

02

LAW
AND
LIFE

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT.

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GOD'S WORD TO YOU

A SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and to restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. By God's grace in Christ, repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

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THE EDITOR

I have four teenagers, and they sometimes love to complain. Especially about food: what's available in the house or what's being prepared at mealtimes. Sometimes they're just asking, "What's for dinner?" but their tone conveys grumbling. A parent knows.

It's easy for me to notice when my kids have an ungrateful heart, but it's harder to notice it in my own life toward God. Though redeemed through Christ's blood, I am still a sinner who wants what I want when I want it. It's difficult to wait on the Lord. I am truly like the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, forgetful of how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt.

I'm so thankful for the mercy of God who knows us so well—our sinful habits and ungrateful spirit—yet because of His character and love, still pours grace upon grace on us like He did for His people in the past.

God provided the sacrificial system in the past, and more importantly, Jesus Christ when He lived and died as our substitute for the penalty of sin, to sustain and maintain our relationship and fellowship with Him. It clearly has nothing to do with what we can do on our own strength. He desires to be in relationship with us, and even as we continue to be unfaithful, He delivers a way for us to come back to Him. The God of gods, the Holy of holies, is that good and that loving.

As we go through these Bible passages, it's easy to shake our heads at the continual disobedience of the Israelites. But more than a reminder of how we can try to do better, these narratives remind us of who God is and what He has done for us. May that knowledge of a just and merciful God cause our lives to be transformed because of His ultimate act of love found in the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.

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The Gospel Project®

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review Lifeway's doctrinal guideline, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.

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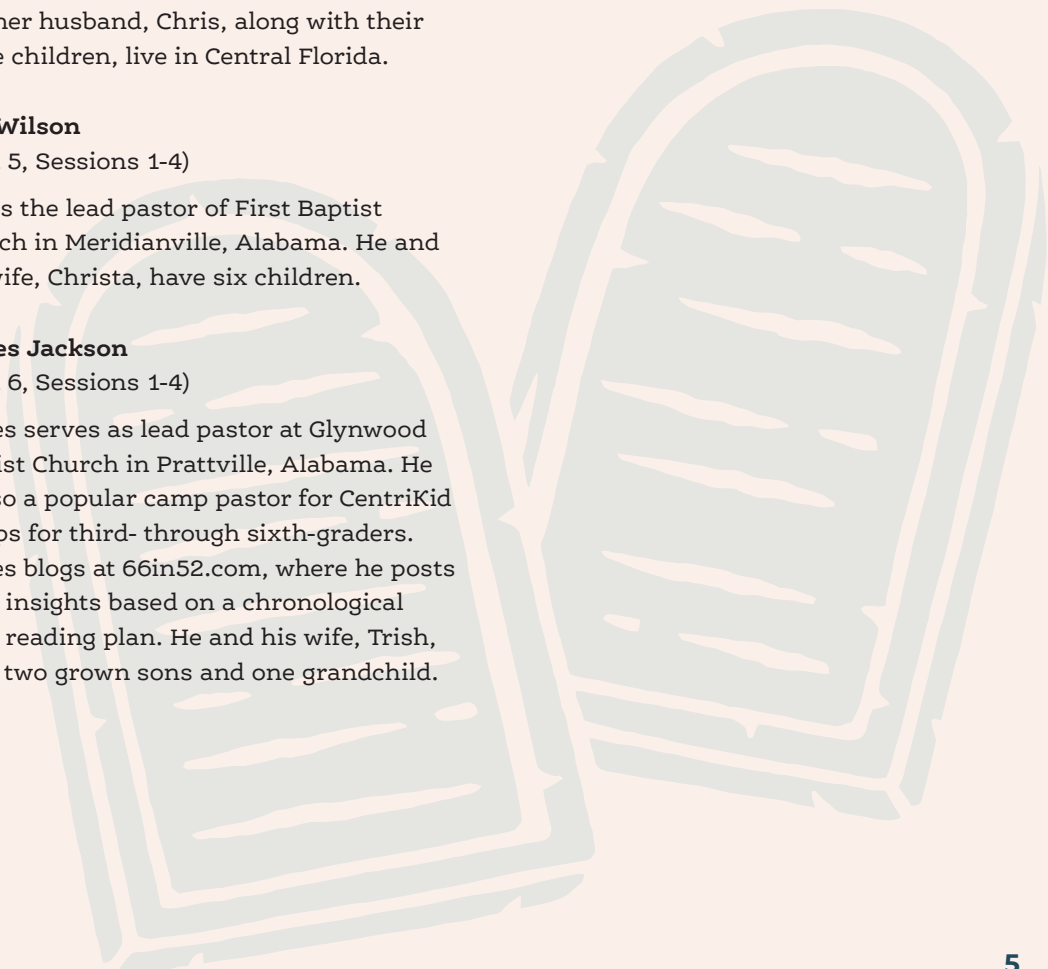
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SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

