

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE****That He May Serve the Lord**

EXODUS 4

**OVERVIEW**

God's chosen people are in Egypt. Not only that, they are enslaved. Against the backdrop of God's promises in Genesis—that God's people would be in God's place—the current situation seems dire. Has the Lord forgotten his promises? The story of Exodus reveals God's faithfulness in redeeming his people from bondage into his presence. The way out? Not by human might. By faith in God's promise to deliver through a blood sacrifice. The Lord does all of this so that all people might know he is the Lord and his people might rightly fear him, worshipping him in all things. The Greek title for the book (or shall we say, this chapter of the Pentateuch) is *Exodus*, a word meaning "exit, departure or going out."

**APPLY // EXODUS 3**

**Main Idea:** The self-defining Lord—who is both above us (transcendence) and among us (immanence)—is faithful to his covenant promises.

1. Read Exodus 3:1-6. How do these events inform you about the holiness of God? How do they move you? How should they move you?
2. What happens to us when, instead of comparing ourselves to others, we compare ourselves to God? (Plead for grace of the Gospel)
3. What are some ways we can learn to live before the face of God and fear Him more than we do now?
4. Remember God's promise to Moses in verse 12 – "I will be with you." How does the promise of the Lord's being with us fuel us in our mission to fear the Lord and keep his commands?

**OBSERVE & INTERPRET // EXODUS 4**

**Main Idea:** In his purposeful sovereignty, the Lord graciously and mercifully uses imperfect people to carry out his perfect will.

1. Read Exodus 4:1-9.
2. In verse 1, what excuse does Moses offer as to why he shouldn't be the one the Lord uses to deliver the Israelites?
3. In verses 2-9, how does the Lord respond to Moses? What is the purpose of these signs? What do these verses teach us about the character of the Lord?
4. What signs does the Lord give us that we too might believe in him?
5. Notice the Lord repeats he is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Why does God keep repeating and reminding the people of this truth?
6. Read verses 10-17.
7. In verse 10, what excuse does Moses now raise?

8. How does the Lord respond in verse 11? What does it mean “the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses”? Why was the Lord angry?
9. How does the Lord accommodate Moses? What does this tell us about the character of the Lord?
10. How might we be tempted be like Moses and offer these types of excuses?
11. Read verses 18-23.
12. We already know Pharaoh isn’t going to listen to Moses (3:19). And in verse 21 it says, “I will harden his heart, so he will not let the people go.” What does this mean?
  - a. The concept of God hardening Pharaoh’s heart has been the topic of much discussion by theologians. It will come up repeatedly throughout Exodus. For now, based on your knowledge of where the story of Exodus is heading, and based on your understanding of both the justice and mercy of God as revealed in Scripture, what do you think it means that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart?
13. Notice in verse 22 the Lord says “Israel is my firstborn son.” What does this mean and why is it significant?
14. In verse 23, what’s the purpose in Lord is delivering his people?
15. What is Pharaoh’s punishment for rebelling against the Lord?
16. How do verses 22-23 point us to cross of Christ and the grace of the gospel? How does deliverance *from* slavery *to* worship, and the punishment of death for rebelling against the Lord reveal to the good news of the gospel?
17. Read verses 24-26. Okay, it just got weird, really weird!
  - a. There is much we don’t know about this passage.
    - i. We don’t know who God attacked, Moses, or one of his sons, Gershom or Elizer. (Though it’s most likely Moses)
    - ii. We don’t know how God was about to kill him.
    - iii. We don’t know why God was about to kill him explicitly.
    - iv. We don’t know how Zipporah knew what to do.
    - v. We don’t know why Gershom or Elizer was uncircumcised.
    - vi. We don’t know whether Zipporah’s words were said in love or in anger.
  - b. What we do know is this:
    - i. God has just drawn a line between his firstborn and the firstborn of Egypt. On one side is grace and life, the other side is judgment and death. There is no middle option. Circumcision was the sign of God’s covenant—within the covenant are grace and life; outside is judgment and death. But Moses own son wasn’t circumcised.
    - ii. Moses could not act as God’s representative to the people while disregarding God’s requirement of circumcision.
  - c. What important lesson do you think Moses learned about obedience from this incident?
18. Read verses 27-31.
19. How many times does the text record that Aaron objected to God’s command to go in search of his brother? What does this reveal about Aaron’s character?
20. Does 4:28-30 relate a story of obedience or disobedience to the will of God?
21. What does verse 31 tell us about Israel?
22. What does Moses’ story thus far teach us about man’s ability to thwart God’s plans or refuse his commands? How does this comfort you? How does it warn you? How does it point us to Christ?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in

the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Are you providing excuses to justify not fully and joyfully obeying the Lord? If so, what does repentance look like for you?