

5 2 WEEKS
OF GROWTH

Give it a Year
Week 09

WEEK 09

Exodus 3:1-5

“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight –why the bush does not burn up.”

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.””

Moses was born a Hebrew at a time when the male Israelite children were ordered to be discarded into the Nile River. But his mother wanted him to survive and be found so she placed him in a basket down the river. And Pharaoh's daughter found him, and he lived the beginning part of his life in Pharaoh's palace in Egypt.

One day when Moses was grown, he was so frustrated over the fact that the people of Israel were being held captive in Egypt that he murdered an Egyptian out of his frustration. He feared what would happen to him, so he fled to the desert of Midian.

In this desert, he met Jethro and married his daughter and started a family and became a shepherd. He lived this perfect, peaceful, quaint, drama-less, quiet little life for 40 years. Then all of a sudden, God interrupts his normal routine to get his attention by using a burning bush.

Now, God is unlikely going to use a burning bush to get our attention any time soon, but what is happening in Moses' life here is what tends to happen in ours too. Moses is having a common day and in the midst of his daily routine something unexpected happens. For 40 years, nothing crazy has happened and he was just cruising alone and bam...God gets his attention. And the same can go for us too. In the midst of our routine lives, when we least expect it, bam, God can show up to get our attention.

God can use multiple ways to get our attention. Sometimes God gets our attention through just a little phrase that somebody says, an offhand remark that stirs something in you. Sometimes God gets our attention through a problem, a struggle, a rock-bottom. Sometimes God gets our attention through a success. God is a personal God, and He deals with each of us in our own way. He knows what will get our attention.

But once God gets our attention, the question then becomes... what's your response?

Typically, when God gets us uncomfortable and wants us to do something outside of our normal routine, we start to make excuses. We say things like: “I don’t have enough time for that”, “My schedule is too busy”, “I couldn’t do anything like that”, “Not in this season of my life”, “I’m too tired to add anything else”, “I’m not good enough”.

Moses was no different and he asked some specific questions to God. We are allowed to question and doubt ourselves and our abilities. God’s not mad about our doubts or questions. God knows we are human and imperfect, and we make mistakes and sometimes need some reassurance. Yet, He calls us to trust Him and His character. Not to trust in our own abilities, but trust in what He can do by His strength. He’ll never give us all the details because He wants us to walk by faith and lean on Him for guidance. Trust that He knows what He’s doing. Trust that His timing is perfect. And when He gets your attention...take your eyes off of the excuses and put them onto The Creator who made us and knows us and loves us and wants to use us.

READ: Exodus 3 & 4

REFLECT:

- When was the last time God got your attention? What did He use to get your attention?
- Do you have enough time or margin in your life to hear from God?
- What area of your life have you been “leaning on your own understand” and not placing your full trust on God? (Proverbs 3:5)
- Get honest with yourself, what excuses have you been making for your life? Make a list and write them down.

PRAYER:

Father God, thank You that You care for me, an imperfect me. Thank You that You love me enough to want to use me for Your glory. Lord, allow me to have eyes to see all that You are wanting to do in and through me. Remove all my fears and replace them with Your peace. Allow my vision to be so focused on You and not on my circumstances or the world around me. Give me the mind to trust You in all things and at all times. In Jesus name I pray. Amen