The Gospel Project for Adults aspires to point people to the gospel of Jesus Christ through weekly group Bible studies and additional resources that show how God’s plan of redemption unfolds throughout all of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. This curriculum provides theological yet practical studies that immerse your group in the STORY of the gospel, helping to develop a gospel CULTURE that leads to gospel MISSION.

GOSPEL STORY

Our aim is to help people understand the storyline of Scripture and to see the thread from the beginning to the end that weaves through it all—God’s plan to rescue and redeem His creation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL CULTURE

Our hope is that the message of the gospel saturates our understanding of Christ, increasing our joy in Him and helping doubters become believers who become declarers of the gospel.

GOSPEL MISSION

Our desire is to encourage believers to live on mission, declaring the good news of the gospel in word and deed for God’s glory and the growth of His kingdom.

3 YEAR PLAN

VOL 01: CREATION AND COVENANT

(Genesis; Job)
Fall 2024

VOL 02: LAW AND LIFE

(Exodus–Deuteronomy)
Winter 2024–25

VOL 03: LAND AND LOSS

(Joshua–1 Samuel)
Spring 2025

VOL 04: FOOLISHNESS AND WISDOM

(1 Samuel–1 Kings; Wisdom Literature)
Summer 2025

VOL 05: DIVISION AND DEFIANCE

(1 Kings–2 Chronicles; The Prophets)
Fall 2025

VOL 06: PROPHETS AND PROVISION

(The Prophets; Ezra–Esther)
Winter 2025–26

VOL 07: THE SON HAS COME

(The Gospels)
Spring 2026

VOL 08: THE SON HAS AUTHORITY

(The Gospels)
Summer 2026

VOL 09: THE SON HAS TRUTH

(The Gospels)
Fall 2026

VOL 10: THE SON HAS RISEN

(The Gospels; Acts)
Winter 2026–27

VOL 11: THE CHURCH HAS A MISSION

(Acts; The Epistles)
Spring 2027

VOL 12: THE CHURCH HAS A FUTURE

(The Epistles; Revelation)
Summer 2027

HOW TO USE THE PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE


The Personal Study Guide is a vital tool in your personal and group experience with The Gospel Project for Adults. Here's how to make the most of your time with it:

1) READ THE WORD DAILY

Begin each week by reading the Scriptures according to the Daily Readings. These Bible readings will help you mentally and spiritually prepare for the group experience each week while also building healthy Bible study habits for personal growth. The daily readings will help you understand the context of the Bible story for each week's session and fill in the gaps between sessions. The weekly psalm reading will help you think worshipfully and prayerfully about the story's place in the greater redemptive narrative of the Bible. And the timeline will give you a visual perspective so you can place the Bible story in the larger context of the Bible's storyline.



- Daily Readings
- Chronological Timeline



TIMELINE

God sends judgment through Sodom and Gomorrah through a Rain of Sulfur (Numbers 16)

Moses Reports the Journey and Calls the Hebrews to Obeyance (Exodus 1-18)

Moses Dies and Joshua Takes His Place (Deuteronomy 34)


11/15/2024 11:00AM Moses Warns the Descendants to Stay Faithful in Following God (Deuteronomy 32)

1844 Moses Returns to Carry God's People, but God Turns Every Corner into Bleeding (Numbers 27-34)

Daily Readings

<input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: Deuteronomy 1:1-4:20	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: Deuteronomy 5:1-10:10	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: Psalm 101
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: Deuteronomy 16:1-18:28	

Scan this QR code to access the personal Scripture passages.



