

# Middle School & High School Sunday School Lesson-7 October 18, 2020

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**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH**



# Called: From Outcast to Prophet

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## Bible Point:

Just as Moses accepted his new life—working for his father-in-law, Jethro, and recognizing God’s call to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt—we are called to be faithful servants and embrace God’s specific call on our lives.



## Scriptures

Exodus 2:16–20; 3:1–4, 10; I Peter 2:9

# Stumbling Into Service

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***Read Exodus 2:16–20.***

- While fleeing from Pharaoh, Moses found himself in the land of Midian. When he got there, he was thirsty. He found a well where he could drink, but he encountered an unexpected scene. The daughters of a Midianite priest had come to draw water, but the shepherds in the area were not letting them.
- Moses decided to do something about it. Even though he did not know these women, he could not stand idly by. He defended them, fighting off the shepherds. Then he went the extra mile and drew water for them.
- The women were excited and appreciative, so they went home to share with their father everything that had taken place.



# Fending for the Flock

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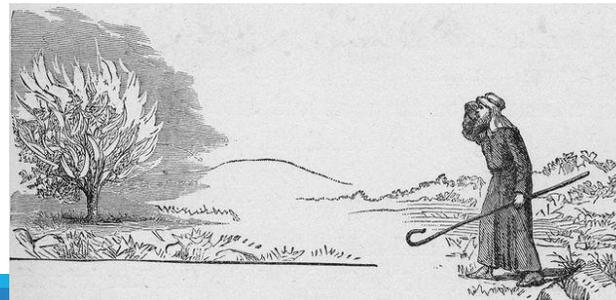
- **Because of Moses' act of service, the priest gave Moses one of his daughters in marriage.** Moses then began to take care of his father-in-law's flock.
- Seeing Moses serving as a shepherd is no surprise. His people came to Egypt as shepherds. Most likely he saw them serve as shepherds. He was well acquainted with the process of shepherding. He knew exactly what was required and exactly what it would take to be successful.
- Although this season of Moses' life passes for us in just a handful of verses, it was not a short season for him. **Moses was in Midian for forty years before he made his way back to Egypt—forty long years of faithful service.**
- Then one day as he was out taking care of his father-in-law's business, he encountered something he never could have expected.

# Positioned for Purpose

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*Read Exodus 3:1–4, 10.*

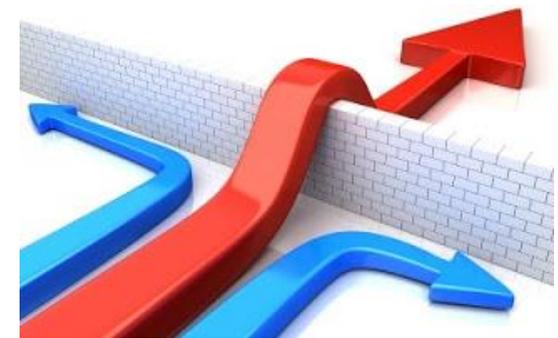
- As Moses was wandering in the wilderness, he saw a bush that was burning but not being consumed. Curious, he drew closer to it. He must have been completely startled when he heard a voice booming from the bush.
- If that wasn't enough, the voice identified itself as the voice of the one true God. **God told Moses He was calling Moses to return to Egypt and deliver God's people.**
- All of this may have come as a shock to Moses, but it was not a shock for God. God had orchestrated Moses' steps all along. Because Moses was out in the field serving, he encountered a call that would forever alter his destiny.



# Overcoming Objections

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- When we think of Moses, we think of the brave hero who led Israel out of Egypt, because we have the benefit of knowing the end of the story. At the moment he was called, though, Moses did not see that ending. He only knew what he was currently seeing and hearing: God told him to go back to Egypt where they hated him and wanted to kill him.
- Looking at it from that angle, we can see why Moses was so intimidated. He began to object to his calling by questioning God.
  - Who shall I tell them sent me?
  - What if they do not believe me?
  - Did you know I am not a great public speaker?
  - Can't you send someone else?
- As Moses began to unpack all his excuses to God, God shot them down one at a time.
  - The "I AM" sent you.
  - I will give you signs and miracles.
  - Aaron can speak for you.
  - Just go.
- Ultimately, in spite of all his objections, Moses came to realize he was exactly the man God wanted for the job. **His faithfulness to serve where he was needed opened a door for him to be used in greater ways than he could have imagined.**
- Moses was not an outcast anymore. **He returned to Egypt, but not as a slave; instead, he went as a prophet.**



