

Discussion Guide

Section #11: MOSES: A MAN OF FAITH

Read this Scripture to the Group:

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment” (Hebrews 11:23).

Group Question:

1. In this story, how does God show that He chooses His leaders according to their faith rather than natural ability?

Read to the Group: Moses lacked confidence. He also was a poor speaker. Even so God chose to use him. The Bible describes Moses as “meek,” which means trainable or willing to be shaped by God.

In the opinion of non-Christians, God often selects unlikely people to be His leaders. This is because He is looking for people of faith who will trust Him. When He finds faith, it is then very simple for God, the Creator of the Universe to instill the necessary qualities in those people whom He calls to lead. On the other hand, people who are looked up to and greatly admired by those around them often have much pride. Without humility before God, people are not fit to serve Him.

Leader Information: Note: If appropriate for your group, you may want to point out that this story is the same as the recent Hollywood movie “Prince of Egypt.”

Some of that movie accurately portrays the Bible account, but other parts do not. In one area, famous Hollywood movies about the Bible such as Prince of Egypt and The Ten Commandments, always fail to correctly present Bible stories. They portray leaders like Moses as always having been an imposing person and a natural leader. They do this because it makes sense to the human way of viewing life. They do not understand that God calls willing people of faith and develops them into great leaders using His power.



Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“Now these descendants” (Camels and people walking in caravan)... through... “I will never see your face again.” (Pharaoh in background pointing, Moses on right front) 9 minutes, 20 seconds



Read to the Group: People in Bible days thought much the same as we do today. At times we need proof to believe something. God chose to use a burning bush, that was not consumed by the fire, to speak to Moses, so that he would believe that it was God who was speaking to him.

Group Question:

1. What would it take for you to believe that God is speaking to you personally?

Read to the Group: Some people test God by demanding a miracle. But God doesn't work on our time clock, nor can He be forced to respond to our demands. Notice in this story that Moses had already trusted God for many years. In fact Moses was 80 years old when God chose to demonstrate His power through a miracle. God decides if and when to show Himself through miracles. He knows what is right for each of us.



Leader Information: This is an opportunity to see where the group stands in terms of faith and help point them to the Bible and prayer as a foundation for their faith. God will probably not use a burning bush to bring them to Christ, but many times He has used miracles to help people believe. The problem with requiring miracles as the basis for our faith, is that when God doesn't perform an outstanding miracle the next time we face a problem, our faith can be shattered. Help point them to using prayer and the Bible as confirmation of the truth. Suggest saying, "Lord, please help me believe that what you say in the Bible is true."

We want people to know they can find God by trusting in His Word not by expecting Him to prove Himself by a miracle. Some who have been exposed to a lot of exciting testimonies by new Christians may feel that their experience doesn't measure up. Assure them that God sends a gentle urging and we respond to that through faith. It doesn't have to be a dramatic conversion, although at times it may be.

Group Questions:

1. How did Pharaoh's lack of respect for God bring disaster to his people?
2. How did Moses' faith bring blessings to his people?
3. Do you think our faith in God, or lack of it, could have an affect on people around us?

Read to the Group: Pharaoh refused to obey the one true God because he trusted in his own power and the gods of his time. People in Egypt worshiped the Nile River; the sun, the moon, and the stars, as well as many animals and insects. They also worshiped Pharaoh, so you can imagine how difficult it would be for Pharaoh to admit that he was not the greatest power in existence and that events would not happen the way he commanded.

God used each plague to show Pharaoh that he should submit to God. Each of the plagues pointed to the falseness of one of their gods. But Pharaoh would not submit. He chose instead to harden his heart toward God. God made each plague more severe than the one before it,

giving Pharaoh many opportunities to believe in the power of God. But after each plague was removed, Pharaoh's heart became even harder.

God used the pride of this unbelieving king. By destroying Pharaoh and all of his false gods, the true God showed everyone of that day, and all who have heard this story since that time, that only He is God. In fact in the Bible God told Moses, "My name is I Am!"

Group Questions:

1. Did Pharaoh have a choice in how he responded to the warnings of God?
2. How could the Egyptians see so many miracles and still not believe?



Leader Information: Yes, he chose to harden his heart rather than to respond. God sent repeated plagues to push him toward making a correct choice, but each time Pharaoh closed his heart to the warnings. All along God knew that Pharaoh would never let the people go until after the final plague, but still He allowed Pharaoh to make his own decision.

(If someone knowledgeable asks why in the New Testament it says God hardened Pharaoh's heart, not Pharaoh hardened his own heart as it is

in the Old Testament, say this. "Both are true. The Bible says God knows who will rebel against Him their whole lives, so He may chose to harden their hearts even more to use them for His own purposes" (Romans chapter 9).

Read this Scripture to the Group:

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them" (Hebrews 11:24-28).

Transition Statement: Just as we saw God's power in the creation story and in the flood story, God once again is demonstrating His greatness. Do you think Pharaoh will ever decide to let the nation of Israel go free? We will watch and see now (*or* next time when we meet).