Bible Stories for Adults
The Call of Moses
Exodus 3 - 4

Opening
Gathering: When have you felt inadequate to do God's work but found it easy when you let God lead.

Today's Focus: God uses ordinary people, like you and me, to do His extraordinary work.

Key Verses:
We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 6:20
You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit. John 15:16
So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Opening Prayer

Lesson
Moses' Story According to Stephen (Acts 7:17-36)

According to Stephen, were the Israelites saved at a random time?
Acts 7:17-19 = As the time drew near for God to fulfill His promise
According to Paul, were the new Israelites saved at a random time?
Galatians 4:4-5 = When the time had fully come ...

How did God prepare Moses for his calling? = Well-versed in Egyptian ways
Acts 7:20-22 = Educated in Egyptian wisdom, powerful in speech & action
How old was Moses when he left Pharaoh's house? = 40 signifies generation, change of life
Acts 7:29-31 = 40 yrs old, Killed Egyptian, Moved to Midian, 40 yrs learning to lead a nation
Who were the Midianites?
Genesis 25:1-2 = Midian was son of Abraham's 2nd wife, Keturah (after Sarah died)
What was significant about Moses' father-in-law?
Exodus 18:1 = He was high priest of Midian, probably worshipped true God

How old was Moses when God called him from the bush? = 40 yrs around Mount Sinai
Acts 7:30-34 = 80 yrs old, 40 yrs learning to be one of God's people and to lead God's people
How old was Moses when the Israelites reached the Promised Land?
Acts 7:36 = 120 yrs old - sustained by God 40 yrs in wilderness
What had the Israelite asked Moses when he tried to settled a dispute?
Acts 7:30 = Who made you ruler and judge over us?
How did Stephen answer this question?
Acts 7:35 = sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God Himself

Horeb, the Mountain of God (Exodus 3:1) = Horeb is one of 3 peaks on Mt Sinai

Where did Moses lead his father-in-law's flock? = Sinai is in wilderness of Sin
Exodus 3:1 = to Horeb, the mountain of God (also called Sinai)
Where did Moses lead his Heavenly Father's flock? = Deuteronomy 5:2 calls it Horeb
Exodus 19:1-2 = After 3 months, Israelites camped at Mount Sinai
What special event happened at Horeb?
Exodus 19:3; 20:2-3; 21:1 = God gave 10 Commandments & Civil, Moral & Ceremonial Laws

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God’s Holy Ground  *(Exodus 3:5)*

What did God say that foretold what would later happen at Horeb?

Exodus 3:5 = Take off your sandals, you’re standing on holy ground

What other land was called *holy ground*? = Remove sandals so dust won’t defile

Joshua 5:13-15 = The Promised Land - West of Jordan, near Jericho

What *holy ground* will Jesus help us see?

Revelation 21:2 = Our promised land, heaven

God In the Fire  *(Exodus 3:2-3)*

How did God appear to Moses on Sinai?

Exodus 3:2-3 = Flames of fire within a bush that didn't burn up

What other ways did God use fire in His Story? = Don’t read, ask for answers, then review

- Exodus 13:21 = God led Israelites in pillar of fire at night
- Genesis 15:17-18 = God as firepot & torch in blood covenant with Abram
- Genesis 19:24 = God destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah with fire from heaven
- 1 Kings 18:22-26, 33, 38 = God sent fire to Elijah’s sacrifice, none from Baal
- 2 Kings 2:11 = Elijah taken to heaven with horses & chariot of fire
- Daniel 3:22-27 = Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego protected by angel in fiery furnace
- Acts 2:1-4 = Tongues of fire on disciples filled with Holy Spirit
- 2 Thessalonians 1:7b = Jesus will be revealed from heaven in blazing fire
- Revelation 20:14-15 = Death, Hades & unsaved are destroyed in lake of fire

How does God reveal Himself to us today? = Don’t read, ask for answers, then review

- 2 Timothy 3:16 = Through the Scripture
- Galatians 1:15-16 = Through each other
- Ephesians 3:4-5 = Through His apostles & prophets (chosen leaders)
- Luke 2:28-32; John 17:6 = Through His Son, Jesus Christ
- John 14:26 = Through His Counselor, the Holy Spirit
- Acts 19:5-6 = Through Baptism
- 1 Corinthians 11:26, 29 = Through The Lord’s Supper

God Calls Moses  *(Exodus 3:4-10)*

Why did God decide to come to Moses at this time?

Exodus 2:23-25 = God heard Israel’s cries, brought His covenant to mind, concerned

How did God introduce Himself to Moses? = Every true prophet was called by God, none chose job

Exodus 3:4-6 = I am the God of your fathers Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

What did God tell Moses that He was going to do?

Exodus 3:7-10 = Rescue His people through Moses & take to Promised Land

How does God call us to rescue His people & take them to the Promised Land?

