

## Life of Moses Study (September 13, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 2:1-10

1. How did the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth mirror those of Moses (Exodus 1:7-22 and Matthew 2:1-18)?
2. The names of Moses's parents are not given in this chapter. His father's name was Amram (meaning "exalted people"). His mother's name was Jochebed (meaning "The Honor of Jehovah"). What do you learn about these parents from the meaning of their names, this week's passage, Exodus 6:16-20; and Hebrews 11:23?
3. What does Exodus 2:2; Acts 7:20; Hebrews 11:23 reveal about Moses as a child? For what do you think his parents hoped regarding God's purposes for their son? Why do you surmise that these descriptions are included in Scripture?
4. Moses was placed in a basket. The word basket is related to an Egyptian word that is also the basis of the Hebrew word for Noah's boat or ark (tebah). This occurs nowhere else in Scripture except in Exodus 2 and in the Flood account (Genesis 6:14-9:18). What theological connections do you find possible between these two events?

5. Describe the steps Moses's mother took in preparation to put her child onto the Nile in trust that God would care for him. Share a time when you had to prepare to trust God with someone you loved.

6. In what unexpected ways did God care for Moses after his mother cast him onto the Nile? Share a time when God exceeded your expectations?

7. Identify each of the courageous actions of Moses's mother, sister, and Pharaoh's daughter.

8. What advantages do you imagine Moses had spending his formative years with his Hebrew family and then in Pharaoh's palace that would prepare him for God's calling as a leader (Acts 7:21-22)?

9. List the attributes of God evident in Exodus 2:1-10. Which of these do you find especially helpful to remember at this current time in your life?



**NOTE:** *There is much debate among scholars concerning who the angel of the Lord was that appeared to Moses. In Exodus, Saved for God's Glory, Philip Graham Ryken states, " The messenger did not simply see and speak **for** God but **as** God. Here the angel of the Lord is so closely identified with God that the burning bush is generally considered a theophany. In other words, it was a God-appearance, a visible manifestation of the invisible God...Whether or not Christ was in the bush, one thing is certain: Moses was in the presence of God."*

4. Who initiated the encounter on Horeb? What principle concerning our relationship with God do you discern?

5. From the following scriptures, describe what is evident about God through fire.

Exodus 13:21

Exodus 19:18

Deuteronomy 4:24

Hebrews 12:28-29

6. List the positive and negative aspects about fire and how this relates to God and your life.

7. What lesson(s) was God teaching Moses (which applies for us) by having him remove his sandals to approach the burning bush (Hebrews 10:19; Ephesians 2:18)?

8. In verse 6 how does God's "I am" declaration emphasize Moses's **personal association** with the covenant people? Why is it significant that God says, "I am" rather than "I was" regarding the patriarchs? What is God's "I am" to you?

## Life of Moses Study (September 27, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 4:10-17

*Note: God heard the cries of His people who were afflicted and oppressed in Egypt and so He said to Moses, "Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?' He said, "But I will be with you..." (Exodus 3:10-12a)*

1. Briefly describe God's response (and your thoughts) to Moses' questions and comments below:

"Who am I that I should go?" (Exodus 3:11-12)

"What shall I say to them?" (Exodus 3:13-17)

"They will not believe me." (Exodus 4:1-9)

2. Apparently, God's responses to Moses did not convince him. What was Moses implying **about the Lord** when he said, "I am not eloquent...I am slow of speech and of tongues"?

3. How did God logically address Moses' illogical implication in Exodus 4:11-13? What does this reveal about God?

4. Share how Exodus 4:11-12; Luke 12:11-12 and 2 Corinthians 12:10 challenge your view of God in situations that concern you currently?

**Note:** Moses's real objection to speaking is not exactly known. Some scholars argue that it is due to the cultural response in the form of an "exaggerated humility" or self-deprecation at being given a great responsibility. Others consider that stuttering could have been the problem. Maybe Moses had forgotten much of the Egyptian language (which is how he would need to communicate with Pharaoh). Maybe he feared he'd lost his diplomacy skills after being away from the palace and living as a shepherd for so long. "But what he had was **not so much a speech problem as an obedience problem.**" (Philip Graham Ryken)

5. Note the reactions of Moses (Exodus 4:13-17), Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8, 7:1-9) and Jonah (Jonah 1:1-3, 17,3:1-3) to God's call. What was God's response to each of these reactions? What do you learn about God and His plans?

