

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday School Outline

TOPIC: The Burning Bush - Hearing God's Call

TEXT: Exodus 3:1-4:17

Instructions: *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Whether we are waiting for a phone call offering us a new job, a letter granting us admission to a college, or an invitation to a special event, we are eager to be chosen. Being chosen and called into ministry open new opportunities and responsibilities while being passed over means continuing in the same routine of sinful live.

The good news of the Christian faith is that the God of the Bible is a God who chooses and calls. God chose Abraham and called him out of Ur to follow him into an unknown land. Jesus chose Peter by the sea and called him to fish for people. The even better news is the fact that God does not just call the great heroes of the faith; according to the apostle Paul, every one of us is called (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17).

One of the most famous "call" stories of the Bible is the calling of Moses. Read Exodus 3:1-4:17 to answer the following questions.

1. Discuss how God's call to Moses makes him both a servant and a leader. How can a "call" make a difference in a person's life? Could there be a reason to refuse or ignore it? Discuss.
2. Moses is a shepherd tending the sheep of his father-in-law on the far side of the desert. What struggles might this new vocation have raised for him, after having been an Egyptian prince (read Acts 7:20-29)?
3. What first impression of God do you think Moses has as he encounters God in the middle of that burning bush (Exod. 3:2-10)?

4. God identifies himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exod. 3:6). How might Moses' view of God have been influenced by his growing up as a Hebrew in an Egyptian household, among people who worshiped many different gods?
5. What are some common belief systems of today? Do you think there could still be people like Moses (read Hebrews 11:23-26) and the three Hebrew boys (read Daniel 3:13-20) in this modern world of ours?
6. After hearing of God's care for the Israelites and being commissioned by God to be their leader, Moses asks, "Who am I?" (read Exod. 3:11-15) What, essentially, is he asking God? How could such mindset be overcome today?
7. What useful or unique skills and experiences does Moses bring to his calling (read Exodus 2:7-10 and Hebrews 11:23-26)? How relevant/effective could those skills be in today's Christian leadership?
8. As the sub-title of this study guide implies, spiritual leadership incorporates both the character of a leader (read Titus 1:6-8) and God's calling. Discuss those characters that qualify a person for the call of God and for service in the ministry?
9. Although God gives Moses an overview of all that will follow (Exod. 3:18-22), Moses still has objections/reservations. Why do you think most people usually demonstrate hesitation towards God-given instructions? (read Acts 10:9-20).
10. Character formation is central to God's calling for all of us. Let the group reflecting on the following areas of their individual lives:
 - List ways that your family background has shaped your character.
 - List abilities or talents that allow you to contribute to the needs of others.
 - List ways that you would like to contribute to the growth of your family, your church, or your workplace.

Ask God to show you ways to use your gifts and abilities for the sake of His purposes for your life. Pray that you will trust Him to equip you in all ways to respond to His calling in your life.