

FIRESIDE CHAT



Imagine God assigning you an important task. It is so important that He personally comes from heaven to recruit you.

In this meeting, God hands you a five-point outline summarizing all He will do, and what you are to do. The MEMO reads like this:



What I Will Do:

- *I promise to be with you through-out this entire endeavor. I will never leave you.*
- *I leave you with this unforgettable token (the memory of the burning bush) to look back on. When times get tough you can remember and be encouraged.*
- *Attached is a detailed plan in how to proceed. It includes what you are to say, and when you are to say it. I have also noted how everything will unfold so you will not be surprised or get discouraged.*
- *Once you have completed this task I will meet you again on this mountain. Just look for the fire, thunder and lightening.*

I only ask one thing of you:

- *In faith, do what I ask.*



WOW! – That’s pretty clear. If God did this, would you go?

Well, that is exactly what God did for Moses. We’ll see each one of these points unfold in our passage.

We will also learn how Moses handled this encounter. It is God’s plan to use Moses to deliver His people from bondage.

In a similar way, God has provided His church with a plan to follow. God wants to use his children to point the lost to Him, but will we go?

1. Describe what is happening in Exodus 3:1-4. Note the place. Who is the Angel of the Lord?

ANSWER:

Moses is now on the backside of the desert keeping his father-in-law, Jethro’s flock. This is a far cry from the place Moses came from. He was raised in Pharaoh’s house. He lived in Egypt 40 years. There he learned all the wisdom of Egypt and had become mighty in words and deeds.

Now, for the last 40 years, he tended sheep in a harsh wilderness doing a task that was despised by the Egyptians (Genesis 46:33-34). The backside of the desert is God’s training ground. Even with all the worldly wisdom and power of Egypt, Moses was not ready to do the Lord’s work. He needed to spend time away from the world and alone with God.

Our passage begins with Moses moving his flock of sheep a two day journey into the wilderness. He came to a place known as the Mountain of God, in Horeb. (Most consider Mount Sinai and Horeb to refer to the same place, although there is a small body of opinion that the two names may refer to different locations.)

There he turned aside from his flock to examine a bush aflame. It was on fire, but it was not being consumed. Out of this bush comes the voice of God – v. 4. This moment permanently altered Moses’ life. God is now ready to reveal His plan of deliverance to Moses.

In Exodus 3:2 — we find the **Angel of Jehovah**. According to Exodus 3:4, it is Jehovah Himself, God—also called Elohim.

2. How does God introduce Himself to Moses? (see verse 5, 6, 7-9 and 10)

ANSWER:

In this meeting God identifies Himself as:

1. He is holy — verse 5.
2. I am the God of the past—verse 6 “I am the God of thy father . . .”

3. I am the God of the present—verse 7-9 “I have surely seen . . .”

4. I am the God of the future—verse 10f.

3. What are the five major points outlined by God in this meeting? Exodus 3:12a; 3:12b; 3:12c; 3:13

ANSWER:

Then God gives Moses a five-point outline summarizing what He will do, and what Moses is to do.

First, what God will do:

- **Point #1:** v. 12a — “I will be with thee” through-out this endeavor
- **Point #2:** v.12b — “This shall be a token unto thee that I have sent thee.” He gave Moses a token to look forward to. They will worship at this Mountain. He also gave the sign of the burning bush to remind Moses that God sent him.
- **Point #3:** v. 13f — God lays out a detailed plan stating how to proceed and what to say, and when to say it.
- **Point #4:** v. 12c — “When you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.” God appoints a time and a place where He will meet with Moses again. This gives him something to look forward too.

Second, what Moses has to do:

- **Point #5:** All Moses must do is go:

**4. What are Moses’ five reasons for not going? - Exodus 3:11; 3:13; 4:1; 4:10 and 4:13
In what ways are Moses’ excuses similar to our excuses?**

ANSWER:

Imagine what Moses must have been thinking. Forty years before he desires to deliver Israel and failed. Now, God is calling him to this task.

