

Exodus 4:1-17 (NRSV)

¹Then Moses answered,
“But suppose they do not

believe me or listen to me, but say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’” ²The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” ³And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses drew back from it.

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “Reach out your hand, and seize it by the tail” —so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand—

⁵“so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

⁶Again, the Lord said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” He put his hand into his cloak; and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, as white as snow.

⁷Then God said, “Put your hand back into your cloak” —so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body—

⁸“If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign. ⁹If they will not believe even these two signs or heed you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

¹⁰But Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” ¹¹Then the Lord said to him, “Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹²Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.” ¹³But he said, “O my Lord, please send someone else.” (*Continued on page 2*)

Connect Guide

The Excuses

Week of Sunday, October 11, 2026

All original content by Rev. Yeeun Kim unless noted.

Opening

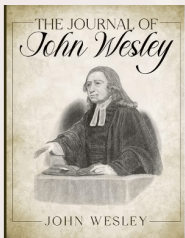
- 1. Pray:** God who calls us, you know the places where we feel too small for what you ask. Meet us here as we open your Word together. Turn our eyes from what we lack to what is in our hands, and from ourselves to you. Help us hear again your promise, “I will be with you.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.
- 2. Share:** Think of a time you said yes to something before you felt ready (a new job, a move, becoming a parent, leading something). What was it like?

Dive Into the Text

- Moses raises several objections in this passage. List them. How does each one build on the last?
- Moses worries, “Suppose they do not believe me.” God answers with a question, “What is that in your hand?” Why do you think God starts with something Moses already has, rather than giving him something new?
- God does not tell Moses he is a great speaker. Instead God says, “I will be with your mouth.” The Hebrew word here, *ehyeh* (“I will be”), is the same word found in God’s name in 3:14. How is this different from the encouragement we usually give one another?
- God is angry, yet does not give up on Moses. Aaron is “even now coming out to meet you.” What does this tell us about how God responds to our fear?
- The shepherd’s staff becomes “the staff of God.” What changed, and what did not?

Exodus 4:1-17 (continued)

¹⁴Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "What of your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. ¹⁵You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. ¹⁷Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs."



John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, died in London on March 2, 1791, at the age of 87. Elizabeth Ritchie, who stayed by his bedside, wrote down what happened in his last hours. Near the end, Wesley kept trying to tell his friends something, but his voice was too weak for them to understand.

"Finding we could not understand what he said, he paused a little, and then with all the remaining strength he had, cried out, 'The best of all is, God is with us'; and then, as if to assert the faithfulness of our promise-keeping Jehovah and comfort the hearts of his weeping friends, lifting up his dying arm in token of victory and raising his feeble voice with a holy triumph not to be expressed, again repeated the heart-reviving words, 'The best of all is, God is with us!'"

In *The Journal of John Wesley*

Go Deeper

Questions 1-2: After more than fifty years of preaching, traveling, and building a movement, Wesley did not say, "I did enough." He did not say, "I was enough." With his last strength he said, "God is with us."

Moses asked, "Am I enough?" God answered, "I will be with you." Wesley spent his whole life learning that answer.

1. What would it look like for you to believe that "the best of all" is not your ability, but God's presence?
2. Where do you most need to hear "God is with us" this week?
3. Name one place where you are saying, "I am not enough." Share it with the group if you feel comfortable.
4. What is one ordinary thing in your hand (an hour, a phone call, a prayer, a skill) that you could offer to God this week?
5. Who is an Aaron in your life right now? Is there someone for whom you could be an Aaron?
6. This week, try praying the prayer from Sunday each morning, "God, will you be with me here?" Notice what changes.

Close in Prayer

Close your time in prayer together.