



## September Themes

### The Call

The story of Moses teaches us a number of important lessons about vocation. The call of God sometimes comes when we least expect it, where we least expect it, coming to ordinary, not-too-well qualified people (like us), enlisting us in divine work.

**Exodus 3:1-15 (NIV)** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

### For Personal Study

If God called you to do His work, how do you think He would do it? Would He send an angel, set a bush on fire, or whisper the message? God matches the messenger to the message. Mary needed an angel. Moses needed a burning bush. Elijah needed a gentle whisper.

Sometimes God calls us to do His work and we don't hear Him or we hear and we don't obey. We don't hear the voice of God because there's too much other noise in our lives. We don't obey the voice of God because we think we aren't qualified to do God's work. We have to trust that God chose the right person even if we think He didn't. People make mistakes; God doesn't make mistakes.

Moses could not have freed the Israelites from the Egyptians without God's help. Moses had to

trust that God had made the right choice and would give Moses what he needed when he needed it. I'm sure Moses did not feel qualified for the task. However, God did not call him because he was qualified. God called him because he was the right person for the job.

God wants us to be worthy of our calling. We don't have to be worthy to receive the calling. Ephesians 4:1 says "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life **worthy** of the **calling** you have received." (NIV)

2 Thessalonians 1:11 says "With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you **worthy** of his **calling**, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith." (NIV)

God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

### Readings & Questions

#### Monday, September 4

How do you think Moses felt when God called his name from the burning bush? Why do you think God revealed himself to Moses in this way?  
Exodus 3:4

#### Tuesday, September 5

If you had been Moses, how would you have reacted to this encounter?  
Exodus 3:11

#### Wednesday, September 6

How do you recognize the voice and call of God in your own life?  
1 Kings 19:12-13

#### Thursday, September 7

How would you describe your relationship with God right now – a burning bush or a flickering shrub?  
Psalm 24:1-4; Psalm 139:1-10

#### Friday, September 8

Jesus gave us His authority and asks us to trust him for what we need as we serve in His name. Where do you need to trust Christ more?  
Mark 6:7-13; Ephesians 4:1-14