

“Moses: Following God’s Direction”

November 19 & 20, 2016 | Heroes Series #5

INTRODUCTION

When we think of biblical heroes, Moses would have to be one of our first choices. Perhaps we have been influenced by images of Charleston Heston parting the Red Sea, but if we examine the life of Moses in Scripture we will find a truly heroic figure, even without Hollywood imagery. From the time Pharaoh’s daughter pulled him from the reeds of the Nile until he died looking toward the Promised Land, Moses’ life was dedicated to following God’s direction. This study identifies some significant truths about Moses’ “life on mission” that we can apply in our own lives as we follow God.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

When you need directions, where do you go for help?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

God uses the humble, not the proud.

Q1. Read Numbers 12:3; James 4:6; Ephesians 4:2; 1 John 2:16; 1 Peter 5:6

The description of Moses in Numbers 12:3 calls him humble.¹ The Bible often contrasts humility with pride. (James 4:6) What does 1 John 2:16 tell us is the source of “the pride of life?” Paul directs the Ephesians (Eph 4:2) to be gentle, patient, and forbearing with others in addition to being humble. How does our pride hinder us from demonstrating these qualities? Have you witnessed God using someone who is humble to do His work? What are some good practices to help us maintain a humble attitude?

¹ “meek and gentle; commonly with the added notion of lowly, pious and modest mind...”

God will fight our battles for us.

Q2. Read Exodus 14:13-14; Joshua 1:9; 2 Chronicles 20:17

Following God’s direction does not guarantee that life will be easy. We all face battles in our lives. But what truth did Moses find that gave him confidence when facing his enemies? (Exodus 14:13-14) Why do you think it is necessary for us to “be still” when the Lord is fighting for us? How can we be still and also strong and courageous (Joshua 1:9)? Moses, Joshua and Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:17) all exhorted the people, warning them against fear and discouragement. What causes us to slip from faith into fear and discouragement in the midst of our battles, and how do we overcome that?

Choose the treasures of heaven not of earth.

Q3. Read Hebrews 11:24-26; Matthew 6:19-20; Matthew 16:26

As Egyptian royalty, Moses would have inherited some of the greatest treasures known to man, but instead chose not only to give them up, but to be mistreated. What does Hebrews 11:24-26 give as the reason he did so? In what ways do you think Moses, born centuries before Jesus, did this for Christ’s sake? It is easy to seek instant gratification in today’s culture. But what does Matthew 16:26 warn us may be the result of focusing on the temporal rather than the eternal?

Remember what the Lord has done and always give thanks.

Q4. Read Exodus 15:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57; 1 Chronicles 16:34

When Moses witnessed the Lord’s salvation as the Red Sea covered the enemy, he broke out in a song of praise. What roles did Moses recognize that God held in his life (Exodus 15:2)? What other titles does God hold in your life? As we follow God’s direction in our lives, we know that he is leading us to victory over the last enemy- death. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57) As you reflect on His goodness and eternal love (1 Chronicles 16:34) pause to offer up prayers of thanksgiving with your group.

Wrap-Up

If we want to follow God’s direction, the way that Moses did, we can begin by remembering and applying these four aspects of his life. Practice humility by knowing that God is better able to use you if your pride does not get in the way. Let God fight your battles while you remain still and courageous. Keep your focus on the eternal treasures of heaven rather than the things of this world. Remember what God has done, keeping an attitude of thankfulness and praising Him always.

Memory Verse

“The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Exodus 14:14 NIV

Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: _____

Challenge: *This week read through the entire song that Moses sang in Exodus 15:1-18. (Notice how his perspective changes from singing about God to singing directly to God.)*

Numbers 12:3 NIV - 3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

James 4:6 NIV - 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

1 John 2:16 NIV - 16 For everything in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--comes not from the Father but from the world.

Ephesians 4:2 NIV - 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

1 Peter 5:6 NIV - 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Q2

Exodus 14:13-14 NIV - 13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Joshua 1:9 NIV - 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

2 Chronicles 20:17 NIV - 17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.' "

Q3

Hebrews 11:24-26 NIV - 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Matthew 6:19-20 ESV - 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 16:26 ESV - 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Q4

Exodus 15:1-2 NIV - 1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. 2 "The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 NIV - 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Chronicles 16:34 NIV - 34 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

[illegible]