plans.

Memory Verse

Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

- Exodus 3:10 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs. _____

Challenge- If you are ready to go "all in" with God, you can start by asking God what your spiritual gifts are. There are many spiritual gifts tests available, here is one you can try- newlifepismo.com/spiritualgifts.

"Leaving the Comfort Zone"

Cannonball All In- #2

INTRODUCTION

Going "all in" can be pretty scary. Most of us prefer to retreat to our comfort zones. But you can't go all in and if you are trying to stay comfortable. God wants to obey, even when it gets uncomfortable. Often that means to be aligned with His plans we have to lay our plans aside. Moses discovered this when God called him to free the Hebrew people from slavery. Moses responses to God were pretty typical of our own. But God was inviting Moses to be part of a greater plan; God's plan. And He is inviting us to be as well, if we are willing to leave our comfort zone.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What is the most comfortable place in your home?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. Comfort Zone

Exodus 3:1-3 NLT - 1 One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. 3 "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

After fleeing a death sentence in Egypt, Moses retreated to his comfort zone, tending sheep with his family in Midian. He had been well on his way to a position of power in Egypt, but he was interrupted when he murdered an Egyptian and was found out. But in Exodus chapter 3 God was inviting him back into His plan.

Do you remember a time when the course of your life was significantly redirected? Do you feel you followed a path into or out of your comfort zone? If you were moving away from God's plan, did you get back on track?

Exodus 3:4, 9-10 NLT - 4 When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied. ... 9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. 10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

Moses was getting his chance to step up to God's calling in his life. But it wasn't going to be easy. If Moses tried to do this in his own power, it would be impossible.

What did God tell him that should reassure Moses, and us, that we have more than our own power at work when God calls us out of our comfort zone?

Exodus 3:6, 8 NLT - 6 I am the God of your father--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God. ... 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey--the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.

2. Who Am I?

Exodus 3:11-12 NLT - 11 But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

Even after God said "I have come down to rescue them" Moses was still fearful that he would fail. Moses' fears were based on how he saw himself. When we think it is up to us to make the plan work, we focus on our failures and weaknesses, like Moses.

Exodus 2:13-14 NLT - 13 The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. "Why are you beating up your friend?" Moses said to the one who had started the fight. 14 The man replied, "Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" Then Moses was afraid, thinking, "Everyone knows what I did."

How did Moses' objection reflect his experience in Egypt?

Is there any failure or disappointment in your past that influences how you see yourself? Maybe a career, relationship, or education just didn't turn out as expected and that label of "failure" still echoes when you consider taking up a challenge.

How does God see you according to 1 Peter 2:9?

1 Peter 2:9 NLT - 9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Going "All In" is not about the outcome, it is about the obedience. God calls us and we can show others the goodness of God when we obey His calling, regardless of our fears. We don't need to know in advance how God will work out the details, we just need to trust that He will work it out, when we obey.

3. What's In Your Hand?

Exodus 3:13 NLT - 13 But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

Exodus 4:1 NLT - 1 But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The LORD never appeared to you?'"

It is hard to believe that Moses would stand in God's presence and continue to argue and protest when God told Him that He would go with him. But don't we do the very same thing when He calls us to step out of our comfort zone?

Exodus 4:2 NLT - 2 Then the LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A shepherd's staff," Moses replied.

God used what little Moses had and increased it to accomplish God's plan. In Exodus 4:3-9 God shows Moses three miracles to assure him that God will enable him to do what Moses is being called to do. *And yet, what does Moses say in Exodus 4:13?*

Exodus 4:13 NLT - 13 But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else."