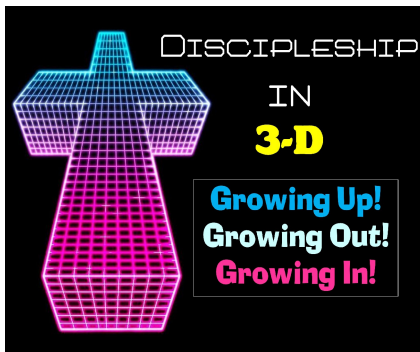


The Year of Discipleship in 3-D

(Further Developing Devoted Followers of Christ)



Welcome! Thanks for choosing to dive more deeply, as a Christian, into a three-dimensional discipleship! Using the diversity and wonder of God's Word, powered by the Holy Spirit and the witness of one another, this time together seeks to raise up more fully-devoted followers of Christ.

Our prayer is that we might all:

Grow Upward in an ever-maturing personal relationship to Christ by becoming more fluent in the "first language of the faith," God's Word!
Grow Outward to neighbor and world – learning to love well, to share faith and witness to others we encounter, and to lead in more in that which matters to God!
And, **Grow Inward** by discovering a more contemplative prayer and devotional life enriched by silence, listening, and quiet reflection!

The Scripture for Sunday, October 3, 2021

[STUDY LESSON 4]

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

{23} After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. {24} God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. {25} God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

{3:1} Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. {2} There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. {3} Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." {4} When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." {5} Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." {6} He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

{7} Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, {8} and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. {9} The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. {10} So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." {11} But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" {12} He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." {13} But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" {14} God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" {15} God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

{4:10} But Moses said to the LORD, "O my LORD, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." {11} Then the LORD said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? {12} Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak." {13} But he said, "O my LORD, please send someone else." {14} Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "What of your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. {15} You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. {16} He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. {17} Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs."

DISCUSSION GUIDANCE AND QUESTIONS:

For an overview of Exodus 1-18 consider watching: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-1-18/>

1. Open (*or have someone in the group open*) with a prayer inviting the work of the Holy Spirit to open up the hearts and lives of any and all to shape believers into more fully devoted following of Christ.
2. Read (*or have one or more persons read*) the passage printed above (*or from a bible*).
3. When are some times in your life when you felt reluctant to fulfill or take on a task or position? What might be some of the areas in your life where you tend to lack confidence?
4. On the other hand, when have you taken the risk of performing a task or role in spite of not being confident or having some measure of fear about the undertaking?
5. What aspects of the character of God on display do you find most encouraging, appealing, or inspiring:
 - a. God who hears the cry, groan, and misery groan of God's oppressed people?
 - b. God who's willing to call reluctant people such as Moses to great tasks?
 - c. God who meets people in miraculous ways?
 - d. God who speaks directly to people?
 - e. God who is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
 - f. God whose name is "I am who I am?"
 - g. God who can be angry with Moses (Exodus 4:14), yet not give up on Moses?
6. Justice (freedom from slavery) is to be at work through Moses. Are there any ways your discipleship embraces the work of justice in the world? Where, if anywhere, do you perceive God is calling upon you to have a role in freeing people from some form of oppression?
7. Imagine, as a disciple of Jesus, taking off your shoes and standing "on holy ground." Jesus calls you by name. You respond: "Here I am." What does Jesus say to you? Where does He want you to go? What does He want you to do? What "risk of faith" is He calling you to?
8. This passage is yet another account of God using "the unqualified" for His purposes. It might even be argued this is often the "modus operandi" of God. What might assist you in being more open to God leading you in the "march of the unqualified?"
9. How might a "quiet place to be with/hear from God" be better integrated to your discipleship of Jesus?
10. Reluctant as he was due to his own inabilities, Moses nevertheless was obedient to God's call to lead and serve. What is your main discipleship "takeaway" from this text?
11. Spend some time talking or reflecting upon God's confidence in you as an aspect of discipleship. If willing, share (*or personally identify within yourself*) an aspect of your life where you believe God has shown confidence to use you as a follower of Christ and witness to others.
12. Can you identify any particular ways your Christian faith and following might be inspired to change in light of this passage from the Bible (and any discussion and/or reflection that may have taken place)?
13. (*Optional*) Read the passage once more. Then, take some time to close (or have someone close) with a prayer.