



# onechurch

## bigIdea



Moses—he could claim a somewhat dysfunctional start to life; he made some unwise decisions in his younger years; and in midlife he used every argument he could think of to counter God's request to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. Yet God stuck by his desire to use this imperfect individual for a major task at hand. God may be calling you at a time when you feel unworthy or incapable or totally lacking in the skills to be in relationship with him or to accomplish the task to which he's calling you. But with the great I AM standing with you, the past is written off and you're headed for a life of hope and of purpose.

**BIG IDEA:** Don't shortcut the desert, because that's the place where God speaks.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has there ever been a time when you felt shelved? That you were in a desert season of life? What were the circumstances surrounding your experience?
2. Did you get in the desert because of a decision you made, or someone made that affected you?
3. *Read Acts 7:18-29 and Exodus 2:11-25.* What are the similarities to this retelling of the Exodus story by Stephen? What details does Stephen expound on?
4. How does the royal Moses identify with the Hebrews? Why do the Hebrews fail to identify with him? Why does Moses flee?
5. Moses had good intentions, but didn't wait on God's timing and didn't do things God's way. How do we make the same mistakes?

Chris said that the Hebrew word for *desert*. The Hebrew word for desert is *midbaar* (מִדְבָּר). It comes from the word *dahbaar*, meaning *to speak*. The desert is the place where God speaks to us—where He communicates some of His most important messages to us.

6. Discuss the following quotes. Do you agree or disagree?

"God is anxious that his children get a good education. Every man He has used has had a course in the University of the Desert—a desert training— Joseph, Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, Paul—even Jesus. These are a few of the distinguished graduates. The fees are large, the courses severely high, the discipline exacting and many don't keep it up, but drop out. The marked results are broad perspective, steady nerves, keen eyesight and insight, utter dependence on God, utter independence of man, child-like simplicity, warm sympathy, deep humility, and the highest award goes to patience, the rarest trait of all. God has no short cuts in His training program." —J. Oswald Sanders

"It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." —A.W. Tozer

7. *Read Exodus 3:1-10.* Have you ever taken on a job or responsibility that you felt you weren't qualified to do? Share what that experience was like.
8. What relationship with Moses has God initiated here? What does God ask Moses to do for Israel?
9. Moses had three excuses for God, "I am not qualified", "I don't know enough", and "I don't have the ability." Have you ever felt like Moses? Explain why or why not.
10. Is Moses more uncertain of himself or God? How has the 40 years of being in the desert changed Moses? ***God uses humble people full of God, not proud people full of themselves.***
11. Moses had a burning bush experience. Has God ever used people or circumstances to get your attention? What was your burning bush? Describe that experience.
12. *Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26.* According to these verses how can you be a "vessel" for honorable use and ready for every good work? Do you believe God can do extraordinary things through your life? Is there anything holding you back from allowing God to do extraordinary things through you?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*"Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work." 2 Timothy 2:21*