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2) STUDY THE PERSONAL PREPARATION

The Personal Preparation section contains the Scripture passages you will examine and discuss with your Bible study group. As you read each Scripture passage, a Bible study prompt will help you highlight, underline, or jot notes to help you engage with the Scripture and to provoke discussion with your group on the following Sunday. A brief commentary with thought-provoking questions will help you dig deeper into the text and reflect on what the text teaches you about God and yourself. You have the full week to work on your personal preparation, so whether you prefer to break it up into parts or do it all in one day, the flexibility is there for your schedule.

- Scripture
- Commentary
- Questions

PERSONAL PREPARATION

EXODUS 15:1-20

WE WORSHIP, KNOWING GOD IS OUR STRENGTH AND DELIVERER.

Underline the "I will" statements in verses 7-9.

1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: They said, "I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea. 2 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. 4 He threw Pharaoh's chariots and his army into the sea; the site of his officers were drowned in the Red Sea. 5 The floods covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone. 6 Lord, your right hand is glorious in power; Lord, your right hand shattered the enemy. 7 You overthrew your adversaries by your great majesty; you unleashed your burning wrath, it consumed them like stubble. 8 The water heaped up at the blast from your nostrils; the surfer's stood firm like a dam. The victory depths congealed in the heart of the sea. 9 The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil. My desire will be gratified at their expense; I will draw my sword; my hand will destroy them." 10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Just as God made a way for His people to pass through the Red Sea to escape their enemies, Christ made a way for His people to escape their greatest enemies—sin and death—through His death on the cross.

Key Concept: God is our faithful Deliverer, able and powerful enough to save us from all things.

Little is this story of salvation taken seriously again. Powerful kings aren't really played like a game (14:12). Large bodies of water don't spontaneously part (v. 12). Mighty nations aren't spectacularly defeated in one fell swoop (vs. 20-28). Chariots crowded standing firm; a superior enemy don't make it so easy to see even in 20. Through this section, God's strength and sovereignty were substantially displayed. So, appropriately, God's people sang the praises of their Deliverer!

This song of Moses was more than single celebration. It was an appropriate moment of the powerful acts of God—a testimony of His mighty deeds. On one hand, in His faithful compassion, God gave astonishing relief and a hope-filled future to the Hebrew people. On the other hand, in His righteous wrath, God brought proper judgment and deserved destruction to His enemies. These two "faces" were from the same good God. He is not fickle or confused. "The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all his acts" (Psalm 145:17). He is right to grant grace, and He is right to deliver judgment.

VOICES FROM THE CHURCH

"Praise is the natural response from those who have experienced God's grace. The psalmist was the most important among in the Bible (and the cross). What did they do after it? Sing. That is what saved people do."
—Tony Mendez

God had offered to Moses that He would provide all that was needed despite Moses' weakness (Exodus 5-6). Moses seemed bowed in reluctant faith, and God was indeed fix strength. God had promised to pass over the households who trusted in His protection (Exodus 12), and they not only escaped the curse of death, but were liberated from the clutches of the Egyptians. Truly God was their salvation. Therefore, Moses drew out particular portraits of his experience of God's actions and then personalized them. "The Lord is my strength and my song. . . my salvation" (Exodus 15:2, emphasis added).

How would you describe God in the words of Exodus 15:2-10 in light of God's actions in your own life?



36 37

3) PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP EXPERIENCE

The Group Experience for each session includes an activity and interactive questions designed to make the most of your group experience. Depending on your leader, he or she may have you do the activity on your own before doing it together as a group, or your leader may want you to wait until group time. Either way, the personal prep you've put into the days leading up to your group time will provide a richer discussion and more thoughtful theological applications to mutually encourage each other during group time.

GROUP EXPERIENCE

GOD'S TABERNACLE: THEN AND NOW

Read Exodus 40:35 and write down how the elements found during tabernacle worship point to God and Jesus.

POINTS TO GOD

POINTS TO JESUS

ANOINTING WITH OIL

PRIESTHOOD

PRESENCE IN THE CLOUD/FIRE

What in today's passage helps you recognize the holiness of God and how we should approach Him today?