6. The responsibilities given to Moses and Aaron in Exodus 4:15-16 are the responsibilities of a prophet (Exodus 7:1-2; Deuteronomy 18:18-22). Explain the seriousness of this role. How are Moses and Aaron instructed to carry this role out as a team?

7. What are some reasons you think are significant about Moses taking the staff to Egypt to do the signs?

## Life of Moses Study (October 4, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 5:22-6:8, 7:1-5

1. Describe the unexpected result of Moses and Aaron's request of Pharaoh as God directed (Exodus 5:1-21).
2. What do you think Moses was feeling by his questions to God (Exodus 5:22-23)? Have you ever felt like your obedience to God made circumstances more difficult for you or others?
3. God reveals what additional detail regarding Pharaoh to Moses in Exodus 6:1 (compare to Exodus 3:19-20)? Read Proverbs 21:1 and share your thoughts about this additional detail?

**Note regarding Exodus 6:3:** "LORD" (all capital letters) means "Yahweh", as opposed to "Lord" meaning something like "master". Yahweh is used whenever the Bible stresses God's personal relationship with His people and the ethical aspect of His nature. According to Hebrew grammar, there is a technical point known as *beth essential* in the phrase "by my name." The phrase meant that while Abraham, Isaac and Jacob heard and used the name Yahweh it was only in Moses' day that the realization of the character, nature and essence of what that name became clear. "By that name" is better translated "in the character [or nature] of Yahweh [was I not known]." (From Hard Sayings of the Bible by Kaiser Jr., Davids, Bruce, Brauch)

"Verse 3 can be paraphrased as: I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but only partially—in the capacity of El Shaddai. But who I am fully, which is what my name Yahweh captures, I did not make myself known to them. This is made known first only now, to you, the Exodus generation, who will witness my mighty saving power." Now God's character as a saving God is to be fully revealed. (From The NIV Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns)

4. How would this clearer understanding of the LORD benefit Moses as he approached Pharaoh again?

5. From God's declared promises in Exodus 6:1-8, what could Moses and the Israelites know with certainty? Why could they be certain? Share a promise of God that is particularly meaningful to you that you can believe with certainty.

6. What do you think God was accomplishing from the hardening of Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 5:2, 7:1-5; Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10-11)?

7. Identify the principals that you discovered in this passage.



## Life of Moses Study (October 11, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 12:1-13

**NOTE:** In the last study (Exodus 5:22-6:8, 7:1-5) Moses's first approach to Pharaoh resulted in the increased sufferings of the Israelites. God repeatedly sends Moses back to Pharaoh who repeatedly refuses to let God's people go.

Each refusal is met with a plague (for a total of ten plagues-Exodus 7-11). Each time Pharaoh hardens his own heart (Exodus 7:13,14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 34, 35). "It appears that Pharaoh reached the limits of his circumscribed freedom during the fifth plague, for after that time, during the last five plagues, God consistently initiated the hardness (Exodus 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17). (Hard Sayings of the Bible by Kaiser Jr., Davids, Bruce, Brauch)

"Pharaoh's heart has been hardened by God *for the very purpose* that the Lord's 'wonders may be multiplied in Egypt' (11:9). What is about to happen will fulfill His plan on a level much deeper than simply retribution for the king's actions. Rather, Pharaoh is being used by God. His actions have been scripted so that God can execute His plan." (The NIV Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns)

1. What do you think was God's purpose for the Israelites to celebrate the Passover on a specific date, "the first month of the year" which became The Hebrew Calendar (Exodus 3:15; 10:2; 12:2,14)?

2. Ever since the fourth plague (the flies), the Israelites had been set apart from the Egyptians (Exodus 8:21-23). Why do you think they were spared the impact of God's judgment from the fourth to the ninth plagues **without any action on their part**? What was different for the Israelites in the tenth and final plague (Exodus 11:4-6; 12:1-13)? What do you learn regarding God's people and plan of salvation?