Matthew 28:19 = *Go and make disciples of all nations* – key word is *GO*
Moses’ First Excuse  \textit{(Exodus 3:11-12)}

What was Moses' first excuse why God shouldn't send him?  
Exodus 3:11  =  \textit{Who am I?} I'm a nobody. I can't go up against Pharaoh  
What was God's answer to Moses' excuse?  =  Discuss: What would God's promise mean to Moses?  
Exodus 3:12  =  \textit{I will be with you.} You will return with people to this mountain  
What is God's answer to our excuse that we are unable to go ourselves?  
Matthew 28:20  =  \textit{Surely I am with you always} (added to our command to GO)  
Romans 8:31  =  \textit{If God is for us, who can be against us}?

Moses’ Second Excuse  \textit{(Exodus 3:13-22)}

What was Moses' second excuse why God shouldn't send him?  
Exodus 3:13  =  What if the Israelites ask who sent me?  
What was God's answer to Moses' excuse?  =  See NIV footnotes for v 14-15  
Exodus 3:14-15  =  Tell them I sent you  
Note: Hebrew name for God, Yahweh, means \textit{He is} or \textit{He will be}  
Who should we say sends us?  
Luke 10:2-3  =  The Lord of the harvest, Jesus said, \textit{Go, I am sending you out} ...  
What did God tell Moses to say to the Israelite elders?  
Exodus 3:16-17  =  God sent me to rescue you & take you to the Promised Land  
What did God tell Moses to say to Pharaoh?  
Exodus 3:18  =  Let God's people go for 3 days to worship Him  
How did God say Pharaoh would respond?  
Exodus 3:19-22  =  He'd say no. God would send plagues & Israel will leave with plunder  
What message does God give us to speak?  
1 Corinthians 2:6-7  =  A message of God's secret wisdom, His Plan

Moses’ Third Excuse  \textit{(Exodus 4:1-9)}

What was Moses' third excuse why God shouldn't send him?  
Exodus 4:1  =  \textit{What if they don't believe me}?  
What was God's answer to Moses' excuse?  
Exodus 4:2-5  =  Gave him the miraculous sign of staff turning to a snake  
What if that didn't convince them?  
Exodus 4:6-8  =  Gave a second sign of hand turning leprous, then clean  
What if that didn't work?  
Exodus 4:9  =  Gave a third sign of water turning to blood  
What does God give us to help others believe the message we bring?  
1 Corinthians 12:1, 11  =  Spiritual gifts
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Moses’ Fourth Excuse  (Exodus 4:10-12)

What was Moses’ fourth excuse why God shouldn’t send him?
Exodus 4:10  =  I can't speak, I'm not eloquent
Was this a valid excuse?
Acts 7:22  =  No, he was trained to be powerful in speech and action
What was God's answer to Moses’ excuse?
Exodus 4:11-12  =  I will give you the words to say
How do we know what to say to others about our faith?
1 Corinthians 2:13  =  In words given by the Spirit
What did Paul claim about the eloquence of his testimony? = Came in weakness, fear, much trembling
1 Corinthians 2:1-5  =  Words not mine, but a demonstration of the Spirit's power

Moses’ Fifth Excuse  (Exodus 4:13-17)

What was the last excuse Moses was able to come up with?
Exodus 4:13  =  PLEASE pick someone else!
What was God's answer to Moses’ excuse? = God became frustrated with Moses’ weak faith
Exodus 4:14-17  =  I will make your brother Aaron your assistant
What does Jesus promise about the power of doing God’s work with others?
Matthew 18:19-20  =  Where 2 or 3 come together in my name, there I am with them

Moses Returns to Egypt  (Exodus 4:18-31)

How did Moses finally respond to his call from God?
Exodus 4:18-20  =  He went, God encouraged him
How much did God reveal to Moses about what would happen in Egypt?
Exodus 4:21-23  =  Show wonders, Pharaoh would refuse, God would kill his firstborn son
What had Moses forgotten before leaving to lead the Israelites?
Exodus 4:24-26  =  To circumcise his son – Required of God’s chosen people (Genesis 17)
Who did Moses meet en-route to Egypt?
Exodus 4:27-28  =  His brother Aaron, God sent him as promised
How was Moses received by the elders of the Israelites?
Exodus 4:29-31  =  They believed and were encouraged that God was concerned about them

Closing Prayer

Response

1. How has God prepared me for doing His work?
   (Exodus 3:1; Acts 7:22; Genesis 45:5; Acts 22:1-21; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 2 Timothy 1:5-6)
2. Do I ever feel like I’m not worthy to present God's message to someone else?
   (Exodus 3:11; Isaiah 6:8-9; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 10:15; 2 Timothy 1:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 1:11)
3. Do I openly acknowledge before others the one who sends me?
   (Exodus 3:13; Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:8-10; 2 Timothy 1:8, 11-12)
4. Do I hesitate sharing the gospel because I am afraid of being rejected?
5. Am I afraid that I won’t know what to say when I have an opportunity to share the gospel?
   (Exodus 4:10-12; Luke 12:12; 21:15; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 13; Galatians 1:11-12)