

This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).



Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

From Garden to Garden: Calling 2 Exodus 3-4

- **The Unexpected Call: No Person or Place Off-Limits** In Act 3 of our journey, we see that God's rescue mission breaks into the most unexpected places through the most unlikely people. Moses possesses a complicated origin story—marked by reactive violence, sudden flight, and decades of hidden shame in the isolation of Midian. Yet, God breaks through his quiet routine on the far side of the wilderness. Our calling starts with who God is, not with our flawless record or dynamic circumstances. God does not call the equipped; he equips the called. No individual, past mistake, or hidden corner is off-limits to him. When we stop constructing guardrails around who God can work through, we realize God intentionally utilizes the hesitant and the imperfect to humble human understanding and launch God's restorative work.
 - Where in your life or history do you feel too unqualified, inexperienced, or weighed down by
 - past shame to be used by God?
 - How does the reality that "God equips the called" change your focus from your personal
 - deficiencies to His current power?
 - In what areas are you unconsciously placing guardrails around God, assuming that certain broken dynamics or people are beyond God's invitation?
- **The Eternal Name: Shared Blessing, Not Personal Heroics**

When Moses demands to know who is sending him, God reveals His eternal name: "I AM WHO I AM." This cosmic declaration anchors the mission not in human power, but in the timeless reality of the One who hears the cries of the suffering and oppressed. Because our calling is rooted firmly in who God is, it is inherently designed to be good news for other people. True biblical vocation is never a path toward personal heroics, exceptional status, or self-preservation; it functions explicitly as an instrument of divine provision, justice, and communal liberation. One of the clearest indicators of an authentic invitation from God is whether the work we are called to do actively promote equity and flourishing of the community around us.

 - How does encountering God as the ultimate "I AM" relieve the exhausting pressure to perform or have all your professional skills fully developed?
 - Is your current expenditure of time, money, or creative energy resulting in true "good news" for
 - those around you, or is it isolated to your own security?

- What would it look like to step down from trying to be the "hero" of your workplace, family, or church, and instead become a simple instrument of God's grace?

- **Navigating Resistance: Turning Friction Into Faith**

Moses reacts to the divine whisper with an intense, multi-chapter litany of anxious excuses—citing his lack of eloquence, fearing public rejection, and ultimately pleading for God to send someone else entirely. We often use daily habits of haste, boundary confusion, or mistaking frantic busyness for godliness to drown out what our inner life is telling us. However, a profound internal friction or resistance is frequently one of the clearest indicators that God is actively inviting us to step out. Calling is never skill-dependent, nor is it meant to be independent; it is a relational journey that unfolds strictly in tandem with God and community. When we confront our deep-seated reluctance, our eventual obedience reveals the comforting grace of a Creator who walks alongside us through both deep joy and systemic suffering.

- What specific litany of excuses ("I don't have the skills," "I can't risk moving," "I'm not eloquent enough") are you presenting to God right now?
- How can you reframe the current friction or resistance in your heart as a potential indicator that God is pushing you to trust His power?
- Where have you previously experienced God providing the necessary endurance, courage, or strategy *after* you chose to step out in faithful obedience?

- **Practice: Living Sent**

Following the call from the burning bush means stepping out of our comfort zones and moving into alignment with God's mission. Lean into the promptings of the Spirit through these daily habits:

- **The Excuses Audit:** Identify one area of your life where you are actively resisting an opportunity or challenge. Spend 15 minutes in absolute stillness, silencing devices and tracking your breath. Write down your personal "I cannot" statements, and intentionally hand them over to the One who proclaims "I AM."
- **Holy Ground Identification:** Look closely at your "Out" circle (your physical neighborhood, office, or regular community spaces). Identify a place where people are crying out under stress, grief, or systemic friction. Commit to showing up in that space this week not as a fixer or a hero, but as an intentional, listening presence.
- **The "Here I Am" Threshold:** Select a specific, daunting threshold you must cross this week—whether it is an intimidating meeting, an uncomfortable conversation, or an overwhelming task. Before you walk into that moment, pause physically, take a deep breath, and pray Moses' words of absolute availability: "Here I am."
- **Where is God calling you to grow in trust and faithfulness in your life and relationships today?**