(JRUSTING Moses

And God's Call Beyond Ourselves



Introduction	7
How Did We Get Here?	10
Who Is Moses?	13
Week 1: The Origin Story	16
Week 2: The Burning Bush	21
Week 3: The Big Ask & The Plagues	26
Week 4: The Passover & Exodus	31
Week 5: The Manna & Quail	36
Week 6: The Covenant & The Law	41
Week 7: The Tabernacle & God's Glory	46
Epilogue	51

FREE RESOURCES

PAPER BIBLE

If you do not have a Bible, please feel free to take one as you enter or leave the Mountaintop Church Auditorium. It is our gift to you.

DIGITAL BIBLE

You can take the Bible with you wherever you go with these websites and free apps for your phone or tablet.



Bible.com BibleGateway.com



You'll find the Kid's Bible available at: BibleAppForKids.com



BlueLetterBible.org
For a more in-depth study where you can search
commentaries and translations.



Olive Tree Bible Software OliveTree.com

SUNDAY MESSAGES

Every Sunday morning message is archived on the Mountaintop website. If you miss a message or want to share a message with a friend, go to mountaintopchurch.com/watch to view on-demand.

TIPS FOR GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THIS GROUP STUDY

- Embrace reading a book from the ancient world of the Old Testament. It's important to remember that the events of the Old Testament were recorded by real people, just like you and me.
- Every book of the Bible is part of the larger story and points to Jesus. Be on the lookout for how the story of Moses in the book of Exodus is foreshadowing the good news of Jesus.
- Engage with each message of the series. If thoughts or questions arise while listening to Carter on Sundays, jot them down and discuss them in group.
- Don't hesitate to ask questions or share your thoughts during discussions. Jesus welcomed and encouraged questions and discussions, and so do we.
- On a few of the weeks, we've provided video prompts from the Bible Project. It will give you a greater understanding of what you're reading and studying.
- These videos will also give you a quick reminder of what you've read before attending group.
- Step outside your comfort zone and get to know the other members of your group. Every friendship starts with one "hello." Use this material to get to know each other better.
- Get excited! You're about to learn more about the Bible, understand more about Jesus, and make some new friends. As you Engage with Scripture, we believe this journey can change your life.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

- The three sections that follow, titled "Introduction", "How Did We Get Here?" and "Who Is Moses?" are meant to give you a greater understanding of Moses' journey and how he learned to trust God. Read them before attending your first week of group.
- Those sections are not one-and-done readings. You may find it helpful to reread them throughout your time in group as a refresher or reminder.
- Each week of the study opens with Scripture. Be sure to read the weekly verses **before** attending group.
- Questions are meant to be answered **before** attending group. Your time in group will be spent sharing and discussing your thoughts.
- Note pages are included, so you can write down anything you want to remember from the sermons or your group discussions.
- Be sure to include the **Epilogue** with your reading for Week 7. It will help you see how Moses' story connects to yours.



INTRODUCTION



BY: DR. CARTER MCINNIS



INTRODUCTION

Let's face it. You don't HAVE to trust God with a lot of your

Trusting God.

Isn't that what faith is all about?

daily activities. Most of it you can do yourself. You work. You cook. You eat. You sleep. You drive. You scroll through channels or apps. You brush your teeth. You weren't even thinking about doing most of those things. It was mostly muscle memory. Nevertheless, you know there is a bigger story behind all those things. We all want a bigger purpose underneath our careers, our families, and even our habits. We all want to be a part of something we could not accomplish on our own. We all long to be a part of a bigger story. And that will take trusting God. To live into His destiny for our lives and to experience His preferred future, we'll have to trust God beyond our own talents, gifts, and sensibilities. God will ask you to do things you don't think you can do. God will ask you to do things you can't accomplish alone. God will ask you to do hard things.

God will ask you to do things that don't make sense.

God will call you beyond yourself.

And in the midst of all that...God will ask you to trust Him.

And it will most likely happen one trust at a time.

That's the story of Moses. If God had started at the beginning of Moses' story and told him to trust Him for all He was about to do in and through him, Moses might have declined.