10 • Unit 10 | Session 3 | God's Holy Place



- **Group Activity**
- **Interactive Questions**
- **Theological Applications**

4) TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

At the conclusion of your group time, consider how to apply the day's Scripture lesson by walking through the Head, Heart, and Hands application questions. Share and discuss answers to the questions for the mutual benefit of everyone in the group. Then take time in your group, and during the week after, to read and pray through the designated psalm, focusing your thoughts and words once more upon God's Word. And finally, record prayer requests and praises as you wrap up your group time. Space is provided to jot those down in your guide for prayer during the following week.

Key Concept: God is our Provider, giving us our daily bread and all we need.

HEAD
How does remembering the character and work of Christ affect your worship?

HEART
When things are hard, what needs to come out of your heart, and what does this reveal about your heart?

HANDS
What are some daily rhythms that you can use to stir up gratitude for your beliefs?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE
Read Psalm 121. Consider how the worshiper's grumbling was answered from the approach of the psalmist. How does this affect your thoughts about the church in your heart, praying with fervency to God and faith in His faithful love.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



- Application Questions
- Scripture-Based Prayer
- Prayer Requests

LAW AND LIFE

By James Jackson

It's a common trope in movies about lawyers: the obligatory montage of hours and hours of studying. Volumes of legal text surround the hero. Copious amounts of coffee are consumed. Eyes are rubbed. Cheeks are unshaven. Hair is unkempt. The overall vibe is exhaustion over all the mind-numbing nuances of precedents, case law, majority and minority opinions, and Latin.

Reading the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) can feel like that. After the riveting stories of Genesis and the first half of Exodus, Moses ascended Mount Sinai and received God's law, and it was way, way more than just the Ten Commandments. There were civil laws governing how the Hebrews were to relate to one another. There were ceremonial laws ordering how they were to approach God in worship. And there were moral laws meant to apply to all people at all times in all places. There was no topical index. The three categories of laws were all mixed together, feeling something like the result of an explosion in a law library.

Despite all the confusion we might bring to the law, Moses told the Israelites in his farewell speech that they were to "take to heart all these words I am giving as a warning to you today, so that you may command your children to follow all the words of

this law carefully. For they are not meaningless words to you but they are your life, and by them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess" (Deuteronomy 32:46-47).

THE LAW WAS LIFE

Exodus through Deuteronomy is a mixed bag of obedience and disobedience to God's commands. All the people contributed to the building of the tabernacle, along with all its furnishings, "according to the pattern the LORD had shown Moses" (Numbers 8:4; see also Acts 7:44). Throughout the Torah, the phrase "as the LORD commanded" is used numerous times to describe the obedience of the people.

We see numerous occasions in which following God's commands preserved the lives of the Israelites. They obeyed God and painted lamb's blood on the doorposts of their houses, and the Lord passed over their homes when He swept through Egypt killing the firstborn (Exodus 12:13). They gathered manna at the Lord's command (Exodus 16). Moses struck a rock at the Lord's command, and water gushed out (Exodus 17).

Yet there are as many if not more examples of how failure to follow God's commands resulted in death. About three thousand

were killed when they chose to worship a golden calf (Exodus 32:28-35). The priests Nadab and Abihu were destroyed when they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord (Leviticus 10:1-2). The ground opened up and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram because they rebelled against the Lord's appointed leader (Numbers 16). Ultimately, that entire generation learned the consequences of disobedience when God decreed none of them would see the promised land but would die in the wilderness over the next forty years because of their collective rebellion. The commandments of God were anything but dry and dull for them. They were a matter of life and death.

THE LAW IS STILL LIFE

You may be asking: What does any of this have to do with Christians today? According to Romans 6:14, we are "not under the law but under grace," right? And Hebrews 8:14 tells us the new covenant made the old covenant obsolete, right?

It is true that we no longer need to bring a sacrifice to the Lord to atone for our sins. We are no longer required to circumcise our sons or abstain from certain foods. We can eat shrimp and bacon. We can wear clothing of mixed fibers.

At the same time, Jesus Himself said, "Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. . . . [U]ntil heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished" (Matthew 5:17-18).

There are still real-time consequences for disobeying the law. Anyone who has ever

seen flashing lights in his rear-view mirror when speeding knows the consequences of violating civil law. Anyone injured in a fall knows the law of gravity is inviolable. Anyone who has ruined his marriage and shattered his family because of an adulterous affair knows there are consequences to violating God's moral law.

