

1. Intro:

- We are starting a new 11 part series today called “Stand Strong”. We’ll reflect on the lives of Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Gideon, David, Elijah, Jonah, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Esther.
- Moses blew it big time, but God used him greatly! God’s able to use seemingly unusable people!

2. Text: Exodus 1-4

- Joseph’s entire family settled in Egypt during the great famine & they remained there.
- The new Pharaoh/king of Egypt **forgot** all about Joseph, and he made the Hebrews into **slaves**.
- **Exodus 1:15-17:** The Hebrew midwives **feared** God, so they **refused** to obey the king’s orders to kill the Hebrew baby boys.
- Moses’ parents hid him for 3 months, then put him in a waterproof basket on the Nile River near where the king of Egypt’s daughter bathed.
- **Exodus 2:11-15:** Moses **killed** an Egyptian for beating a fellow Hebrew man.
 - He was unusable to God, right?!?
- **Exodus 3:1-10:** God chose the seemingly **unusable** Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.
- **Exodus 3:11:** Moses **protested** and asked, “**Who am I?**”
- **Exodus 3:12:** God responded to Moses’ question with, “**I will be with you.**”
 - God’s 2 simple points were:
 1. I asked you to do it
 2. I will be with you
 - It wasn’t about Moses. It was about God doing it through Moses.

- **Exodus 4:1-5:** Moses had fears & excuses!
 - **Exodus 4:10-13** - Moses had still more excuses for why he was not the right man for the job!
- Moses did finally agree to obey God, he **surrendered** his will to God's, and God used him mightily!
 - Moses wasn't a perfect man, but the seemingly unusable Moses was actually mightily used by God to do His will in the midst of troubled times.

3. Application

- Do you feel unusable to God for some reason? God is more than able to use you if you surrender to Him!
 - Dr. Steven R. Cook - Christian author and professor at Chafer Theological Seminary summarized it like this:
 - “God uses crooked sticks to draw straight lines. This means He works through imperfect people to accomplish His perfect will. Though I believe God calls us to be transformed in our thoughts, words, and actions (Rom 12:1-2), and to strive for spiritual and moral purity (1 Pet 1:15-16), the reality is that He does not wait for us to be perfect before He uses us. In fact, if God were to say to His children, “Let those who are without sin serve me”, there would be none. Though Christians are not perfect, we can be humble and obedient, and when willing to do God's will, He can and will work through us as conduits of truth, grace, and love.”
- The Apostle Paul felt unworthy to be used by God, but God used him mightily also:
 - **1 Corinthians 15:9-10** - “For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church. 10 But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.”