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Hey Moses, God here. I'm going to take you before the most powerful man in the world, turn your rod into a snake, use you to bring plagues on earth's mightiest empire. I'm going to use your outstretched hand to part the waters of the sea. I'm going to bring you into MY presence and use MY very finger to write MY laws on stone tablets. I'm going to bring food from the sky and you're going to bring water from a rock. I'm going to lead you through the desert for 40 years with a group of stubborn people who won't usually listen to you. All of this is critical for who I am making this nation to be. You in?

Uh...no thanks, God.

Here's what I think Moses' story tells us: God most likely won't lay out before you everything He wants to do in your life. He is most likely not going to tell you all the awesome things He has planned for you on the other side of trust. He is most likely not going to give you a look into the crystal ball of your life. That's just not the way trust works. Besides, you play a part in that future. Our trust takes us to the next step in our journey with God to trust Him even more.

But it often starts with taking one step beyond ourselves that doesn't exactly make sense, as God says, "Trust Me."

That's the story of this incredible leader named Moses.





oses' story coincides with what many would say is the turning point in Israel's history. Really, to this point, they would have barely even been a nation.

Here is where it all started, with a man named Abram. He was a descendent of Shem, one of the sons of Noah, through whom God had pressed restart for humanity. He and his wife Sarai were childless and well past normal child-bearing years. Nevertheless, God told them that they were going to have a child and that his descendants would be as numerous as the sand on the seashore and the stars in the sky. Later, he'd be renamed Abraham, the father of many nations, and Sarai would now be called Sarah, for she would be blessed with a son. Finally, at the spry ages of 100 and 90 years old, respectively, they had a son, Isaac.

Isaac married Rebekah and they had Jacob and Esau. Jacob married two sisters, Rachel and Leah (it's a long story). It was a different time when there simply weren't as many men because of military service and the rigors of hunting, farming, and gathering, and marriage to multiple women was common. Jacob's twelve sons became the 12 tribes of Israel, but it was not always one big, happy family.

Joseph was Jacob's favorite of the 12 sons. In jealousy, his brothers sold him into slavery, but told their father he had been killed by wild animals. Eventually, Joseph ends up in Egyptian slavery and finally in an Egyptian prison. It's a tragic story in many ways, but it's a beautiful story of Joseph's continued faithfulness in hardship and God's redeeming power.

Joseph finally, and providentially, gets an audience with Pharaoh, the ruler and king of mighty Egypt. He ends up interpreting a dream that prepares Egypt for greater influence by prophesying of a global famine no one else sees coming. Pharaoh puts Joseph second in command to prepare for the hard times ahead, and when the famine ravages the entire known world, everyone is going hungry. There is one place to turn for help – Egypt. So, everyone comes to Egypt.

Everyone. Including the sons of Jacob, who come looking for food at the command of their aging father. It's a complicated reunion, but you can probably guess they were all surprised to see each other. It's quite a story. I hope you'll read it (you can find it in the last 14 chapters of the book of Genesis). Eventually, it's a story of redemption and forgiveness. Pharaoh even finds out about Joseph's family and invites them to all take up residence in the kingdom of Egypt. He gives them land and supplies because he is so appreciative of Joseph's leadership. Jacob finally dies, but the family is happy and growing and starting to become the nation God had promised their ancestor, Abraham. Happy ending, right?

Exodus 1 begins telling the story of a grim turn of events. Joseph and all his brothers died, but the new nation exploded in population, rivaling the Egyptian population. Then a change in leadership leads to a change in approach in dealing with the Israelites, who had been seen as friends and allies of Egypt for decades.

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Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor.

Exodus 1:8-11a



Allies became slaves.

For 400 years.

Generation after generation of captivity and oppression.

Enter Moses.

AM HOIS MOSES?

oses is one of the most important figures in the entire Bible.

The Old Testament is chock-full of prophets, kings, judges, creation, and more, but probably

three of the most critical characters in the history of Israel are:

Abraham – the father and founder of the nation of Israel. God is often even referenced as "The God of Abraham."

Moses – the leader and prophet who delivered Israel from slavery and through whom God brought The Law.

David – God's anointed king over Israel against whom all kings would be compared and the king whose bloodline is promised to lead to the Messiah.

Moses is central to the story of God in Israel and, ultimately, to the coming of salvation through Jesus Christ.

In fact, Jesus talked about Moses.

