

Digging Deeper

Moses escaped to the Midian wilderness. What happened during his time there? He learned – a lot. God began preparing him to lead his people.

Humility

Moses herded flocks, a despised and lowly occupation in Egypt. He learned humility. From his former perspective, he had hit bottom.

Calling

But this humility made him teachable. When he rescued Reuhl's daughters it revealed his raw leadership, as well as his calling, for the oppressed (which was also evidenced in his trying to save the burdened slave.)

Hospitality

When he married into this desert family, he got a crash course on hospitality. Desert hospitality is a great necessity; it can mean life or death. Bringing in those who need community and protection is seen as an imperative in such a harsh environment. Moses saw hospitality modeled well and God used that as an important development in his formation as a leader.

Discipline

Living under Reuhl's authority also taught Moses submission. Putting himself under his father in law's instruction and guidance gave him the opportunity to learn the discipline of desert living and the skills of a shepherd. This came into great use when he began to shepherd God's people through the wilderness. A good leader with authority understands he is also under Authority. Submission is a healthy and valuable muscle.

There can be a lot to learn in the wilderness. While God may give us each a different curriculum some things seem consistent. Harsh conditions can make us humble as we look to the Source for our strength and identity. It can focus us on ways that abundance can't – we may hone our calling. If we let it, wilderness can help us to empathize with others' struggles and make us more hospitable. Living in freedom under God's authority allows us to build self-discipline in fulfilling His calling and leading a godly life. May we all submit to God's use of our inevitable wilderness time.

Devotional Guide

For Individuals and Families (Issue #11)

THE JOURNEY OF MOSES: SHEPHERD IN MIDIAN

The next 40 years in Moses' life saw him living as a shepherd in Midian beyond the Jordan, the Sinai Peninsula, and Arabian Petraea. (Exodus 2:11-7:7) Being raised in the household of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses enjoyed a position in life with a high degree of prestige, power, wealth, and privilege, which had shaped him into a man who was accustomed to using his own strengths and resources to deal with the challenges that he faced. God however, for the next forty years (Acts 7:30, 31-36), would strip Moses of all the benefits that he had known in Egypt, making him a shepherd, a class of people whom the Egyptians looked down upon and despised (Genesis 46:33-34). Since he had been raised in Egyptian culture, being a shepherd may have been very distasteful to him. Not only would he be made a shepherd, but he would not even be given his own sheep to tend; he would tend the flocks belonging to someone else, his father-in-law. All the losses, hardships, and indignities that Moses endured were necessary in the sight of God to prepare him for the task of shepherding His people Israel and leading them out of Egyptian bondage. This deliverance would not be accomplished by the power of Moses or man, because no man was able to deliver from Pharaoh's hand.

While tending sheep near Mt Sinai, Moses was drawn one day to a bush on the mountainside. The bush was aflame. Yet no matter how long it burned, it remained unconsumed. As Moses approached the site, God spoke to him from the midst of the flames. He instructed Moses to return to Egypt and lead the Israelites from bondage. This was no small order, for Egypt was the most powerful nation on earth.

**Journey Through the Bible
Journey to a Better Family**

**Mile Marker
Exodus 2-4**

EXODUS 2-4 DISCUSSION

1. When Moses was pasturing sheep, he came to what mountain? (Exodus 3:1)
2. In what way did God's angel appear to him? (Exodus 3:2)
3. What did the angel first command Moses to do? (Exodus 3:5)
4. What had God heard, and what did God want Moses to do? (Exodus 3:9, 10)
5. Moses was about 40 years old when he attacked the Egyptian and supposed God was ready to use him to deliver Israel. Forty more years passed before God called him to this work (Acts 7:23-25, 30). Why did God wait so long? Is God's timing the same as ours? (2 Peter 3:8)
6. To whom did God want Moses to go, and what did he want Moses to do for Israel? (Exodus 3:11)
7. What was Moses' first excuse, and what was God's answer? (Exodus 3:11, 12)
8. What was Moses' next excuse, and how did God help him here? (Exodus 3:13-15)
9. How would God strengthen the work of Moses? (Exodus 3:20)
10. What was Moses' third excuse? (Exodus 4:1)
11. How many signs did God give Moses to convince Israel? (Exodus 4:1-9)
12. What was Moses' fourth excuse, and what did God answer? (Exodus 4:10-12)
13. When Moses ran out of excuses, what did he say, and how did God feel about this? (Exodus 4:13-17)

***Will God harden a person's heart if the person has not already hardened his own heart against the truth? (Read Ex. 4:21; 9:34; 2 Thess. 2:10-12; Rom. 1:21-26, 28; Matt. 13:15)**

***God was angry with Moses because Moses had neglected to obey what commandment regarding his son? (Exodus 4:24-26)**

***Who met Moses in the mountain and went with him to the Israelites in Egypt? (Ex. 4:27-29)**

***How did the people respond when Moses told them God had sent him to deliver them from bondage? (Ex. 4:31)**

***Does God ever command a person to do anything without helping him or her do it? (Read Matthew 28:19, 20; Joshua 1:5; Mark 16:15, 20; Luke 21:15; Hebrews 2:3, 4)**

GOALS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

MONDAY

- Read THE BIG STORY from page #1
- Start on "Discussion" from page #2

TUESDAY

- Complete "DISCUSSION" from page #2

WEDNESDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

THURSDAY

- Read and work on MEMORY VERSES

FRIDAY

- Use DIGGING DEEPER from page #4 as a guide for discussion.

MEMORY VERSES

Hebrews 3:5

Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later.

Deuteronomy 34:10

Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.