Yet for all this, those who are in Christ know they do not have to face the eternal consequences of violating God's commandments. Our sins have been forgiven. The Lord has proven Himself to be a "compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished" (Exodus 34:6-7). God doesn't give us a pass—Jesus took the punishment we deserve for breaking God's commands. When Jesus shed His blood on the cross, He became the final, once-and-for-all atoning sacrifice for our sins. This is what Jesus meant in the Sermon on the Mount when He said He did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it.

We ought not read and study the stories and passages in the Torah as dry and dusty case law. Rather, as they still constitute God's Word, they are the very words of life. God's Word is still a matter of life and death.

James Jackson serves as lead pastor at Glynwood Baptist Church in Prattville, Alabama. He is also a popular camp pastor for CentriKid Camps for third-through sixth-graders. James blogs at 66in52.com, where he posts daily insights based on a chronological Bible reading plan. He and his wife, Trish, have two grown sons and one grandchild.

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

UNIT 04

GOD'S MIRACULOUS WORK



EXODUS 1–18



MEMORY VERSE

“The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.”

–Exodus 15:2



GOD'S MIRACULOUS CALL

CORE PASSAGES: EXODUS 4:1-5,10-17

CONTEXT

Through God's sovereign and gracious provision, Jacob's family relocated to Egypt to escape death by famine. With Joseph stationed as a high-ranking official in Egypt, the Hebrews enjoyed freedom and flourished in the region of Goshen. As time passed by after Joseph's death, the Hebrews faced great oppression at the hands of the Egyptians. God heard their cries, remembered His covenant, and called forth a deliverer—Moses—to rescue the Hebrews from slavery. Miraculously saved from death as a baby, Moses grew up in the Egyptian court. Later, reluctant to take on Pharaoh, Moses initially demonstrated resistance to God's call.

KEY CONCEPT

When God calls, He equips His people for service.

As you examine Exodus 4:1-5,10-17:

- Contemplate the fact God called Moses despite his excuses and insecurities.
- Identify ways God promised to equip Moses through His presence, power, and provision.



TIMELINE

Jacob and His Family Relocate from Canaan to Egypt Under Joseph's Care; Jacob and Later Joseph Die (Genesis 46–50)

Baby Moses Is Rescued from
Death Sentence (Exodus 2)

**SESSION STUDY: God Calls Moses to Return to Egypt
and Deliver the Hebrews (Exodus 3–4)**

A New King of Egypt Enslaves
the Hebrews (Exodus 1)

Adult Moses Kills an Egyptian Taskmaster
and Flees to Midian (Exodus 2)

God Delivers His People from Egypt Through Moses (Exodus 5–14)

Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Exodus 1:1–22
- Day 2:** Exodus 2:1–25
- Day 3:** Exodus 3:1–4:31
- Day 4:** Exodus 5:1–6:1
- Day 5:** Exodus 6:2–27
- Day 6:** Psalm 8



Scan this QR code
to access this session's
Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

EXODUS 4:1-5

GOD CHOOSES TO PARTNER WITH HIS PEOPLE TO DO HIS WORK.

Underline Moses's concern about God's calling, and circle the Lord's response.

1 Moses answered, "What if they won't believe me and will not obey me but say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" **2** The LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. **3** "Throw it on the ground," he said. So Moses threw it on the ground, it became a snake, and he ran from it. **4** The LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand and grab it by the tail." So he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand. **5** "This will take place," he continued, "so that they will 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."

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER: Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Key Concept: When God calls, He equips His people for service.

The Bible is filled with unlikely leaders. Abraham was a cowardly liar. Jacob, a conniving cheat. David abused his power and became an adulterer and murderer. Jonah was a heartless runner. Jesus's own disciples were deserters. Paul persecuted Christians. Moses was whiny, self-focused, and fearful, failing to trust God at His word. By earthly standards, these were all failures.

Yet God used them anyway.

It's easy to read the Bible with rose-colored glasses. As we do, we often assume that the people God chose to accomplish His will possessed something special that made them worthy of God's notice. Yet when we take off those silly spectacles, the true colors of the "heroes" of the Bible are clearly on display, and it's not a pretty picture.