When Jesus goes up to the mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James, and John, and God reveals to these three disciples who Jesus really and fully is – Moses and Elijah appear there with Jesus.

He's THAT important to the story of God's redemption through Jesus.

The Passover celebration that was established through Moses upon the Israelites' final exodus from Egypt becomes the background to the Last Supper and Jesus' explanation of a new covenant in His blood for all people through the cross.

Moses was an ordinary man, but he was no ordinary leader. He did things and experienced things in relationship to God that no human ever had before or ever has since.

But he was human.

He had doubts.

He had fears.

Sometimes, he even came up with excellent excuses.

Yet he trusted God.

One step at a time.

Just like Moses, there's a call on your life.

It's not my call.

It's not Moses' call.

It's yours.

It starts with one step.

Will you trust God?

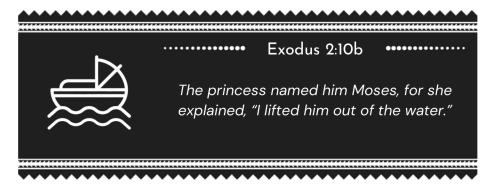
Formula for Moses being used by God:

Ordinary Person + Intimate Experiences \div Excellent Excuses \times Entrusted Experiences beyond himself

Formula for You being used by God:

Ordinary Person Fixperiences Excellent Excuses Resolvent Experiences Fixed Excuses Resolvent Person Person Person Fixed Excuses Resolvent Person Person Person Person Fixed Excuses Resolvent Person P

WEEK 1: HE ORIGIN /STORY



Read: Exodus 1:15-2:25

Every story has a beginning, and Moses' story in Exodus literally starts at the beginning of his life. Actually, it begins before he is born. The Israelites are multiplying, and Pharaoh orders that all boys be killed by the midwives that help the Israelite pregnant women give birth. Nevertheless, God, along with a few women, has other plans.

Group Warmup Question: There have been a lot of movies made about Moses. Discuss which of these three you've seen: The Ten Commandments, Prince of Egypt, and Exodus.

Maybe even rank your favorites.

Discussion Questions:

afraid of something you didn't understand.
How would you describe the actions of the Hebrew midwives?

WEEK 1: THE ORIGIN STORY

you learn from the perilous beginning to Moses' life?
How is Moses' sister the unsung hero of his origin story?
What do you imagine it was like for Moses to grow up as Pharoah's adopted grandson?
Have you ever tried to cover up a mistake like Moses in 2:12? Explain.
What do you think is going on in Moses' heart that is raising his awareness of the plight of his people? Why do you think this started bothering him now?

WEEK 1: THE ORIGIN STORY

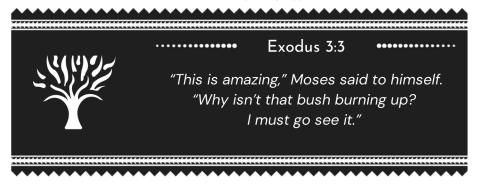
When are some times you've run away from a problem like Moses? Describe a time in your life where you felt you needed to get away for a new beginning?
Notice how the girls identify Moses in 2:19. It seems Moses doesn't belong anywhere. Have you ever felt like you couldn't find a place where you belonged?
How does God's response to the prayers of the Israelites in 2:23-25 encourage you about your prayers?
What does Moses' origin story tell you about the kinds of people God uses?

Prayer: Thank You, God, that You work through broken circumstances, that You work through broken people, and that You work to bring good from evil. Help me to be a part of Your work in this world and available for You to use.

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WEEK 2:

HE BURNING BUSH



Read: Exodus 3:1-4:17

This is one of those moments that was unique to Moses. No one had experienced anything like this before, and really no one since. And something happens in this story that changes humanity's interaction with God forever – God tells Moses His name. Before this, Jews referred to God with the more generic EI (which is more like 'God' in our language) or derivatives of EI like Elohim (Creator God or Mighty One), EI Shaddai (God Almighty), or Adonai (Lord). With Moses, God gets much more personal.

Group Warmup Question: Moses takes off his shoes when entering the presence of God. Do you take your shoes off when entering your house or not? Poll the group.

