

Reread 4:24-26 and any notes on these verses in your Bible. What is happening here? Why was it so important for Moses to circumcise his son?

How are you like Moses?

REFLECT

What would have happened to God's plan for world redemption if Moses had disobeyed God and refused to take this dangerous assignment?

Exodus 3:4 states that it was because God saw that Moses paid attention to the burning bush that he called him. What does that tell you about who God chooses to partner with him?

What do you think of these words from poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning?

*Earth is crammed with heaven
And every bush aflame with God
But only those who see take off their shoes*

RESPOND

Share a time that you have done something in obedience to God's Word that you felt inadequate or afraid to do. What happened? What did you learn from that experience?



NAVIGATING THE BIBLE

The Bible goes beyond our reason (knowledge) and experience (understanding) and introduces a third and higher source: wisdom.

Exiting slavery in Egypt...

Exodus 2:24-25

God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

God sees things in the big picture. God allowed His people to suffer, to grow more numerous and to become desperate for Him. He was setting the stage for an event that they would never forget and would keep them (and every other nation around them) talking about it for centuries.

Exodus 9:16 (NLT)
But I have spared you for a purpose—to show you my power and to spread my fame throughout the earth.

If you're going to understand the Bible, this event of the Passover is pivotal because it so reverberates from this point forward.

Mark 14:12

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

1 Corinthians 5:7
Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.



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Laying down the law...

The Law is God's operating system for the human machine and would set Israel apart from any other nation of the earth.

Deuteronomy 28:9-10

The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in obedience to him. Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the LORD, and they will stand in awe of you.

Joshua 1:8

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

“Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they cannot understand. The Scripture which troubles me most is the Scripture I do understand.”
—Mark Twain

Romans 6:16-18

What we learn about God:

He knows what is best for us and shows us how to live well.

What we learn about ourselves:

We crash when we don't run our lives on the Owner's operating system.

What we're encouraged to do:

Find freedom in obeying God.

Exodus 20

The Ten Commandments

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God...

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God...

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy...

¹² "Honor your father and your mother...

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

NAVIGATING THE BiBLE...Part two: Freedom and Law LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

How much did you argue with your parents growing up? Who won?

Agree/disagree: Obedience to authority is a sign of strength.

What new insight or idea made an impression on you from this week's sermon?

READ

Exodus 2:23-4:31

What was the situation of the Israelites at this time, and what had God decided to do about it? What moved God to act? (2:24-25)

How would you describe the nature of the interaction between Moses and God in chapters 3-4? How would you describe Moses' character?

Who would you say Moses feared most: God, Pharaoh, or the Israelites? How did Moses indicate a lack of fear for God?

What did Moses see as his great weakness for the task God asked him to do? Is this weakness evident in his interaction with God? What were his strengths? Did Moses' weakness (or strength) concern God? Why/why not?

In what ways did God try to persuade and reassure Moses? Why do you think God went to such lengths? What does this tell you about God? Is there evidence that Moses cared about his people's slavery? (Read Exodus 2:11-15)