Even if we adjust our vision to see the faults of our spiritual forefathers, we have a tendency to believe that our shortcomings and failures are somehow more significant than those of others. We rightly understand we're out of our league, but then we wrongly assume that we're unusable by God. And then we begin making excuses (Exodus 4:1).

What excuses do you tend to make that may be keeping you from being used by God?

God knew the wretchedness and weakness of Moses better than Moses did, but God chose to use Moses anyway. God knows your faults too and chooses to use you to bring about His will and purpose. The qualification for being employed by God doesn't rest on our special accomplishments or spiritual resume. It rests on God's grace.

As New Testament Christians, we have even less potential excuses than our brothers and sisters of old. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, who indwells and empowers believers, we now have "everything required for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). As Jesus promised, we have received power to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8), and we have each been purposely placed in this moment in history at our particular GPS coordinates in order to be used by God to accomplish His will.

How should knowing that you have been indwelled and empowered by the Holy Spirit give you courage to obey God's calling?

PERSONAL PREPARATION

EXODUS 4:10-17

GOD EQUIPS THOSE HE CALLS AND PROVIDES HELP THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.

Underline all the promises God made to Moses.

10 But Moses replied to the LORD, “Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent—either in the past or recently or since you have been speaking to your servant—because my mouth and my tongue are sluggish.” **11** The LORD said to him, “Who placed a mouth on humans? Who makes a person mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? **12** Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say.” **13** Moses said, “Please, Lord, send someone else.” **14** Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses, and he said, “Isn’t Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, he is on his way now to meet you. He will rejoice when he sees you. **15** You will speak with him and tell him what to say. I will help both you and him to speak and will teach you both what to do. **16** He will speak to the people for you. He will serve as a mouth for you, and you will serve as God to him. **17** And take this staff in your hand that you will perform the signs with.”

CHURCH CONNECTION

Moses’s protest centers on his weakness of speech, which God accounts for and overcomes. In the church, God has given us the Holy Spirit, who equips us with words to say and the boldness to say them as we bear witness to Christ and His gospel.

Key Concept: When God calls, He equips His people for service.

Pride has a bad rap, and rightly so. The book of Proverbs teaches about the foolishness of pride, and we've seen (and probably experienced) real-life examples of the pitfalls of pride. The opposite of pride is humility, but we don't always have a great picture of what true humility is.

At first glance, one may think Moses was displaying the humility he was known for (Numbers 12:3). But humility before God is not about seeing ourselves as small. Humility is rightly seeing the sufficiency of God over any supposed sufficiency we think we have. But a wrong focus on self over God applies to our insufficiencies as well.

There is a point where dwelling on our weakness becomes just as perilous as our pride. Any sort of hyper-focus of self will lead us away from trusting in God. Oftentimes it is our insecurities—not our securities—that cause us to stray away from following the path of God's calling. Moses is Exhibit A of this.

Where do you feel weak, and how might God work through your weaknesses?

Moses's self-centeredness kept him from casting his gaze on God and trusting in God's strength, sufficiency, and sovereignty. His insecurities revealed a deep-seated focus on self, which was confirmed by his outright petition for God to use someone else.

The point Moses was missing was that Moses's mission wasn't about what he had to offer. The all-sufficient God was calling him to action, and with that command came the divine provision needed to cover Moses's weakness. Specifically, God promised help to Moses through His presence (Exodus 3:12), His message (vv. 13-18), His favor and deliverance (vv. 19-22), and Moses's brother, Aaron, as a helper. Moses would not have to fulfill this commission on his own!

Moses's disobedient attempt to escape his divine assignment angered God, but God still responded with gracious provision. Though we too attempt to skirt God's call and skip obedience, God is gracious. Through the provision of Christ, our sin has been paid for and washed away.

How have you seen God's provision as you have obeyed His calling on your life?



GROUP EXPERIENCE



ALMIGHTY GOD; DOUBTING MESSENGER

Compare Moses's excuses with God's power in Exodus 4:1-5,10-17.

MOSES'S EXCUSES

GOD'S POWER

EXODUS 4:1-5

EXODUS 4:10-17

How do God's strength, sufficiency, and sovereignty answer your excuses that keep you from obeying God's call on your life?



Key Concept: When God calls, He equips His people for service.