So, just like us, Moses was ready to go. NO! of course not.

Moses’ excuses. Tell me if they sound familiar.

- a. Exodus 3:11 – “Who am I, that I should go?”
- b. Exodus 3:13 – “What shall I say unto them?”
- c. Exodus 4:1—“But, behold, they will not believe me.”
- d. Exodus 4:10 – “I am not eloquent”

- e. Exodus 4:13 – “Send, I pray thee, by the hand of him who thou wilt send” or “O my Lord, please send someone else.”

5. Compare the following promises God gave us in the New Testament with the promises God gave Moses—Hebrews 3:15; John 14:16; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; Acts 1:8; John 14:1-4

Remember: God promised Moses He would do four things: He would be with Him—v.12a; He gave Moses a token—v.12b; He gave Moses a detailed plan—v. 13f and He promised Moses He would meet him again after he completed the task—v. 12c.

ANSWER:

- **“I will be with thee”—Exodus 3:12a**

“for he hath said, I will **never leave** thee, nor forsake thee.”— Hebrew 3:15

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever”— John 14:16

- **“This shall be a token unto thee that I have sent thee.”—Exodus 3:12b**

Two tokens: First, Moses will lead his people out of Egypt to worship at this Mountain and second, the sign of the burning bush. Both should serve as a reminder that God sent him.

“Who hath also sealed us, and given the **earnest** of the Spirit in our hearts”—2 Cor. 1:22

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise”— Eph. 1:13.

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed** unto the day of redemption”— Eph. 4:30.

- **God lays out a detailed plan stating how to proceed and what to say, and when to say it — Exodus 3:13f.**

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- **“When you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain” Exodus 3:12c**

God has appointed a time and a place where He will meet with us (John 14:1-4). This gives us something to look forward too.

6. Compare God's answer to Moses' excuses with the promises God gave us. — Matthew 28:20; John 15:16; John 6:48; 8:12, 58; 9:5; 10:7, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5; Rev. 1:8, 11,17; 22:13.

ANSWER:

a. Exodus 3:11 – “Who am I, that I should go”

- 1) God promises Moses – Ex 2:12 – “I will be with you.” “You will succeed”
- 2) Is not this enough that Christ promised us? “I will be with you even unto the end of the world” – Matthew 28:20
- 3) Did not Christ say, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you.” – John 15:16

b. Exodus 3:13 – “What shall I say unto them?”

- 1) God said to Moses, tell them that, “I AM has sent *you*”.– Exodus 3:14
 “I AM” refers to God’s Self Existence.”
 “I AM” is also the eternal name of God – Ex 3:15
- 2) Did not Jesus say, “Before Abraham was, I **AM**” — John 8:58
 - i. I am the True Light — John 8:12
 - ii. I am the Light of the world — John 9:5
 - iii. I am the Bread of Life — John 6:48
 - iv. I am the Good Shepherd — John 10:11, 14
 - v. I am the Door — John 10:7
 - vi. I am the Resurrection and the Life — John 11:25
 - vii. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life — John 14:6
 - viii. I am the true Vine — John 15:1, 5
 - ix. I am the Alpha and the Omega — Revelation 1:8, 11, 17; 22:13
 - x. When people ask who sent us, and what is His name, we are to tell them.

3. Exodus 4:1—“But, behold, they will not believe me.”

- 1) God asked Moses, “What is in your hand” – Ex 4:2

By this lowly shepherd's staff the River Nile was turned to blood. When it struck a rock, water flowed from it. When it was lifted high, Israel had victory over Amalek. It became known as the Rod of God. In Exodus 4:3-5 the rod turned into a snake.

2) Listen, when God wants to do a job He can use the weakest of things.

4. Exodus 4:10-11 – “I am not eloquent”

If God can do all things, can he not give us the right words to say?

5. Exodus 4:13 – “Send, I pray thee, by the hand of him who thou wilt send” or “O my Lord, please send someone else.”

If we would only go. It requires faith. “

I only ask one thing of you: “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

Christ