

Summer By The Sea

Week 1: Set Up, Not Set Aside

Objective: To challenge us to trust that God is at work even when it seems He is silent.

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever had plans that completely fell apart?

- What happened?
- Looking back, did anything good eventually come from that unexpected change?

1. Feeling Sidelined

The sermon began by asking if we've ever felt "set aside."

- What are some situations that can leave people feeling sidelined or forgotten?
- Why is waiting so difficult for most of us?
- Have you experienced a season that didn't look anything like the life you had planned?

2. God's Story Doesn't End with Our Setbacks

Exodus begins with Israel prospering, but then everything changes—they become slaves.

- If you had been one of the Israelites, what might you have assumed about God's promises?
- Why is it easy to believe God has stopped working when circumstances get worse?
- How does this story challenge that assumption?

3. God Was Working Behind the Scenes

Throughout the sermon, one truth kept resurfacing:

"When it looks like you've been set aside, God may be setting things in motion."

- Where do you see God quietly working throughout Exodus 1–2?
- Which part of Moses' early story demonstrates God's providence most clearly?
- Have you ever recognized God's hand only after looking back?

4. The Irony of the Nile

The Nile was intended to become an instrument of death, yet God used it to preserve Moses.

- What does this teach us about God's ability to redeem evil circumstances?
- Why do you think Scripture includes these moments of irony?
- What situations today seem hopeless but may actually become opportunities for God to work?

5. Moses Didn't Know the Whole Story

The sermon pointed out that Moses didn't know:

- why he survived,
- why Pharaoh's daughter rescued him,
- why he grew up in Pharaoh's palace,
- or why he later spent forty years in the wilderness.
- Why do we often want God to explain His plan before we're willing to trust Him?
- What does Moses' story teach us about waiting?
- How might God be preparing us during seasons that feel unproductive?

6. God's Timing

Exodus 2 closes by saying:

- God heard.
- God remembered.
- God saw.
- God knew.
- Why are these four statements so encouraging?
- What do they tell us about God's character?
- How do they help us during seasons when God seems silent?

7. Pray. Wait. Trust.

The sermon concluded with three practical responses:

- Pray
- Wait
- Trust
- Which of these comes easiest for you?
- Which is the greatest challenge?
- What does trusting God actually look like in everyday life?

8. Personal Application

- Is there an area of your life where you currently feel "set aside"?
- What might God be doing beneath the surface that you cannot yet see?
- How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHT

Moses' story reminds us that God's silence is not God's absence.

Long before Moses understood what God was doing, God was already preparing a deliverer. What looked like abandonment was actually preparation. What appeared to be delay was divine timing.

Sometimes God does His greatest work where we can least recognize it.

When it looks like you've been set aside, God may be setting things in motion.

THIS WEEK:

PRAY: Spend a few minutes each day asking God for wisdom, peace, and patience.

WAIT: Resist the temptation to manipulate circumstances simply because waiting feels uncomfortable.

TRUST: Each day remind yourself: "God is working even when I cannot see it."

ENCOURAGE: Identify one person who may be walking through a difficult season. Rather than offering easy answers, pray with them and encourage them that God has not forgotten them.