HEAD

What thoughts about yourself are keeping you from walking forward in obedience to God's call?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 8 and observe the magnificence of God. Spend time praying through the psalm, praising God for the specific ways He has shown humankind His magnificence. Join with the psalmist in declaring the goodness of God's provision in your own life.



HEART

How can you embrace the gracious provision of God when you feel weak?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

What can you do this week to take steps toward finding and fulfilling God's call on your life?



THE PROPHET MOSES

By Katie Orr

There is much we can learn about and from the life of Moses, perhaps the most famous figure from the Old Testament.

DRAWN OUT

At the beginning of his life, a Hebrew of the tribe of Levi, born into Egyptian slavery and orphaned to the river in an act of faith by his mother, baby Moses was found floating in a basket by Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 1–2). Pharaoh had decreed that all male Hebrew newborns were to be drowned in the Nile. Yet the very river that was supposed to be his destruction became his deliverance! Pharaoh's daughter picked him up out of the river and named him “He who is drawn,” or “Moses.” Ultimately, it was the divine hand of God that drew this baby out of the water, and this Nile rescue was not the only providential drawing Moses would experience.

Adopted into wealth, power, and luxury, Moses was raised royal. But even after forty years, his heart was for his own people. Through a series of events, Moses once again found himself in flight from Pharaoh (Exodus 2:11-15). After decades of life as a shepherd, God drew the octogenarian out of the wilderness of Midian (Exodus 3–4). He would become a prolific prophet, a meaningful mediator, and a divinely-led deliverer.

God drew Moses nearer to Himself than any other human: “The LORD would speak with Moses face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend” (Exodus 33:11). God said of him: “I speak with him directly, openly, and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD” (Numbers 12:7-8). Moses even asked to see God's glory and was granted a glimpse. The veiled, yet tangible, glory of God caused Moses's face to shine so that he had to wear a veil. Even the remnant of God's glory was too much for the Israelites to handle (Exodus 33–34).

DELIVERER

Just as there were multiple divine drawings on Moses's life, he would also be involved in many divine deliverances. Beyond his memorable rescue from infanticide, God used Moses to miraculously rescue the Israelites from slavery (Exodus 5–14), provide for their needs in the wilderness (15:22–16:7), grant victory in battle (17:8-16), and give clear instructions through the Law on how to escape the consequences of their sin and rightly worship God (19–31). God even facilitated deliverance from His own wrath through the prayers of Moses (32:10-14; Numbers 14:1-20; 16:22,45-49; 20:1-9).

Among these provisions of deliverance given through Moses was the granting of the Law. It was a strategic step in God's redemptive rescue plan for humankind "for no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the law, because the knowledge of sin comes through the law" (Romans 3:20). More dire than Pharaoh's death decree, more burdensome than Egyptian bondage, and more harrowing than their wilderness wanderings, the Hebrew people had a bigger problem on their hands—their own depravity.

ULTIMATE DELIVERANCE

All of humankind has inherited the same sin nature and with that doomed legacy comes spiritual separation from God and the penalty due our sin. The first step toward salvation is a recognition of sin. Through Moses, God gave the law as a mirror for the sin-stained soul, an invaluable gift of grace. As Paul wrote to the church in Galatia, "The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24).

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Moses was God's mouthpiece, a mediator between the people and their Maker, and he enjoyed a special friendship with God. But beyond these descriptions, Moses was one big sign that pointed to Jesus. More than a mouthpiece for God, Jesus is the actual Word of God (John 1:1,14). Jesus not only mediates for God's people, He became our actual sacrifice, absorbed our deserved wrath, gifted His perfect righteousness, and provided eternal salvation. Moses was a very imperfect servant who led God's covenant people out of physical bondage. Jesus is the suffering servant and perfect sacrifice who delivers God's covenant people from spiritual slavery. "Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:16-17).

"No prophet has arisen again in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unparalleled for all the signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do" (Deuteronomy 34:10-11). So even today, let us heed Moses's own prophecy of the coming Christ: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him" (Deuteronomy 18:15).

Katie Orr is the author of *Secrets of the Happy Soul*, seven FOCUSed15 Bible studies, and is the creator of the Bible Study Hub community, where women can receive training, encouragement, and accountability to enjoy God's Word. Katie holds an MA in Discipleship from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She and her husband, Chris, along with their three children, live in Central Florida.