Discussion Questions:

Why was Moses drawn to the burning bush in the first place? What set it apart from any old bush on fire?
What was Moses' answer to God in 3:4? How can you respond that way to God?

WEEK 2: THE BURNING BUSH

Verses 5-6 describe a kind of holiness about God. How is this described and what is Moses' response? Do you feel this kind of holiness in the presence of God? Why or why not?
What does this passage teach you about God's heart for the prayers of His people?
Write about a time that you felt unsure of what God had called you to do. How does God's response to Moses encourage you?
Why was it important for God to tell Moses His name before He sent him to go before the Egyptians?

WEEK 2: THE BURNING BUSH

What did God ask Moses and the Elders of the Hebrew people to do? Why was this such a big ask? Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed impossible?
What was the significance of the signs God showed and gave to Moses?
What were Moses' excuses in 4:10-13? Write about a time that you came up with excuses for something you know God was calling you to do. What would change if you eliminate excuses in the future?
We assume God will call us to what we're good at, so spend some time thinking about the implications of God calling Moses to something that leaned into his weakness. Write down some thoughts so you can discuss them in group.

Prayer: God, You are holy and righteous. I don't always recognize the awesomeness of your presence. Help me to praise Your name daily. Help me to discern the ways You're calling me outside my comfort zone and natural abilities.

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WEEK 3:

HE BIG ASK & THE PLAGUES

Scan this QR code to watch the Bible Project video titled *The Book of Exodus – Part 1.* It covers Exodus 1–18, so it includes chapters that aren't in this week's reading, but we think it will still be helpful. Be sure to pay special attention to the part about the plagues.



Read: Exodus 5-10

It doesn't take much for Moses and Aaron to convince the Israelites that God has sent them to help lead them out of Egypt. They marvel at the signs and rejoice that the Lord has heard their prayer. However, as God predicted, Pharoah is not too keen on the idea of letting his free labor walk away. So, God uses plagues to try to 'convince' him.

Group Warmup Question: As plagues go, would you rather endure rivers of blood, frogs, gnats, flies, sick livestock, boils, hail, locusts, or darkness? Why?

Discussion Questions:

Pharaoh? Do you think that's why God chose him?
What sticks out to you about Pharaoh's response in 5:2-9?

WEEK 3: THE BIG ASK & THE PLAGUES

Throughout chapter 5, what are the leadership challenges that Moses faces? Notice Moses' frustration with the people. Write about a time that you faced similar leadership hurdles.
What does God say in chapter 6 about how the Israelites' prayers moved His heart? How does this impact how you view your own prayers?
What are some of the roadblocks that come before Moses and the message to deliver Israel in chapter 6?
What are some excuses you have made? Or what roadblocks have you decided are reasons God can't or won't use you?
What happens with the snake, the blood, and the frogs in contrast to the Egyptian magicians? How does this change in 8:18-19?

WEEK 3: THE BIG ASK & THE PLAGUES

What do you make of Pharaoh's waffling back and forth about his decision to let the Israelites go? Why does he keep relenting, then changing his mind?
Have you ever had your heart hardened against what God was trying to tell you to do or lead you toward? Explain.
In verses 10:16-29, how does Pharaoh change his position even more? How does the last thing he says to Moses feel different this time?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I know that with You all things are possible. Like Moses, sometimes I come up with excuses about why You can't move in my life. Like Pharaoh, sometimes my heart is hard to Your prompting. Help me to trust You through the roadblocks.

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WEEK 4:

HE PASSOVER & EXODUS

Scan this QR code to watch the Bible Project video titled *Exodus 1-18*. Some of it will be a helpful refresher on content from previous weeks. Be sure to pay special attention to the part about the Passover and Exodus.



Read: Exodus 11-14

Pharaoh's finally had enough... sort of. One last plague proves too much for the Egyptians to ignore. The gruesome reality of disobedience to God comes to bear on the whole land. God protects Israel from this wrath and it proves to the Hebrews that God is FOR them. For the Egyptians, the final plague is evidence that the God of Israel is like no other. However, Pharoah, we've learned, is prone to change his mind. God is ready to display the fullness of His power, though, and finally set His people free. All it will take is the Israelites trusting God enough to follow Him beyond themselves. Even if the escape route has a wall of water on each side.