3. What similarities do you find between the account of Noah (Genesis 6:13-18) and the Passover event?

4. From this passage describe how the details of the Passover represented the greater deliverance that was to come by God (John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:19). How can you be delivered from God's judgment?

5. The Egyptians witnessed that the obedience of the Israelites by spreading lamb's blood on their doorposts identified them as belonging to God and therefore spared them of judgment. How might others in your life recognize that you belong to God and have no need to fear judgment and death (Romans 8:1)?

6. Why were the Israelites instructed to eat bitter herbs (Exodus 1:13-14; 12:8)? How and why were they to be dressed and eat their meal (Exodus 12:11)? List the applicable principles you detect for believers.

7. **NOTE REGARDING EXODUS 12:12:** "By sending plague after plague—nine in all—God was showing His power over creation...yet the more Pharaoh suffered, the harder his heart became. This was because his heart was committed to serving other gods. So one by one God defeated the gods and goddesses of Egypt. The plague of the blood defeated the river gods of the Nile, the locusts defeated the field gods of the harvest, the darkness defeated the gods of the sun and sky, and so forth."

(Preaching the Word-Exodus by Philip Graham Ryken)

"The tenth and final plague was the ultimate one—and fittingly, it was the plague of death, showing that the gods... could not save anyone or anything from death. If every household in Egypt should have been able to understand who held the power of life and death and who, by implication, did not. The gods did not. Yahweh did. Indeed, false gods do not exist...Therefore, 'judgment on the gods of Egypt' is practically speaking a judgment on *belief in those gods*, trusting in what cannot save as opposed to the only one who can."

(The New American Commentary-Exodus by Douglas K. Stuart)

Identify some of the false gods you see worshipped today in society. How do you find it tempting to rely on something else or someone else besides the Lord? What helps you keep your reliance on the Lord?

## Life of Moses Study (October 18, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 14:1-6, 10-14

**NOTE:** After the Tenth Plague, the LORD brought judgment on the Egyptians by taking the lives of all their firstborn. As a result, "the Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste...(Exodus 12:33) and just as God promised Abraham and Moses they left with great possessions of silver, gold, and clothing given to them by the Egyptians (Genesis 15:14; Exodus 3:22; 12:35-36). The LORD went before the people by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire. He led them toward the Red Sea (Exodus 12:17-22).

"God's people were starting down the road to freedom. They were bound for the Promised Land. That being the case, one would expect them to head north...It was the most direct route. In fact, if the Israelites had headed straight for Canaan, they would have arrived there in less than two weeks (rather than the forty years it eventually took them!)...That would have been the shortest way, but it was not the best way because it was not God's way. God knew that if the Israelites stayed near the sea, they would face fierce resistance...God knew they were in no shape to fight." (Preaching the Word-Exodus by Philip Graham Ryken)

1. The Lord directed Moses to have the Israelites set up camp in such a way that they were hemmed in by desert and high mountains on the sides and in front by the water (as if they were in a cul-de-sac). Why did the God place them in such a position? Can you share a time when you were in circumstances with no "possible way out" and God delivered you?

2. God said "I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host" (Exodus 14:4b). God allowed the enemy to think they had the strategic advantage. How did God use this strategy to bring Him Glory when His Son was crucified?

3. What had the Israelites forgotten concerning their exit from Egypt? How would remembering God's faithfulness to you benefit you in difficult situations?

4. What had Pharaoh and his servants forgotten concerning the Israelites' exit from Egypt?

5. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding" The Lord declares in Isaiah 55:8, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." Discuss what happened when the Israelites leaned on their own understanding and thoughts. How have you struggled with trusting God just as the Israelites?

6. In response to Moses's doubts and questions after his first approach to Pharaoh, the Lord made a promise to Moses (Exodus 5:22-6:7). How was this fulfilled in Exodus 14:1-31?

