Getting to Know God & Moses

(Insights from Exodus 3:1-22)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, October 2nd, 2016

1) **Moses is …** (Ex. 3:1)

Life Lesson: Humility is often …
(1 Peter 5:5-6)

1. God is … (Ex. 3:2-4)

2) **Moses is …** (Ex. 3:4-6)

2. God is … (Ex. 3:7-9)

3) **Moses is …** (Ex. 3:10-11)

3. God is … (Ex. 3:12)

Life Lesson: God's call to serve always comes with …
(Matthew 28:19-20)

4) **Moses is …** (Ex. 3:13)

4. God is … (Ex. 3:14-15)

5. God is … (Ex. 3:16-17)

6. God is … (Ex. 3:18-20)

7. God is … (Ex. 3:21-22)

Life Lesson: God's call to prayer is an invitation to …
(Psalm 84:11, Proverbs 21:1, Romans 15:30-31, Acts 21-23)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to "Week 4" of this season of our small groups at **GPC!** May we at GPC receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships in the weeks ahead as we meet together, pray together, study God's Word together and find other ways to connect outside of our group meetings. This quarter our groups will meet for 10 weeks wrapping up the week of November 13th (the week before Thanksgiving week).

Getting Started:
This past Sunday, as we read and reflected on Exodus 3, we focused on some characteristics of Moses and God. As we got to know both of them a little better, we can be encouraged to grow in our own walk and trust with God.

In Exodus 3:1, we see that Moses was living as a shepherd a long way away from Egypt. He was a humbled man. Looking back on the last 40 years of his life, things didn't turn out the way he imagined they would. God often waits for us to be humbled and void of pride before He does what He desires to do in and through our lives. Read 1 Peter 5:5-6, Philippians 2:3-4, Ephesians 4:1-3, Micah 6:8 and 2 Chronicles 34:27. When was a time that you were humbled? Afterward, how did your walk with God change and/or how you related with others?

On a lighter note, Moses spent time as a shepherd before God invited him to go back to Egypt to free his people. Growing up, he never thought he would work with sheep! If you were to work with any animal or group of animals for a period of time, what animal would you prefer to work with? What animal job would most surprise you?

Digging Deeper:

1. In Exodus 3:7-10, we see that God is compassionate and kind toward the people of Israel. For the entire time of their captivity, he was aware of their situation and describes how he finally wants to set them free. While still being enslaved and unknown to them, God began to solve their problem many miles away by recruiting Moses. It took awhile before Moses got back to Egypt and confronted Pharaoh that eventually led to their freedom. When have you had a situation that you hoped God would deliver you from or resolve, and it took longer than you wanted to wait? Looking back, can you now see that God began to address your mess before you were aware of His actions?

2. If God could (because He's God) solve all of their problems (and our problems) quickly, why doesn't he?

For more reflection, read James 1:2-3, Romans 5:3-5

3. In Exodus 3:10, God surprises Moses with an invitation to return to Egypt and lead His people to freedom. He was ready to lead them 40 years earlier, but that was before he killed an Egyptian, was admonished by some Jewish people he was trying to help, and had to run away because the Pharaoh wanted to kill him. Because of what happened, Moses was sure he was not the right person for the job. When was there a time you felt God wanted you to serve and you didn't feel you were the best choice? What were your issues or excuses that caused your hesitation? What happened?

The second Life Lesson from Sunday was, "God's call to serve always comes with the promise of His presence." How can that make a difference for us? What does that practically mean when we step out to serve? If we feel less adequate when we serve, is that a good thing or bad thing? Why?

4. Bob highlighted a list of God's qualities seen in Exodus 3. God is powerful & personal, compassionate & kind, sufficient, eternal, confident (omnipotent), all knowing (omniscient), and able to influence others to make better choices. All of these are great, but which one(s) are you more appreciative of lately?

5. Related to the fact that God is all-knowing, Bob said that God is not 'all allowing' and not 'all doing'. He doesn't allow all the bad that could happen and he doesn't do all the bad that does happen. Does that make sense? Do you agree with that? As a church, we are currently reading through Job as part of our 3YD. What did God allow in Job's life? Did God do it? Could God have stopped it?

Why is it important that our trust in God be able to handle that there is still some mystery to who God is and how he chooses to operate? How can we help each other with this?

6. The last Life Lesson from Sunday had to do with prayer. We must not neglect the amazing influence we can have in the world for good through prayer. By prayer God calls us to join him in shaping history. By prayer, we can ask God to influence the wills of presidents, senators, governors, mayors etc. (1 Timothy 2:1-4). By prayer we can ask God to influence the wills of professors, writers, entertainers, friends and even enemies. By prayer we can ask God to influence the wills of our children, our husbands and wives, our mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, and neighbors. Because of the privilege God gives us to prayer, let's not neglect this great work.

God is good at putting His desires into our thoughts in the hope that we would pray them back to Him. He loves to partner with us to change the world!

Who is God laying on your heart to pray that he, she or they will be influenced to make better choices.

WRAPPING UP …

Based on last Sunday's message and our discussion, what is one specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our small group meeting?