Group Warmup Question: If you were walking across the parted Red Sea, which sea creature or fish would you be most interested in getting an up-close view of through the walls of water on each side?

Discussion Questions:

What does 11:3 tell you about praying for God's favor with others? Additionally, what does this verse show about God's ability to provide for you in uncertain circumstances?	
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WEEK 4: THE PASSOVER & EXODUS

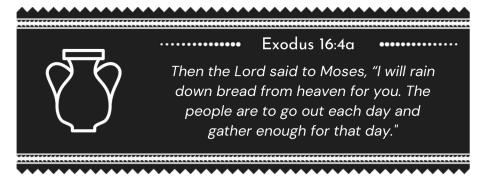
In 11:4-8 Moses delivers God's words to Pharaoh. What does this gritty story tell you about the gravity of disobedience to God? What does God say will happen when His protection over Israel is displayed in this way?
What sticks out to you about the directions God gave Israel in 12:1-13? What does verse 12 say about the reason for this display of power?
How does this story begin to prepare the way for those in Christ to understand being saved by the 'blood of the Lamb'?
What are some of the provisions, ordinances, and restrictions for the Passover for future generations outlined in chapter 12?
Read Luke 22:13-20. How do provisions of the Passover in Exodus help you see these words spoken by Jesus in a new light? What do you make of Jesus' boldness?

Prayer: Almighty God, thank You for making a way for my redemption and salvation through the blood of Jesus. Help me to trust You through whatever waters You are asking me to walk through.

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WEEK 5:

HE MANNA /& QUAIL



Read: Exodus 16:1-17:7

Freedom. Isn't it great? The Israelites didn't seem to think so at first. At least in Egypt they had food. Freedom would mean they were on their own. Now, finally out from under the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, they had to depend on God in the harsh conditions of the desert. And Moses, who was in charge of these frustrated folks, would have to depend on God, too, as he learned to deal with the harsh realities of spiritual leadership.

Group Warmup Question: If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would you choose?

Discussion Questions:

Exodus 16:1-3? After all the Hebrews have experienced, what does this teach you about leadership?	
What does God promise Moses and the Israelites as His way of providing for them?	

WEEK 5: THE MANNA & QUAIL

In 16:5, God tells the Hebrews to take time for the Sabbath and gather their food for the seventh day on the sixth day. Why is this so important for them?
What stands out to you about how the people are to gather the quail and manna?
What do verses 19-20 tell you about the human nature to be greedy? How do you struggle with this?
When some people disobey the sabbath commandment in the last half of chapter 16, why does this disturb God? What does your unwillingness to rest say about your dependence on God?

WEEK 5: THE MANNA & QUAIL

Read 16:35. How do you think the Israelites felt about eating the same thing for 40 years while waiting in the desert?
What is the source of grumbling against Moses in the beginning of chapter 17 and how did he handle it? Have you been known to grumble against God? Why?
The Israelites question if God was among them because of how He provided for them. How does God not granting you what you desire, precisely when you wish for it, influence your perception of whether or not God is with you?
What does the water coming from the rock teach you about what God is capable of in your life?

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for all the ways You've provided for me in my life. Help me not to grumble when things don't go as I expected. Instead give me the perspective to be grateful for where You've brought me and what You've done in my life. Give me a thankful heart.

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WEEK 6:

HE COVENANT & THE LAW

Scan this QR code to watch the Bible Project video titled *Biblical Law*. It will help prepare you for this week's discussion by explaining The Law and its purpose of producing holiness.



Read: Exodus 19-33:6

It is finally time. The giving of The Law is one of THE events in the history of Israel. This sets the table for what it means for them to be a people who are set apart. This paves the way for the prophets to call them back to obedience. This prepares the way for a Savior to be the fulfillment of the Law. But it doesn't go as smoothly as Moses, or even God, planned.

Group Warmup Question: How many of the 10 Commandments can you name in one minute? Check Exodus 20 to see how many you got right.

Discussion Questions:

How did God reveal Himself physically on Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19?
What is the covenant God establishes with His people through Moses? Why does God say that they should trust Him? What does He promise them if they do?

