

Called in Weakness

Companion Bible Study · Leader's Guide

A People for His Presence · Exodus 3:16–4:17 · Study 6

Purpose

Help participants observe the text and discern how God responds to Moses' fear, genuine limitations, and eventual refusal. The point is not that Moses discovers hidden confidence; God's Word, authority, presence, and provision are sufficient. Lead toward Christ, the greater mediator, not simply toward self-improvement.

Preparation

Read Exodus 3:16–4:17, Exodus 2:11–15, Exodus 4:29–31, Hebrews 3:1–6, and Hebrews 9:11–15. If possible, review the sermon “Called in Weakness.” Bring the participant guide and a Bible for each person. The study stands alone: watching the sermon is not required.

Suggested 55-Minute Flow

- **8 minutes:** Welcome, brief orientation, and reading Exodus 3:16–4:17 aloud.
- **11 minutes:** Section 1 (questions 1–3): God's promised outcomes; distinguish God's direct word to Moses from our personal predictions.
- **10 minutes:** Section 2 (questions 4–6): Moses' fear and the validating signs. If time is short, prioritize questions 4 and 6.
- **10 minutes:** Section 3 (questions 7–9): Genuine weakness and God's promise. Prioritize question 8.
- **9 minutes:** Section 4 (questions 10–12): Refusal, God's anger, and Aaron's assistance. Prioritize questions 10–11.
- **5 minutes:** Section 5 (questions 13–14): Why Christ's greater mediation matters.
- **2 minutes:** Brief response and closing prayer (question 15 can be taken home).

Interpretive Notes

Exodus 3:16–22: A specified promise, not a universal formula. God says Israel's elders will listen, Pharaoh will resist, and God will act to deliver His people. Difficulty is anticipated; it does not defeat God's stated purpose. However, this is a particular promise to Moses in the history of Israel's redemption, not a guarantee that every personal ministry plan or difficult conversation will succeed.

Exodus 4:1–9: Fear and authentication. In 3:18, God says the elders will listen; in 4:1, Moses predicts they will not. His past experience of rejection (2:11–15) may help explain his fear, but it does not override what God has spoken. The signs authenticate God's commission (4:5); do not turn them into a promise that every believer should expect the same signs. Exodus 4:29–31 later reports that the people believed.

Exodus 4:10–12: Weakness is not automatically unbelief. Moses says he struggles with speaking, but the text does not diagnose the cause or prove his self-assessment false. God points to His sovereignty as Creator and promises to be with Moses' mouth and teach him what to say. Avoid minimizing disabilities or treating a need for practical support as spiritual deficiency.

Exodus 4:13–17: Refusal alongside mercy. Moses' request to send someone else marks a sharper resistance, and God's anger is real. Yet He provides Aaron, who helps speak without releasing Moses from his commission. Hold correction and provision together. A participant's reluctance in an ordinary situation is not automatically equivalent to Moses' refusal of direct divine instruction.

Hebrews 3:1–6; 9:11–15: The greater mediator. Moses serves faithfully in God's house; Jesus is the Son over God's house. Christ mediates the new covenant by His own redeeming work. Do not end the study at "be more like Moses." The foundation of Christian hope and obedience is what Christ has accomplished for His people.

Helpful Follow-up Questions

Use these sparingly to bring the conversation back to the Bible: "What words in the passage led you there?" "Is that explicit in the text, or an inference?" "How does the surrounding context affect that conclusion?" "What is promised specifically to Moses, and what can we responsibly apply today?" "How does this point us to Christ?"

Pastoral Care and Group Safety

Invite rather than demand personal disclosure. Some members may be living with trauma, disability, anxiety, exhaustion, relational mistreatment, or grief. Don't turn this passage into pressure to stay in an unsafe situation, accept a church assignment, or comply with someone's subjective claim that God told them to act. Distinguish clear biblical commands from ordinary decisions requiring counsel and discernment. Offer to follow up privately when a participant raises a sensitive concern.

How to Recognize a Fruitful Discussion

Participants can describe what God promised, how Moses responded, why the signs and Aaron mattered, and why Christ is the greater mediator. They are increasingly able to show from Scripture how their conclusions arise. A good session need not produce impressive declarations or forced applications.

Leader's closing prayer prompt: Praise God for His trustworthy Word, confess resistance where appropriate, ask for discernment and mutual help, and thank Him for the sufficiency of Christ.

Related teaching: "Called in Weakness," Exodus 3:16–4:17 · <https://tlw.church/teaching/>