# Called to Serve

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- In the contemporary church, we often think of a minister as the one who occupies the platform of our church (e.g., preacher, worship leader, and so on). We may also think in terms of leadership roles (e.g., pastor, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, and so on). However, the Bible definition of *minister* is “servant.” **Anyone who engages in Kingdom work is, by definition, a minister.**
- As a result, **we are all called to the ministry, because we are all called to serve.** It takes the entire body working together in unity to perform the work to which Jesus has called the local congregation (Ephesians 4:11–16).
- We need leadership in the church, but leadership is not the totality of the ministry of our church. In fact, the Bible tells us our leadership is there specifically to equip us “for the work of the ministry” (Ephesians 4:12).
- Jesus has a zero-unemployment policy in His church. We all need to be a part of moving the Kingdom forward. We all need to find a role of service.

# Serving Until We are Called

- If we study notable characters in the Bible, we notice they were serving others when they were called to their purpose:
  - Moses and David were called while shepherding.
  - Elisha was called while working in the field.
  - Peter, James, and John were called while fishing.
- These examples are repeated over and over to make this one point: it does not take a specific call to get to work in the Kingdom.
- Often, we make the mistake of waiting around and praying until Jesus gives us a definitive call to a specific purpose. As we sit and wait, we get frustrated when the call does not come. However, **Scripture bears out that the divine call does not come while waiting but while working.**
- If you want to know your created purpose in the Kingdom, get to work doing whatever you can find to do.
- We can fill many roles in our church without a definite call. Here are a few:
  - cleaning the grounds and facilities, assisting with hospitality, doing tasks for our leaders,
  - teaching Bible studies, showing up for outreach efforts,
  - assisting with promotions and audio/visual work (for those who are tech savvy).



# Serving Once We Are Called



- Another common mistake we make is seeing these jobs as a means to an end. We tend to do these jobs until we feel a call; then we move on because we feel we have matured beyond them.
- However, we never mature beyond any work involved in the Kingdom. Even the most successful pastors of the largest churches in North America find themselves, at times, doing what seem like menial tasks. If you ask them why, they simply respond, “It needed to be done.”
- **Even the heroes we read about in the Bible continued to serve in less-than-glamorous ways after receiving their calling.**
  - David continued as a shepherd and also served as Saul’s minstrel. Gideon, after defeating the Midianites, returned to his old role.
  - Elisha spent a large part of his ministry simply tending to Elijah’s needs. Peter still fished when necessary.
- We must always be willing to serve with a humble spirit in whatever capacity is needed.
- At the same time, knowing our calling brings an additional set of responsibilities. If we are ever to walk in that calling, we must dedicate ourselves to the preparation process. This includes meeting with our pastor (or other church leadership) to discuss our calling and make a plan for our next steps forward.



# Ministry

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Who would you consider to be a great servant at church?

Why did you choose that person?

What gifts or talents has God given you?

What do you feel God may be calling you to do for His Kingdom?

**Ministry is Service.** We can serve in our church in many ways that do not require a role or a title, or even talents and abilities. Ministry just takes willingness. What are some ways you can serve right now?



# Get Involved

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Who are the ministers at church? Most of us would list the people on the platform, or those serving in some other leadership capacity. Really, though, when you think of ministers in your church, you should think of yourself as well. Maybe you aren't ready to sing on the platform or teach a Sunday school class. Those things take time and some level of training. However, you could possibly help pick up trash on the platform after service or take out the trash for your Sunday school teacher. These things may seem small and insignificant, but we often build faithfulness by starting with small, seemingly insignificant things. In fact, the Bible says faithfulness in little things leads to ruling over many things. **Don't sit on the sidelines; find a way to get involved right now.**

Just as Moses accepted his new life—working for his father-in-law, Jethro, and recognizing God's call to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt—**we are called to be faithful servants and embrace God's specific call on our lives.**

**VOLUNTEER**

