

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 2/19/2023

Exodus 1-4 Moses and the Burning Bush

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Opening discussion: On Sunday Pastor Tim said, “Knowledge of the Word of God without obedience to the Word [i.e., without action] is dangerous. **Talk about how and where your group can serve together. How can you change the lives of people around you or in the community by going out and serving?** As you decide to serve, please let Pastor Mark know the details!

Highlights

- Recap of the series: the serpent in the garden, the blood of Abel cries out from the ground, God washes the ground clean of the blood with the flood and saves only one family: Noah’s, they continue to sin too, and God says, “okay maybe trying to make a covenant with all of Humanity is not going to work. I’ll try with one family: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Jacob – 12 sons, Joseph becomes #2 in command in Egypt, there’s a famine, and all of his brothers and their families go to Egypt to survive the famine. They become the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Exodus 1:6-2 They were fruitful and multiplied! Pharaoh feared they would get too powerful, ordered the midwives to kill all the newborn baby boys. They reported back that the babies were born before they could get there, so Pharaoh said, “fine, I’ll just order that all baby boys be thrown into the Nile river.
- Exodus 2:1-3 Moses was born, his mother hid him for three months, then put him in a basket, floated him down the Nile, where he was picked up by the Pharaoh’s daughter who raised him.
 - Basket is the same word as ark. Moses was placed in an ark on the water that produces death – just like Noah and his family.
 - Moses = Moshe which means to draw out (of the water).
- Moses knew he was Jewish, killed an Egyptian, realized he had been discovered, Pharaoh was going to have him killed, Moses fled from Egypt to Midian.
- Exodus 3:1-4, Moses sees a bush that was on fire but didn’t burn up. He went to investigate and God spoke from it. **Put yourself in the situation. How would you react?**
 - Moses hid his face, took off his sandals, he worshipped.
- Exodus 3:7-9 God tells Moses to go back to Egypt to free the slaves.
 - Moses asks in Exodus 3:10, “but who am I that I should go and free them?”
 - Exodus 3:11-12, God says we’ll go together. I’ll be there with you. It’s really Me who is going, but I’ll work through you, Moses. **How would you respond to God?**
 - Exodus 3:13, Moses comes up with another excuse. Well, God, who should I tell them sent me. What’s your name.
 - Exodus 3:14, Tell them, I am who I am. YHWH (Yahweh): Also: I will be who I will be, He is who He is, He will be who He will be. God is consistent and never changes. **Have you seen God’s consistency and never changing in your own life? How?**
- Moses was worshipping but the minute God asked him to do something he is full of excuses. He is comfortable worshipping in the power and presence of God, but not comfortable putting that power and presence into action.
 - We are meant to take what we are learning out from Sunday mornings and change people’s lives around us.

- **Examine your own heart. Are you more comfortable sitting in church every Sunday (and Wednesday) consuming everything you can, than you are going out and putting it into action?**
- **What will it take to change that? What does taking it out and being an EVERYDAY Disciple mean to you? How can Connection Point help you?**
- Exodus 4:1-3 Moses had to let go of his staff – his security and his control. God says pick it up by its tail and I'll help you remember who is in control. Trust me.
 - Maybe Moses looked differently at that staff from that day forward.
 - The staff became a snake after it was out of Moses's hands; picking it up is an opportunity to trust.
 - **Is it scary for you when you let go? What are you holding onto?**
- Exodus 4:6-8 – turns Moses's hand leprous and then restores it.
 - God gives life and He can take it away. HE is the one who can restore you. **What do you need restored of. How can this group walk alongside you?**
- Exodus 4:9 – God still hears the blood crying out from the ground
- Exodus 4:10-11 – Moses still makes excuses, even though God has given him 3 pretty cool things to show them. God gets angry and says, "fine – I'm not good enough to go with you, take Aaron too. The three of us will do this."
 - **What excuses are you making to not follow God (or have you made?)**
 - **Stop making excuses. It's time to become an Everyday Disciple.**
- Exodus 4:31 – Just like Moses, the Israelites worshipped God, when they were convinced He was in their presence and power and He knew and understood their misery.

What do we learn about God and ourselves from Moses and the Burning Bush?

- Is His presence enough to cause you to worship Him?
- What needs to leave your hands for God to show His power?
- What excuses are you making for not becoming an Everyday Disciple.

Prayer