



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Acts 1 – 12 Sermon Series  
Supports Session 10: Calling  
Sermon Title: “God’s Calling” (Exodus 3:1-14)

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### Connection to Session 10

God uses unlikely people to further His kingdom and purposes. We learned in our group study this morning that God called an educated persecutor of the church to be His witness to Gentiles (see Acts 9:1-16). God also called a shepherd to deliver the children of Israel out of bondage. This shows us that God can use all kinds of people, even people like us.

### Introduction/Opening

A teacher or a coach can leave a lasting impact by simply believing in someone who may not even believe in themselves. Often, a favorite teacher or coach is one who gave us a chance or someone who saw what we could be as opposed to who we were at that moment. If a teacher can see more in us than we can, how much more can the One who created us see beyond the now? Moses was not perfect and yet God called him to do great things. None of us here today are perfect. Yet, God can see beyond our now and is calling us to things much greater than we could imagine.

### Outline

#### I. Understanding Moses’s Call (vv. 1-6)

- a. **Moses was engaged in everyday life.** When Moses’s local high school was having career day, very few people signed up to learn more about being a shepherd, yet this is what we find Moses doing at the start of our story. Moses was engaged in his everyday life and many during his time would have considered this anything but extraordinary. But God stepped into Moses’s ordinary day with an extraordinary message and calling.

God may step into our ordinary day with an extraordinary message. Moses was faithful to what was set before him. He was shepherding Jethro’s flock and there is no evidence of him complaining. He was faithful to his work and thereby available to receive a calling from God.

- b. **Moses responded to something extraordinary.** It is probably safe to assume that none of us have seen a burning bush, much less have a conversation with God at a burning bush. But most of us have seen a sunrise. Most of us have watched a

newborn respond to a mother's voice. If we will allow ourselves a moment, we should confess the extraordinary nature of these things. One cannot logically or emotionally conclude these things simply happen.

The unique thing about Moses is that the extraordinary caught his attention and he turned to investigate. It was at this point that "the LORD saw that he had gone over to look" (v. 4) and began to tell Moses of what lay ahead. God is still doing extraordinary things around us. The key for us is that we need to slow down long enough to see God working and then move toward His calling in His work.

**II. It was a call to service (vv. 7-10).** Prior to Moses being a shepherd, he was in Pharaoh's household. If luxury was to be had, Moses had it. As a direct result of Moses's sinful behavior, he was no longer welcomed in Pharaoh's house and hence his need to be a shepherd. His background of living in luxury and being a shepherd was preparing him to be the leader God was calling him to be.

When God called Moses, the children of Israel were crying out to God while in bondage. God's plan was to send Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. This was not an easy task as Pharaoh was not simply going to let his free labor leave. Even while the children of Israel were crying out, slavery was all they knew. Leaving something familiar calls for change, and most people do not like change.

God distinctly stated that Moses was to lead His people. When someone is called to lead, they understand that leading is serving. A leader is first a servant to God and the calling He has placed upon the leader's life. Secondly, the leader is to serve the people God has called them to lead. Moses could not make it all about himself while fulfilling the command to lead God's people out of Egypt.

**III. It was a call to community (vv. 11-14).** As soon as God articulates His command, Moses begins to offer a reason to not fulfill the calling. God's first response to Moses was, "I will certainly be with you" (v. 12). Moses questioned God about a potential question from the Israelites. God told him, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites" (v. 14).

If someone has led for over five minutes, that person has likely felt alone and unsure of his or her calling. While the uncertainty is an emotion in the moment, the reality is that when the calling is from God we are never alone, and I AM is the one who sent us. While we may not face the Egyptians or the Israelites, we can hear the voice of an enemy or even our negative self-talk. Instead of listening to the lies, let's commit to listening to the truth that God is with us, and He has called us.

## **Conclusion**

What is God calling us to be today? For some, the calling may be to start a relationship with Him through admitting your sins and accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. For others, it may be

leading in the context of your home or at church. No matter what the calling may be, we can learn from Moses. He was obedient and many were blessed by his faithfulness.

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