7. Recall from previous Exodus passages how Moses had matured into a more confident leader of God's people.

8. Moses told the people "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today...the LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." From Exodus 14:13-14; Deuteronomy 20:4; Joshua 1:9; Proverbs 20:22; and Ephesians 6:11-12, share what you learn about the Lord, believers, and warfare.

9. Describe from Exodus 14:1-31 what the Lord revealed about Himself to:

The Egyptians

The Israelites

You

## Life of Moses Study (October 25, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 16:1-24

**NOTE:** The Lord got "glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen" when they were engulfed by the waters of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:17-18, 26-28). As a result, "Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses" (Exodus 14:31). The people sang a song of praise to God, His deliverance and promise to them. Moses led them into the wilderness of Shur to Marah and alas the people complained that the water was bitter. The Lord gave them sweet water, a statute, a rule, and a test (Exodus 15:22-27) before leading them to the wilderness of Sin to test them in chapter sixteen.

1. The Israelites had left Egypt on the fifteenth day of the first month. Exactly one month after their deliverance, they grumbled against Moses and Aaron. They had a distorted recollection of their time in Egypt and had forgotten God's promises to their ancestors (Genesis 12:1-4, 7; Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 3:7-10; 6:5-8). Describe their wrong thinking. What is your response and can you relate to this in any way?

2. What does Scripture say about grumbling and it's antidote?

Exodus 16:8

Philippians 2:14-15

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Jude 14-16

3. How is grumbling different than stating a need (Matthew 6:11)? What does grumbling reveal? Do your needs drive you to God or make you angry and/or doubt Him?

4. Explain some of the lessons you think the Lord was teaching the Israelites through His specific instructions concerning the provision of manna?

5. What did the Lord do as Aaron spoke to all the people to let them know He graciously acknowledged they had been heard (Exodus 16:10-12)? List the attributes of God that you find evident in His response to the people's grumbling.

6. Compare and contrast manna "the bread from Heaven" and Jesus "The Bread of Life" (Exodus 16:4-36; John 6:25-27, 31-40, 47-58).

Manna:

Jesus:

7. What were the Israelites called to do to prepare for the Sabbath? Do you think this was a challenge for some? How could you prepare for the Sabbath? What challenges do you anticipate in your preparation?



## Life of Moses Study (November 1, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 17:1-7

1. Describe how the complaints of the Israelites had elevated to a more defiant level. How could they have voiced their dissatisfaction differently? Have you ever expressed your complaints in a way you later regretted and what did you learn?

2. Recall the Lord's daily provision for His people (Exodus 16:4, 21a). What does His faithful provision reveal about the Israelite's complaint at Rhiphidim?

3. In what ways do the Israelites' hearts reflect Pharaoh's rather than the hearts of a people belonging to God (Psalm 95:7-10)?

4. Moses pointed out to the Israelites that their complaint was not against him, but against God. Yet, when Moses went to God, his focus was on himself by asking, "What I am to do with this people?" Share your thoughts about Moses' response.

5. **Who** did the Lord direct Moses to bring to Horeb with him and **what** was He to take? Why do you think these instructions were significant?

6. Where did God stand at Horeb? "Who" do you think God was commanding Moses to strike at the rock? How is this a picture of our salvation (Psalm 18:2; 95:1; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4; John 4:14)?

7. **NOTE REGARDING THE NAMING GIVEN BY MOSES:** "In Hebrew, "Massah" means "testing/trial/temptation," and "Meribah" means "protest/contention/quarrel/strife." Does the fact that Moses chose two names for the site hint at the deep concern he had about the rebellion in which he had participated? ... The text does not say, but it may be reasonable to assume that the preservation of the two names and repeated reference to the place and event in later biblical literature including his own writing in Numbers and Deuteronomy suggest that Moses understood already the significance of what the Israelites had done and his acquiesce to it." (The New American Commentary-Exodus by Douglas K. Stuart)

After naming the place Massah and Meribah, Moses concludes with "they tested the Lord by saying, 'is the Lord among us or not?'" (Exodus 17:7) Explain the various reasons for the absurdity of this question. What absurd question are you asking lately?

