



Growth Group Questions
August 24, 2025
“Waiting for Clarity”

CONTEXT

As a baby, Moses had been placed in a basket by his mother and hidden among the reeds of the Nile River in order to save him from Pharaoh who had ordered all newborn Hebrew boys to be killed. Ironically, Pharaoh’s daughter found Moses, and he was raised in the courts of Pharaoh. Acts 7 tells us that forty years after being rescued he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and Moses killed him. The next day Moses found two Hebrew men fighting and broke it up. They asked him if they planned on killing them next. Moses fled from Egypt.

He married and became a shepherd – a dead-end job in a dead-end place. He is near Sinai taking care of his father-in-law’s sheep when God shows up in a burning bush that is not consumed. His movement away from Midian toward Sinai while shepherding the sheep is perhaps a subtle hint of what is to come.

The burning bush is the first kind of “supernatural” event in Exodus. Moses is curious and says to himself that he needs to go and look at what is happening. It is the “angel of the Lord” who is not just a messenger of God, but is God in visible form. See Genesis 22:11-18. Even before Jesus, God shows a part of himself to others in a limited manner.

The repeated use of the name Moses as God calls out to him implies affection, as well as urgency. Again, it is important to note the theme of God knowing our name which continues throughout all of Scripture. Moses is standing on holy ground and thus must remove his sandals. This idea of God’s holiness will be seen again when God’s people arrive at Mt. Sinai and God speaks with Moses.

God had not forgotten the suffering of his people and Moses was being called to lead them out of Egypt. God is a God who promises to be with Moses and to travel with Moses. Just as God had been with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, so would God be with Moses. Yet Moses would have to trust and walk by faith just as the patriarchs had done. God says when you bring the Israelites out of Egypt and get them to Mt. Sinai then you will know that I have been with you.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-14

¹Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” ⁵“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶Then he said, “I am the God of your father,^[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹²And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you^[b] will worship God on this mountain.” ¹³Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” ¹⁴God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.^[c] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Exodus 33:12-14

¹²Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ ¹³If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.” ¹⁴The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Luke 12:11-12

¹¹“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*: “The call goes forth, and is at once followed by the response of obedience. The response of the disciples is an act of obedience, not a confession of faith in Jesus.”

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Paul began his sermon by talking about the importance of clarity. He said that God is very clear about certain things. What things do you think God makes very clear to us through His Word?
2. What kind of things is God less clear about? Why do you think this happens?
3. God waited until Moses approached the burning bush before revealing His presence to Moses. What does this tell you about God and how He works in our lives?
4. It was Moses' curiosity that led him to approach the burning bush. Why do you think it is important for us to have the same type of curiosity?
5. Pastor Paul said that it is important for us to cultivate a life of curiosity. How can we do this?
6. In both Exodus 3:1-14 and Exodus 33:12-13, we see that Moses questions God about what he is being called to do. What does this tell you about Moses' character and his relationship with God?
7. Why do we Christians often underestimate what God can do in and through us?
8. In Exodus 33:14, the Lord tells Moses "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." How does the knowledge of God's presence in your life affect your daily activities and your decision-making?
9. In citing the quote of Dietrich Bonhoeffer from *The Cost of Discipleship*, said that discipleship starts with obedience. What does that mean to you?
10. If you had to summarize the one major thing you took away from this week's sermon, what would it be?

PASTOR PAUL'S SERMON QUESTIONS:

1. Do you need to increase your level of curiosity?
2. What situation in your life do you need to entrust to God so you can find rest?