WEEK 6: THE COVENANT & THE LAW

Who was allowed to be in the presence of God and why? What does this say about God's presence and those who could come near Him?
Exodus 20 lists the 10 Commandments.
 What is the difference in tone or audience from the first four and the last six? Which of the commandments is most difficult to
understand?Which commandment have you struggled with and why?
Exodus 21–31 lists a bunch of laws, some of which might seem strange to you. What do you think was the purpose of all these laws, rules, and regulations? How does this make you feel about the reality that you are saved by grace and not by how well you follow the Law?
Why do you think Aaron lead the people to such disobedience in Exodus 32? Why is it so hard to wait on God?

What are the ways you've made an idol out of something else in place of God?
Exodus 32:9-14 is a complex conversation between Moses and God. What does this passage seem to say about God? How does Moses change God's mind?
How does this passage teach you something about the potential power of your prayers and intercession for others?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Your laws and ways are good. I can be disobedient, just like the Israelites. Sometimes I make idols out of things instead of worshiping You. Help me to trust Your ways and offer praise to You alone.

BONUS VIEWING

Scan this QR code to watch the Bible Project video titled *Moses And Aaron*. If you're interested, it will give you a in-depth look at God's plan to redeem the world through the priests of Israel.



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WEEK 7: HE TABERNACLE

/& GOD'S GLORY Scan this QR code to watch the Bible Project video titled *The Royal Priests*. It will help prepare you for this week's discussion by providing you with a better understanding of the tabernacle.



Read: Exodus 35:4-36:7

We all need a place to call home. Though Israel is continuing to wander through the desert, God gives Moses instructions for a temporary and portable Tabernacle. God's presence will rest in a place that all Israel can call home. The literal stone tablets of the 10 Commandments, inside the Ark of the Covenant, will go inside the Tabernacle as people gather for worship and prayer. Of course, God has made bread fall from the sky and water come from a rock. He's led them with a cloud of fire and spoken to them by writing with lightning on stone tablets. He could just make the tabernacle appear. It's clear that God wants to work through His people. Their response is amazing.

Group Warmup Question: What is the most impressive thing that you have ever helped build?

Discussion Questions:

What stands out to you about the details Moses asks of	tne
people at the beginning of Exodus 35?	

WEEK 7: THE TABERNACLE

Verse 4 makes it clear that God desired people to have a 'generous heart' as they made contributions to the tabernacle. Why do you think God makes an emphasis on the state of their hearts in relation to their giving?
What are some of the different things people give in the passage? How can you get caught up worrying about what you don't have to give? Do you have a willing heart to give out of what you have?
In Exodus 35:30–36:2, it says that Moses called out people skilled to do the work. Skilled craftsmen were important in the construction of the Tabernacle. What gifts and skills do you have that God could use in His Church?
Have you ever thought about your skills as being given by God? Who do you need to encourage to reach their potential and find their gifts - so that they, too, can use them for God's glory?

WEEK 7: THE TABERNACLE

Why do we want to hold on to our resources, money, and talents instead of using them for God's glory?
What does 36:3-7 say about the amount people were bringing? Have you ever heard of this happening in a church?
What does this passage say about what happens when the people of God join together in generosity? What are the implications for this in our church?
Think back through the last seven weeks. What has been your favorite or most challenging part of this study?

Prayer: God, thank You for the resources and talents You have gifted to me. Help me to be generous with what You've entrusted to me for the furthering of Your Kingdom.

NOTES

PILOGUE

What a life! What a story! No one in history lived a life quite like Moses. And yet, he's a lot like us:

- He was an outcast.
- He was called.
- He was nervous.
- He had several excellent excuses.
- He was unsure of himself.
- He was insecure about a physical limitation.
- He was frustrated.
- He was angry.
- He prayed.
- He doubted.
- He led.
- He listened.
- He invested in others.
- He struggled.
- He triumphed.

And, here's perhaps the big one – he didn't fully realize the promise. Moses died with the Promised Land in sight. It just wasn't his role in God's great story to take Israel across the final barrier to Canaan. It was his role to bring them out of Egypt and lead them for 40 years.

But here we are...

Still talking about him.

Still studying his life.

Because he trusted God.

Even when wandering in the desert.

Even when the promise wasn't realized.

Even when it didn't make sense.

Will you trust God?





ENGAGE SCRIPTURE

MOUNTAINTOP CHURCH