

Tale of Two Stories

(Insights from Exodus 6:1-30)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, October 30th, 2016

1. **God's ...** (Ex. 6:1)
2. **Moses' ...**
3. **God's ...** (Ex. 6:2-5)
4. **God's ...** (Ex. 6:6-8)
5. **People's ...** (Ex. 6:9)
6. **Direction & hesitation ...** (Ex. 6:10-13)
7. **God's ...** (Ex. 6:14-27)
8. **Direction & hesitation ...** (Ex. 6:28-30)

Truths to Take Home ...

1. **Whatever is first ...**
2. **Whatever the story ...**
 - Are we the S_____ or the S_____?

If the star ...

- **Discernment is defined by ...**
- **God's role is to ...**

If the servant ...

- **My desire is to ...**
- **I accept ...**

3. **God doesn't wait for maturity ...**

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to "Week 8" of this season of our small groups at GPC! May we at GPC receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships in the last few weeks of this quarter as we meet together, pray together, study God's Word together and find other ways to connect outside of our group meetings. Our last meeting will be the week of November 13th (the week before Thanksgiving week).

Getting Started:

Speaking of Halloween (ok - that was not the best intro) what was one of your favorite costumes you wore for Halloween growing up?

This past Sunday we were encouraged to not write our own script with us center stage, but place our lives in God's larger story. Speaking of scripts, (just for fun) who is one of your favorite actors or actresses? What movie did they play that elevated them to your top spot? If you could have played any role in any movie, which one would you choose?

God asked Moses to tell the people of Israel that God would free them from their slavery. In Exodus 6:9, we read they didn't believe them because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery. Big or small, when did you share something with someone and they didn't believe you. What do you think was the reason for their disbelief?

Last Sunday, we were encouraged to not star in our own story but play a more supportive role in God's larger story. God's story started before us and will continue beyond us. In Hebrews 12:1, we are reminded that many saints have gone before us. Who (in the Bible or in history) have gone before you that you look back on their spiritual maturity and are encouraged/motivated by?

For those who will come after you, how would you like them to describe you in a way that would encourage them to live their lives for the glory of God?

When we place our lives in God's story, we don't get to choose the script! There are times God calls us to play a role that we would not necessarily have chosen for ourselves. When has there been a time in your life that you were called to be faithful to a role that stretched you? Looking back, how did your faithfulness grow you and also make a positive impact on others?

Digging Deeper:

1. In Exodus 6, as Moses was struggling to believe God's plan to free the people of Israel, God tells Moses, "I am the Lord" four times. He wants Moses to look up before he looks around.

Isaiah 40 is one of the best chapters in the Bible for gaining perspective on who God is because the passage compares him and his power to things we can understand. Read through Isaiah 40:1-31 and discuss what it says about who God is and how big and powerful he is.

How could a clearer understanding of God's absolute power help you to trust him and his perfect timing more?

2. This past week, we finished up the book of Job in our 3YD journey. In the story of Job, God allows Job's wealth, his ten children and finally his health to be taken away from him. Job found himself in an extremely difficult situation where he was trying to make sense of who God is and what he was up to. (Similar to what Moses was trying to do in Exodus 6). Read the following verses and discuss Job's responses and how they can help us develop a more realistic and appropriate response to difficult (and seemingly unfair) circumstances we may face in our own life.

Job 1:18-22

Job 2:7-10

Job 27:2-7

Job 29:2-6

3. In Exodus 6, God makes some promises that he wants Moses and the people of Israel to trust him for. At the time, what God promised seemed absolutely impossible. Back then and today, God is faithful to fulfill all of His promises in his perfect time.

What promises has God spoken in the Bible that bring you comfort and confidence today?

Here are a few passages to encourage you this week:

Romans 1:16-17

Romans 8:28

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 4:6-7

Matthew 6:33

2 Corinthians 12:9

WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last Sunday's message from Exodus 6 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?