

C¹ onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion



In the darkness of the night, all of us are faced with tough questions. “Who loves me? And how does the one who loves me feel about me? Am I wanted? Am I special? Will I continue to be wanted, even when I grow older?” These are all questions that the movie Toy Story 3 deals with. Definitely not your typical children’s animated movie!

BIG IDEA: The voices you surround yourself with determine your self-worth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time in your life when things seemed hopeless. What was the situation? How did you make it through it?
2. *Read Exodus 1.* If you were Israel and 400 years had passed since God’s promise in Genesis, how would you be feeling right now? Why do you think God’s timeline so different than ours?

God’s people—the Israelites—have been living in Egypt for 400 years. God made a promise to them 400 years prior coming to Egypt, that He would give them a land of their own. Yet 400 years have passed, and they are still living in Egypt. Not only that, they start to be mistreated by the Pharaoh of Egypt. They are turned into slaves.

3. How was God working behind the scenes during these dark times, where God’s People, Moses, and Moses’ parents felt abandoned? Reading this story, do you have hope that God can work through and in your difficult problems?
4. *Read Ephesians 1:4-5.* Name some differences between adopting a child and giving birth to a child? What do you think is meant when Paul says, “He chose us and predestined us?” How does that make you feel that God chose you? That God adopted you?

In the movie, Lotso is deeply hurt because he had been replaced. The choice he had made after that deep hurt, was to hurt others. There will be voices like Lotso in your life. Voices. That speak loudly that say, “You’re no good. You’re worthless. You’re despicable. You’re nobody—unless you can prove otherwise.” These voices can speak so loudly to us that they can drown out the voice of God, which says, “We are loved. We are wanted.” God will never replace us or abandon us.

5. *Read Exodus 2.* Why did Moses parents give their baby up for adoption? What does that say about them? What do you think Moses’ parents were feeling when they placed Moses in the basket?
6. Why did Pharaoh’s daughter risk taking in this Hebrew baby? Do you think she found Moses basket by accident or by God’s plan? Do you believe in luck or accidents?
7. What would Moses gain by growing up royal? How might this be good or bad for Moses? For Israel?
8. Why do you think Moses killed the Egyptian? How would this cause a problem between his people? The Egyptians? Why does Moses flee after trying to break up the Hebrews fighting?
9. How do you think 40 years living in desolate Midian (Acts 7:29-30, Exodus 2:22) serve God’s purposes of making things right in Egypt? Can you imagine waiting and being shelved for 40 years until God started using you at 80 years old? How would you feel?
10. *Read Exodus 3.*
11. List some of the events, characteristics, and attitudes you think surrounded each 40-year section of Moses’ life. Which character traits come out in Moses? Which traits will serve him in the long haul? Which ones will get him into trouble again?

<i>0-40: Somebody</i>	<i>40-80: Nobody</i>	<i>80-120: Nobody becoming somebody</i>

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you feel like you've dropped out, been biding time, or even served time? What for? How do you think this will better prepare you for the future God has for you?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

It is true that the voices we listen to will determine the direction and course for our lives. Spend some time in your small group tonight thanking everyone and mentioning specific ways every one in the group has helped determine your direction and self-worth. Consider ending with Communion.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them... Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:29, 35, 38-39