## Life of Moses Study (November 8, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 19:1-6, 16-22

**NOTE:** The Israelites remained in Rephidim after the Lord miraculously provided water from the rock at Horeb. During that time the Amalek attacked the people, so Moses enlisted Joshua to choose men to fight the enemy. During the conflict they found that when Moses held up his hand the Israelites would prevail in battle. But when he lowered his hand, Amalek would prevail. So Aaron and Hur helped Moses keep his hand up, while Joshua and his men won the battle (Exodus 17:8-16). Perhaps God was teaching Moses that he would need the assistance of others in order to lead the group of Israelites (consisting of about 2.5 million people). Jethro (Moses' father-in-law) brought Zipporah (Moses' wife) and their two sons to visit Moses. Jethro observed all that Moses was doing for the people, and grew concerned Moses would wear himself out. He suggested Moses recruit some help from among the people. "So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them head over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens" (Exodus 18:24-25). God was preparing Moses and the people for the next stage of His covenant relationship with them!

1. Describe the significance of Mt. Sinai (Exodus 3:1-2,12). How were God's promises being fulfilled?

2. God said concerning the Israelites, "I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself." From Deuteronomy 32:10-11; Job 39:27-28 and Isaiah 40:31, explain how the imagery of an eagle reflects God's care and affection for His people.

3. **NOTE:** "We will never properly understand the Exodus if we forget the connection to the patriarchs, which is foundational to the book's message. The Exodus is about God's keeping a promise He made to Abraham. What is about to transpire on Mount Sinai is *not* a new covenant, but the continuation and deepening of an existing covenant, the covenant God made with Israel's ancestors long ago. Hence, the giving of the law does not represent the initiation of God's relationship with His people but a heightening of that relationship."

(The NIV Life Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns)

What were the conditions and benefits of the covenant that the Lord was commencing to the Israelites (Exodus 19:4-5)? What ultimate need for humanity is revealed through the requirement of these conditions that was later met by Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-28)? What does this mean to you?

4. **NOTE:** "What made God's people so precious was not their own intrinsic value; it was only the value placed on them by God's love. They were not precious because of who *they were* but because of who *God was*." (Preaching the Word-Exodus by Philip Graham Ryken)

As God's treasured possession, what was the Israelite's special calling (Exodus 19:6)? What is God's view of and special calling for believers (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10)? How should this identity and calling impact our conduct (1 Peter 2:11-17)?

5. (Read: Exodus 3:4-6; 19:10-15; Leviticus 20:7) What attribute of God did Moses discover during his first encounter at Mt Sinai that is now being realized by the people? How did God teach them this attribute about Himself in each instance? What do you find regarding approaching a Holy God?

6. How does the encounter with God at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:10-25) stand in contrast to the believer's encounter with God at "Mt. Zion" (John 14:6-7; Hebrews 12:18-29)?

Mt. Sinai:

Mt. Zion:

7. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God (Exodus 19:17). Who could you bring to "meet" God? At Mt. Sinai God gave Moses a warning for the people. What warning should you lovingly share with others?

## Life of Moses Study (November 15, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 20:1-7

**NOTE:** At Mt. Sinai, God is about to give His people the Ten Commandments. “The Commandments were not given to Israel in Egypt so that by observing them they might free themselves from the oppression they were subjected to there. Rather the Commandments were given to the people who had already experienced the LORD's salvation. They were delivered to them so that they would have guidance as to how they ought to conduct themselves, and so continue to enjoy the benefits he had provided for them and thus be capable of fulfilling the destiny the LORD intended for them, to be ‘a kingdom of priests and a holy nation’ (19:6)” (Exodus-A Mentor Commentary by John L. Mackay). This lesson focuses on the first three commandments, which are directed towards Israel's relationship with God.

1. In the Old Testament God typically spoke through prophets. What is different this time? What was the Israelite's response (Exodus 20:2, 18-19)? How do you think you would respond?

2. How does God defend His authority as the lawgiver (Exodus 20:2)? How does He remind them of His special covenant name (Exodus 6:2-3, 7)?

3. The first commandment given states, "you shall have no other gods before me." Is God threatened by other gods (Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; Psalm 86:10; Isaiah 44:6, 8; 1 Corinthians 8:4)? Justify your answer.

