

Accept or Decline?

Incoming Call...

Remind Me

Message



Decline



Accept

Message Title: Decline - The Architecture of No

Scripture: Exodus 3:1–18; 4:1–17

Icebreaker

1. Have you ever received a call from an unknown number and let it go straight to voicemail? What's your typical rule for answering or declining calls?
2. What is one habit or device in your daily life (like your phone) that you feel "over-connected" to?

Looking at the Sermon

1. The Architecture of No The sermon introduced the idea that we build an "architecture of no"—walls made of fear, shame, doubt, or comfort that block us from stepping into God's design.

- Moses built several walls when God called him at the burning bush (Exodus 3:11, 3:13, 4:1, 4:10). Which of his excuses resonates most with you?
 - *"Who am I?"* (Insecurity/Shame)
 - *"What if they don't believe me?"* (Fear of rejection)
 - *"I am not eloquent."* (Inadequacy)

2. Shame vs. Calling Moses had a past—he murdered an Egyptian and fled to Midian. Shame told him he was disqualified, but God offered Him His presence: *"I will be with you"* (Exodus 3:12).

- How do we often disguise our "nos" to God as something reasonable? (e.g., calling fear "realism," or calling shame "humility").
- Read Exodus 3:13–14. When Moses asked for God's name, God revealed Himself as **"I AM WHO I AM."** Why is trusting in *who God is* the primary fix for feeling unqualified?

3. The Connected Life Over 65% of adults sleep with their phone charging next to them, ensuring they never lose connection to the digital world. Yet, spiritual weariness often signals that our souls are disconnected from God's power.

- What are the subtle signs that your soul's "battery" is running low?
- How does running on spiritual "low battery" make it easier to decline God's invitations?

Taking It Home

- **Identify the Wall:** Is there an area right now where you feel a gentle tug or calling from God, but you've been putting up an excuse? (e.g., serving, forgiving someone, sharing your faith, stepping into a new leadership role).
- **Action Step:** The sermon challenged us to ask a trusted friend or mentor this week: *"What do you see in me that I can't see in myself?"* Who is one person you can ask this week?
- **Reflection Question:** Sit with this question together: *If you were to say a full "yes" to God's calling in your life right now, what is one thing that would have to change?*

Closing Prayer

- **Read Together:** *"You never know God is all you need until God is all you have."* — Corrie ten Boom
- **Pray:** Ask God to give group members the courage to dismantle their "architecture of no." Pray for those feeling weary or disqualified by shame, asking the Holy Spirit to recharge their souls and give them confidence in the power of **I AM**.