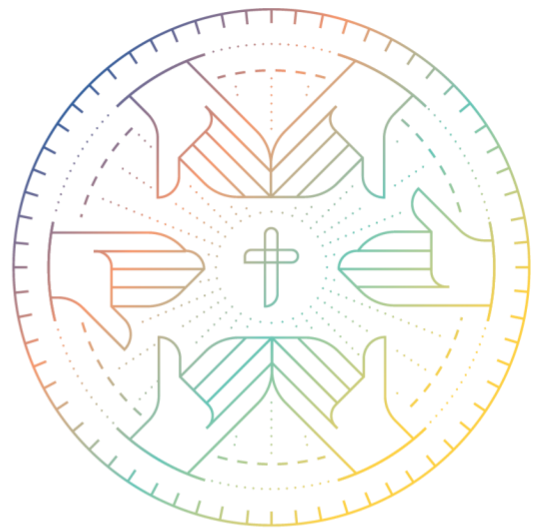


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Have you ever faced a challenging situation that seemed too complicated to handle? How did you overcome it?

OR

Can you think of a defining moment in your life that has shaped who you are today? What lessons did you learn from that experience?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What most stood out to you from this week's sermon?

Moses was hesitant and doubted his own abilities. Can you think of a time when you've struggled with self-doubt about your own abilities? How did you move past that doubt?

## INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

**Read Exodus 2:11-22.** What can we learn about Moses from this passage? For instance, what might we learn about his physicality, his personality, and his identification with the Hebrews and with Pharaoh's household?

What kind of molding and shaping needed to happen in Moses for him to be used by God to deliver the Hebrews?

**HOST Guidance:** Moses must have been an imposing figure, able to subdue several Egyptians and run off the shepherds who were mistreating Jethro's daughters. His personality had a high threshold for justice as in each case he intervened for someone being mistreated. He evidently began to identify more with the Hebrews and his connection to them, and less with the Egyptians. He lashed out at the Egyptians and willingly fled from Pharaoh's palace. Moses needed to spend time with God in the wilderness in order to shed his impulsive nature, grow in humility and learn to wait upon God. All these things were lessons awaiting him in Midian.

**Read Ex. 2:23-25.** How does this passage provide an encouraging perspective on God's care for the Hebrews? How might it be an encouragement for us today?

**HOST Guidance:** In spite of the hardship and cruelty of the Hebrew's bondage, God was not absent or unaware. He heard their cries; he saw their hurting. He was faithful to his promises and would deliver them from their enemies. God sees our hardships and knows when we are in pain. We are God's people and his eyes are on us and his ears are open to our cry (Psalm 34:15).

**Read Ex. 3:2-6.** What was God teaching Moses about himself regarding the burning bush? Why was this an important lesson for Moses?

**HOST Guidance:** Moses was emotional and impulsive. It would have been like Moses to rush unthinkingly into God's presence. God was teaching Moses an important lesson about his power, his holiness and the reverence that should characterize Moses' approach to God. It's a lesson Moses didn't quite understand, as evidenced when Moses hit the rock twice in Numbers 20:11.

**Read Ex. 3:9-12, 4:10-15.** Brainstorm all the reasons Moses might have felt himself to be unequal to the task of leading the Hebrews. How does God answer Moses? How is God's patience and kindness evident in his solution for Moses' lack of confidence?

**HOST Guidance:** God graciously endures Moses' objections and excuses and allows Moses' brother Aaron to be his partner in this huge endeavor. It was a kind accommodation of Moses' humanness and insecurity.

### **APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)**

God used a man who was flawed in many ways to dramatically change the course of history. Moses is an encouragement to us that God can use anyone who's willing, regardless of their background or mistakes. Have you ever felt held back from believing that God wants to use you as a difference-maker because of your mistakes or background? Can you share that with the group?

Think back to the defining moments in your life. Share with your small group one of them and how that moment helped you become the person you are today. How has God used that defining moment in your life?

David said that God used many miracles to boost Moses' confidence in his calling. Can you think of ways that God has provided for you, cared for you, showed you his kindness or been with you in trials? How does that make you more confident in God's faithfulness today?

David said, "God is always faithful to his promises." What promise are you holding on to today and trusting God's faithfulness? Share with the group before you pray together.

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## PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for reminding us that you used, and still use, imperfect people to accomplish your purposes. Help me to believe that I can be a difference-maker in the life of someone today. Help me to be free from guilt or regret because of my failures or mistakes. I trust in your forgiveness. Help me to see your loving care over my life and to be encouraged to trust your faithfulness. I worship you today for your holiness. Amen.*