

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Oct. 4th, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Table

This space is meant to practice presence as a small group. Use this time to create space around the table where you journey each week to move from neighbours to family. This can look like everyone bringing their favourite treat or having coffee/tea together. You can even use the question below as a starter for conversation.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- What is one of your proudest accomplishments, big or small?

Scripture

This section contains the scripture(s) and an overview of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained to help those remember the sermon. We believe that God's Word shapes us as we hear the Word and respond to it. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Scripture

Exodus 3:1-14

1 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. 2 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. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." 4 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." 5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. 7 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

Exodus 4:1-17

1 Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?" 2 Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. 3 The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. 4 Then the Lord said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. 5 "This," said the Lord, "is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you." 6 Then the Lord said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow. 7 "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh. 8 Then the Lord said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. 9 But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground." 10 Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." 11 The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." 13 But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else." 14 Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. 15 You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. 17 But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

Overview

This week in our series, Still God, we looked at the story of the burning bush and Moses' call to be the leader of Israel. As Moses is tending to the flock of his father-in-law, he notices a burning bush that is never consumed by the fire. Moses encounters God in this sacred space which is noted by God telling him to take off his sandals and approach with bare feet. An encounter between divinity and humanity led to recognition and response. God calls Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. This would require Moses to stand up to Pharaoh and be God's prophet. However, Moses will object to God's call and make five excuses as to why he shouldn't lead the people. In each excuse, we will also see that God responds to His doubts.

The first excuse that Moses uses is that he is a nobody, why should God use him when he likely has better options. But God tells him that He will be with Him and promises that all of Israel will worship Him on this very mountain. A divine calling is followed by divine faithfulness. The second excuse from Moses is that he has no authority to lead the people. God tells Moses to use His divine name if they question who has sent him, a reminder that it isn't his authority but God's authority. The third excuse is that no one will listen to Moses because of what He had done in Egypt that caused him to leave in the first place. God gives Moses three miraculous signs to demonstrate that God has indeed sent him on behalf of Israel. The fourth excuse is that Moses is not a good enough speaker and therefore incapable of being God's messenger. God responds by reminding Moses that He was the one who created the universe by His words and that He will give Moses the words to speak. The final excuse that Moses uses is that He wishes God would choose someone else for this task. God has been patient with Moses but clearly is not thrilled with his attempts to abdicate his calling and so does not let him off the hook.

Five excuses filled with doubt, insecurity, and uncertainty. A stubborn human unwillingness to answer the call, yet a faithful divine conviction that the call would remain. God remains firm. Every objection has been heard, and God has offered a rebuttal to each one. His plan is in place. He knows what needs to be done. And this is what God does. In His divine wisdom He invites us, a broken, flawed, excuse-riddled people to join Him in His redemptive work. He brings us alongside His purposes and He prepared us to work on His behalf.

Discussion

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- Where is Moses keeping the flock when the chapter opens? What is unique about the location named in verse 1?
- When Moses asks for God's name, he respond with, "I am who I am". What does this reveal about God's character and nature?

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- Moses was tending sheep in obscurity for decades before God called him at the burning bush. What might God be forming in you during seasons that feel ordinary or uneventful?
- How do you navigate the tension between your own history of mistakes and the belief that God still has a purpose for your life (Moses being the example)?
- In what ways do we subtly rely on our own titles, abilities, or reputation rather than trusting in God's authority behind our calling?

Practice + Prayer

This is the space where we lean into being imperfect practitioners of Jesus. The practice and prayer are opportunities to encounter Jesus, to obey His Word and to live into being a flourishing community centred on Jesus. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Prayer + Practice: A 3 step guided listening prayer exercise.

- I. Get comfortable, take a deep breath, and begin by praying "God, the I AM. Here I am"
 - a. Take 3-5 minutes to sit in silence after praying this. If you begin to get distracted, simply say the last half of the prayer, "Here I am".
 - b. Pay attention to your thoughts, emotions, distractions. Those are all ways that God can be speaking to us.
- II. What is God calling you to?
 - a. Is there a step that you need to take now? Is there something that you feel like God is calling you to do? Ask God for clarity if it feels unclear. Give 3-5 minutes for this step.
- III. Which of the five excuses are you tempted to use? What does God want to say to that excuse?
 - a. The five excuses are: I am a nobody, I have no authority, no one will listen, I am not good enough, send someone else. Give 3-5 minutes for this step and end the time of prayer by thanking God for the ways that He has spoken tonight.

A few notes: remind people that listening prayer is a spiritual practice meaning it takes repetition and practice to get better at listening to God. Additionally, it's okay if you didn't hear anything or feel unsure. That's why we get to practice in community so that others can encourage and help us discern.

Intercessory Prayer

In this last space, take time to seek God and invite Him to work the lives of your group. You can split into pairs, guys/girls, whole group, or whatever works. The important part is that you create space for everyone to pray if their comfortable.