4. Describe some of the "other gods" people place before the Lord. What are the indicators that you are placing a god before the Lord?

5. What do you think is God's purpose for the second commandment regarding the prohibition to make a carved image or any likeness of anything created (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:18)?

6. What does the Lord mean and **not mean** in the statement "I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me" (Exodus 20:5-6; Deuteronomy 24:16)? Describe the ways parents' actions impact the next generations both negatively and positively.

7. **NOTE:** "The third commandment is directed not toward Yahweh's protection, but toward Israel's. Yahweh's name...must be honored, blessed, praised, celebrated, invoked, pronounced, and so shared. To treat Yahweh's name with disrespect is to treat His gift lightly, to undermine his power, to scorn his Presence, and to misrepresent to the family of humankind his very nature as "The One Who always Is [I AM WHO I AM]."  
(Quote via John I. Durham, Exodus, from The NIV Life Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns).

The third commandment makes clear that God's name is not to be taken in vain. What are ways you have observed God's name misused. What did Jesus teach about God's name (Matthew 6:9)?

8. Explain the logical progression you find in 1 John 4:19; John 14:15 and Matthew 22:36-40. How do you think obedience to the first three commandments impacts the obedience to the following seven commandments (Exodus 20:2-17)"?



## Life of Moses Study (November 22, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 24:1-11

**NOTE:** In Exodus chapters 20-23, God gives the people His law in the form of a covenant. After receiving the 10 commandments, they received detailed instructions regarding everyday situations involving things like slavery, personal injury, loss of property and social justice. The purpose was to give the Israelites guidelines to live as a just society and as a people set apart to the Lord.

1. After the terms for the covenant were stipulated, what did God promise and under what conditions (Exodus 23:20-33)?

2. What lessons about God do you think the people learned from the three different levels of proximity to the Lord's presence that were specified (Exodus 3:5; 24:1-2; 1 Samuel 2:2)?

**CHALLENGE QUESTION:** How would this prepare the people for the pattern of the coming tabernacle (Exodus 25:1, 8-9 and other passages you find concerning the tabernacle)?

3. Discuss Israel's need for Moses' role. How did this point to the One who would meet our greatest need (1 Timothy 2:5; John 14:6; Hebrews 3:1-6; 12:24)?

4. **NOTE REGARDING THE BURNT AND PEACE OFFERINGS:** "The nature of these burnt and fellowship [peace] offerings is significant. Burnt offerings are typically made for atonement for sin and consecration, that is, devotion and commitment to God. Fellowship [peace] offerings celebrate fellowship with God. The nature of these two offerings parallels how the blood of the sacrifices was used. One half was sprinkled on the altar, while the other half was put in bowls (v. 6) and was sprinkled on the people (v. 8). The former represents sin atonement (burnt offerings), the latter fellowship...this blood sprinkled on the people indicates that the fellowship between them and God has just been confirmed. That is why it is called 'blood of the covenant.' " (The NIV Life Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns)

How does the use of blood at confirmation of the covenant on Mt. Sinai foreshadow the greater sacrifice of Christ (Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7, 2:13; Colossians 1:19-20)?

5. God said in Exodus 33:20, "You cannot see my face, for man should not see me and live" and John 1:18 states, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." Since Scripture does not contradict itself, what are your thoughts regarding Moses and the others seeing "the God of Israel" (Exodus 24:9-11)?

6. The LORD called Moses, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel to come to Him. They accepted His call and terms, to find that "he did not lay his hand" on them and so they feasted with God in celebration of the covenant. Have you responded to God's call to come to Him? What assurance can you have that He will not "lay his hand" on you?

7. On Mt. Sinai the celebration meal of the covenant bond between God and His people anticipates what other covenant meals (Matthew 26:26-29; Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 19:9)? In what ways do you and/or will you participate in celebrating?

