

## **Questions for Community Group Discussion**

• God used both Moses' strengths and weaknesses (raised in Pharaoh's house; years as a shepherd) to liberate the Hebrew slaves. What *in your life* have you seen God use for his purposes?

Is there any aspect of your past that you're *unwilling* for God to use for his purposes? If so, why?

• Moses experienced both victories and resistance to his calling. How have you experienced those?

Which had the greater impact on your responsiveness to God—success or disappointment?

• God used plagues to shame the Egypt's trust in idols. American culture idolizes autonomy, intellignece, wealth, popularity, and power. How have you seen God shame *these* false gods?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. How do you see *yourself* in this passage.

Read Isaiah 42:5-8. Why is God jealous for his glory?

• From the burning bush to the Red Sea, we observe Moses' growing confidence in God's power. What key events in your life have built your faith in God?

Read Exodus 14:31. What is the connection between *fearing* God and *trusting* him?

Do *you* fear God? Do *you* trust him?

Application-Challenge

Philippians 4:13, and Moses' example, invite *every* believer to experience God's unlimited possibilities and power. What will *you* do?

Take One Step: What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?

Need help fearing and trusting God For customized discipleship, write to: BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com Last week we discussed how our awe of God should be greater than our awe of our past mistakes or our present or future challenges. This week, we will see how Moses lived the rest of his life according to a New Testament principle that we briefly touched on last week. This principle is found in Philippians 4:13, which says: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

First of all, Paul says, "I can..." (which speaks of) Unlimited Participation. God wants to use all Believers are to have an impact in the world for Jesus, but we often count ourselves out because of past failures. Sin does have consequences, but God's sacrifice through Christ Jesus is greater than our sin. If we humbly lay our sin at the foot of the cross, Jesus can and will redeem it. We see this clearly in Moses' story when God calls him into service. Moses began making excuses, but they were invalid to God because He had been preparing Moses for this call to deliver the Israelites from Egypt, starting with a shepherd's staff that Moses had been carrying around the desert for 40 years. God used the skills and experience that Moses already possessed to liberate His people, and likewise, He wants to use the talents, skills, relationships, and personality He gave you. God will take what you have in your hand and use it for His glory. Although God does want to use us to impact His kingdom, we cannot predict the results. In this process we may see early victories for Christ as well as early resistance to Him. God provided an early win for Moses in the positive response from the Israelite elders; however Moses also received early resistance from Pharaoh when he first approached him about releasing the Hebrew people. In a similar vein, we can expect pushback and opposition when we begin to obey God. In these instances, it's important to remember not to guit, as God has never promised us an easy life, but rather the grace to persevere through our trials.

Secondly, Paul says, "...do **all** things..." (which speaks of) **Unlimited Possibilities**. In the next segment of Moses' story, we learn about the ten plagues of Egypt. Pharaoh's hard heart resisted God despite the agony of the first nine plagues, so the tenth plague came with a choice—the choice to demonstrate faith in God whether Egyptian or Hebrew. Not choosing to place their faith in God resulted in His judgment and the death of the firstborn. This plague was a foreshadowing of the choice that we have in whether we choose to place our faith in Christ and live our lives for him. The consequence of living life apart from Jesus results in eternal judgment and permanent separation from God. God has provided the opportunity—but the choice is ours. I think the three reasons that God sent these plagues upon Egypt is because He wanted to develop Moses as a leader, to deliver the Hebrew people, and to show His power.

Lastly, Paul says, "...through Him..." (which speaks of) the **Unlimited Power** of God. Here Moses stands on the banks of the Red Sea with the Isrealite nation, and Pharaoh's army, behind him. Instead of giving into the fear that controlled him in his past, he stretched forth his staff and proclaimed God's deliverance. And the children of Israel walked through the Red Sea safely, while the Egyptian army perished as God brought the waves down upon them. Afterward, Moses and the people responded not by congratulating Moses, but by praising the Lord. That is how you and I will see change in this difficult world—when we stop focusing on our ability or inability and say. "I can...do all things...through Him who strengthens me."

## Talking To God About This Week's Message

"Heavenly Father, please help me today to be a 'doer' of the Word, and not just a 'hearer'. Amen."

## Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, *"What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?"*, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in *plain language* anyone could understand?

## **Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time**

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to explore living our lives in the power of God ...

Monday 2 Samuel 22:33

Tuesday— Job 26:7-14

Wednesday Jude 24-25

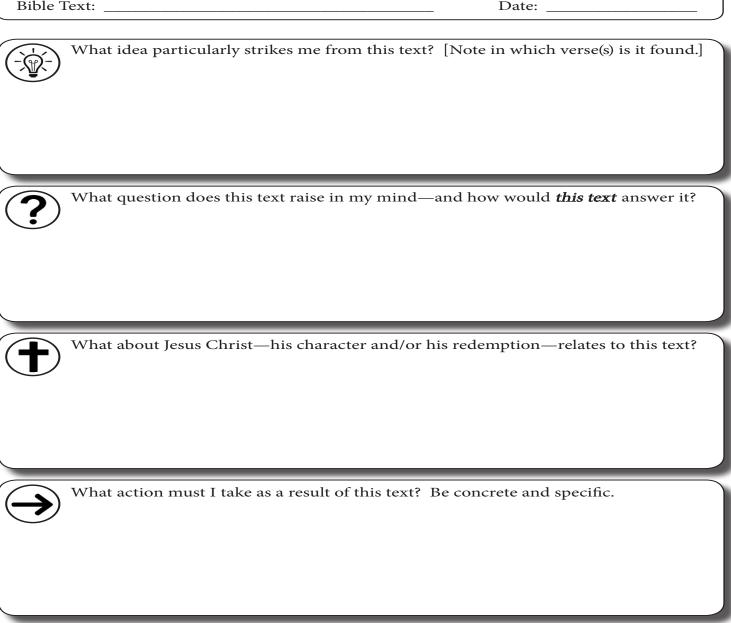
Thursday— Jeremiah 10:12-13

Friday Psalm 71:18

Jeed blank copies for doing mo "Five Question Bible Study"? e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Saturday—In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family, study John 1:1-18.

Bible Text:



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?