

Moses Receives an Assignment from God

Note: your group may not have time to discuss all of these items. You may need to choose one or more from among them to talk about. Follow your Bible study leader's instructions for your discussion and report.

Exodus 3:1–4:17 reports details of an important conversation between the Lord and Moses.

After God identified Himself (Ex. 3:4-10), He told Moses He'd "seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters" and that He had "come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites" (vv. 7-9).

Then God said to Moses, "Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt" (v. 10).

Moses objected, offering God no less than five excuses as to why he was the wrong man. What were Moses' excuses, and God's response to each one?

- Exodus 3:11-12
- Exodus 3:13-22
- Exodus 4:1-9
- Exodus 4:10-12
- Exodus 4:13-17

Assuming God has given all Christians a duty to address public policy issues, especially those that relate to God's moral and ethical law (a theme we are exploring in this Bible study session), what excuses do pastors, other Christian leaders, and individual Christians offer God to relieve them of the responsibility of speaking out about legislative issues, court cases, and political leaders themselves? Of course, not all can put forth the same amount of effort — but everyone can do something. What are you currently doing to influence public policy so it reflects God's righteous standard more fully?

In the end, Moses obeyed God, but sometimes Christian leaders offer excuses and don't wind up doing what God has called them to do. Consider Germany in the 1930s. Do you wish that the German church at the time had spoken out and stood up against Hitler and his policies? Explain. For the most part, the church was silent. Why?