## Life of Moses Study (November 29, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Exodus 33:12-23

**NOTE:** After the ratification of the covenant between God and His people, The LORD called Moses up to the mountain to give him the law on tablets of stone (written by God Himself). He also gave Moses instructions to build a portable tabernacle where the LORD would dwell in the midst of His people. While Moses was with God, the Israelites grew restless. It was not even six weeks since they had promised their allegiance to the LORD and His commands that they convinced Aaron of their desire to worship a god. Aaron's response was to construct a golden calf. God's wrath burned against them and He planned to destroy them, in order to make a great nation of Moses. Moses pleaded with the Lord to spare them, appealing to God's own reputation among the nations and according to His promise to Abraham. God relented from destroying the people (but later punished them with a plague.) Moses went down the mountain and when he saw the calf his "anger burned hot", and he threw the tablets out of his hands, and broke them at the foot of the mountain" (Exodus 32:19). He destroyed the idol and had 3,000 people executed hoping to make atonement for their sin. Moses selflessly pleaded with the Lord, "if you will forgive their sin—if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written" (Exodus 32:32). The Lord told Moses "Depart...to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...I will send an angel before you...but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people. Upon hearing this news the Israelites mourned.

1. The LORD and His people were growing apart. Note the changes indicating the distancing in their relationship from the following verses:

Exodus 23:23; 32:34 compared to 33:2 (concerning the angel)

Exodus 25:8 compared to 33:3, 7

2. Read Exodus 33:4-11 and describe the people's response to their growing apart from God.

3. The Israelites were still going to the Promised Land and God was going to send an angel before them to drive out their enemies (Exodus 33:1-3). Why was this not enough for Moses (Exodus 33:15-16)? What principle do you find that you could apply?

4. Exodus 33:11 reveals, "The LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." How do you find this special friendship evident in the manner that Moses conversed with God (Exodus 33:12-23)? What evidence do you find in your own life denoting a special relationship with God?

5. Describe what Moses asked from God in the following dialogues:

For himself as a mediator (Exodus 33:12-14)

For the Israelites as the people of God (Exodus 33:15-17)

For himself as a mediator and a man who wanted to know God (Exodus 33:18-23)

6. Moses had seen God's glory in the cloud protecting the Israelites from the Egyptians (Exodus 14:19-20). He had seen God's feet (Exodus 24:10) and had entered the glory cloud on Mt Sinai (Exodus 24:15-18). Why at this point, do you think Moses asks, "Please show me your glory" (Exodus 33:18)?

7. "Having God's goodness pass in front implies that the covenant between God and the people is being reestablished. Moreover, God again proclaims His name, 'The LORD' to Moses. This is an allusion to the initial encounter in 3:14-15, where God first proclaimed His name to Moses." (NIV Life Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns)

"The promise concerning mercy and compassion [to be gracious] is...part of the reassurance God gave Moses, saying in effect: you won't just receive my common grace; you (my people) will receive my covenant mercy and compassion [graciousness]."  
(The New American Commentary-Exodus by Douglas K. Stuart)

Discuss how the LORD answered Moses's request to see His glory. What is your reaction to God's response?

## Life of Moses Study (December 6, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:13-16

**NOTE:** As the LORD had instructed, the people built the Tabernacle and God dwelt among them. His presence was evident in the cloud of fire over the tabernacle. A census was taken to select warriors, priests from among the Levites, and to arrange the tribes of Israel in preparation for their march into Canaan.

And the people complained! They complained about the food, they complained about the lack of water, they complained about being led into the desert to die, and they complained about Moses' authority. Despite God's visible presence and faithfulness to care for them, they complained because they did not believe Him. The repeated displays of unbelief resulted in their wandering in the desert for years.

The LORD instructed Moses to send spies into Canaan. All the spies, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb returned from their expedition and said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are" (Numbers 13:31). But Joshua and Caleb said "If the LORD delights in us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us...only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land...the LORD is with us" (Numbers 14:8-9). The people wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb. But God said, "None of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it. But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully. I will bring in to the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it" (Numbers 14:22-24). The LORD would only allow Joshua, Caleb and those under 20 years old to enter the Promised Land!

When the people heard they would not be allowed into Canaan, they mourned and said they would go to the place that the LORD had promised. Moses told them not to go "For there the Amalekites and Canaanites are facing you, and you shall fall by the sword. Because you have turned back from following the LORD, the LORD will not be with you...but they presumed to go...the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and defeated them and pursued them, even to Hormah" (Numbers 14:39-45).

Even Moses was guilty of unbelief when he did not follow God's directions and twice struck the rock at Meribah to produce water for the people (Numbers 20:2-13). As a result the LORD said to Moses, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them" (Numbers 20:12).

1. Thirty-eight years earlier, the Israelites had been defeated when they tried to enter Canaan (Numbers 14:39-45). Describe what happened in Hormah that brought different results (Numbers 21:1-3). Did the experience in Hormah impact the people's mindset? Explain.

2. Why were the Israelites going around Edom (Numbers 20:18-21)?

3. What are your thoughts about the people's impatience and complaints as they set out from Mount Hor (Numbers 21:4-5)? What was the "worthless food" they "loathed"? What would you have thought if you were in their place?

4. Moses had interceded on behalf of the Israelites numerous times. What is different this time regarding the LORD's response concerning the people (Numbers 21:4-9)?

5. Why may it have been challenging for Moses to make a bronze serpent for the people to look towards (Genesis 3:1-15; Exodus 20:4-6)?

6. The people said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you" (Numbers 21:7). Why was confession not enough to be relieved of the judgment (serpent bites)? What was their only escape from death?

7. How does the incident involving the bronze serpent relate to John 3:13-16?  
"No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

8. Share principles evident from this week's lesson that you discover about sin and salvation?

9. Share attributes about the LORD evident in the lesson.



## Life of Moses Study (December 13, 2020)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Deuteronomy 34:1-12

**NOTE:** After the punishment of the venomous snakes and God's provision of an antidote (by looking up at the bronze serpent), Moses led the Israelites around Edom towards Moab. They experienced victories over the Amorite King Sihon and Og, the King of Bashan. As they camped in the plains of Moab, the people found opposition from King Balak of Moab who feared that he too would be defeated. He hired the prophet Balaam to curse Israel. Much to the king's distress, Balaam's curse ended up being a blessing to Israel and a curse on Moab.

Since cursing the Israelites was unsuccessful, Balaam advised King Balak to entice the people away from God to the worship of Baal, so that God would withdraw His blessing from them (Numbers 22-25; 31:8,16; Revelation 2:14). Unfortunately, the men of Israel were seduced by the women of Moab and succumbed to the god Baal. In judgment, God sent a plague that claimed the lives of 24,000 people. Eventually, He arrested the plague because Phinehas (grandson of Aaron) stood up for the LORD's honor and took action to stop the abominations (Numbers 25).

God called Moses to take a census of the new generation and select leaders in preparation for the occupation of Canaan. Joshua had been appointed as Moses' successor to lead the people. The LORD also told Moses that he was about to die and so Moses made final preparations to leave the people he had led for 40 years.

"Moses' role in Deuteronomy is not that of a lawgiver, but a pastor (Numbers 27:17; Isaiah 63:11). Knowing that his death is imminent...Moses gathers his congregation and delivers his final homily, pleading with the Israelites to remain faithful to Yahweh. The texts he has left us are not to be read primarily as law, but as discourses on the implications of the Israelite covenant for a people about to enter the land promised under the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 15:7-21; 26:3; Exodus 6:2-8)."

(NIV Life Application Commentary-Deuteronomy by Daniel L. Block)

1. What was the "good news-bad news" the Lord gave to Moses (Deuteronomy 31:14-18, 23; 32:48-50)?

2. For what purpose do you think God showed Moses "all the land" (Deuteronomy 34:1-4)?

3. Share your thoughts regarding how Moses might have felt about not entering the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 32:51-52; 34:1-4).

4. Describe details you find interesting or significant concerning Moses' age, death and burial (Deuteronomy 34:5-8)?

5. How is Moses honored in reference to Joshua (Deuteronomy 34:9)?

6. Based on what you have learned through this study, give support to the statement describing Moses as "the man of God" (Deuteronomy 33:1).

7. From your study of the "Life of Moses" share any poignant thoughts and how you were impacted regarding:

Moses

The Israelites

The Lord