













NO EXCUSES

TOOLBOX

-  THINK
-  OBSERVE
-  CLOSE-UP
-  WRITE
-  DISCUSS
-  FEELINGS
-  BRAINSTORM
-  REFERENCE
-  PASSAGE
-  ARTICLE
-  BIG IDEA
-  CROSSROAD



THINK BACK

Growing up, what was something you were asked to do but because it was so difficult, you thought "No Way!"?



DISCUSS

What are some of our initial responses and feelings when we face a difficult challenge?



DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENTS

Noah - He spent 80 years building an ark in the desert with everyone ridiculing and laughing at him (Genesis 6:13-22).

Abraham - He left his home country (Genesis 12:1-4). He willingly offered his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice to God (Genesis 22:1-12).

Stephen - He faithfully proclaimed Christ in the face of opposition resulting in his death by stoning (Acts 7:54-60).

Esther - She risked death to obey God and protect her people from harm (Esther).

Gideon - He faithfully destroyed Baal cult sites. God used him to defeat the combined army of the Midianites and Amalekites with only 300 men (Judges 6).

Mary - Despite of the embarrassment of being misunderstood, she willingly submitted to the Lord's plan to bear the Son of God through a virgin (Luke 1:26-38).



REFLECT

How often do I feel . . .	Never	Some	Freq.	Always
That God won't help me?	1	2	3	4
That God can't use me?	1	2	3	4
That I can't do what God has called me to do?	1	2	3	4

Let's explore how God deals with our feelings of inadequacy ...



LIFE OF MOSES

Moses was born to Hebrew slaves, but through God's intervention was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter and raised in Pharaoh's household. As a result, he was "educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in word and deeds" (Acts 7:22). Yet Hebrews 11:24,25 tells us Moses "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasure of sin."

At age 40, Moses witnesses an Egyptian taskmaster beating a Hebrew slave and he comes to the defense of his people by killing the

Egyptian. Moses "supposed that his brethren understood that God was granting them deliverance through him, but they did not understand" (Acts 7:20). This becomes clear to him the following day as he attempts to break up a fight between two Jews. Their response is, "who made you ruler over us?" They obviously did not acknowledge his authority as coming from God.

As Pharaoh seeks to kill him, Moses flees to the desert and begins a new life. He marries, has two sons, and goes from being a man of power, to being a shepherd—one of the lowliest jobs of his times.



CONTEXT

As the third chapter of Exodus begins, Moses is 80 years old. He has had forty years to dwell on the enormity of the task of freeing the Israelites, his failure, and God's seeming lack of action. He is shepherding the flock of his father-in-law when he has an encounter in which:

1. God reveals Himself through the miraculous sign of the burning bush and by telling Moses who He is ... "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham" (vv. 1-6);
2. God reveals His concern for His people and His plan to deliver them (vv. 7,8);
3. God reveals His plan to use Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt (v. 10).

Our study begins at this point, where God and Moses dialogue about God's plan and Moses' involvement in it.



DIALOGUE WITH A RELUCTANT LEADER

MOSES SAID . . .		GOD RESPONDED . . .	
What did he say?	What does this reveal about Moses?	What did He say (and do)?	What does this reveal about God?
3:11		3:12	
3:13		3:14 16 18 22	
4:1		4:2-9	
4:10		4:11,12	
4:13		4:14-17	

On the surface what does Moses appear to be struggling with?	What adjectives describe God's character?

PROMISES

MOSES' FOCUS

GOD'S FOCUS



CORE ISSUE

What was Moses *really* struggling with?



SHARE

What are some of Moses' feelings and fears with which you can identify?

1. What choices did Moses have to make?
2. Were his reactions normal? Why? Why not?



DEFINITION

FEAR: A feeling of alarm caused by the expectation of danger, pain, or disaster.

(Amer. Heritage Dic.)



DEFINITION

INADEQUATE: Not adequate; insufficient; not able; incapable.

(Amer. Heritage Dic.)



DISCUSS

What do you learn from the answers God gave Moses?

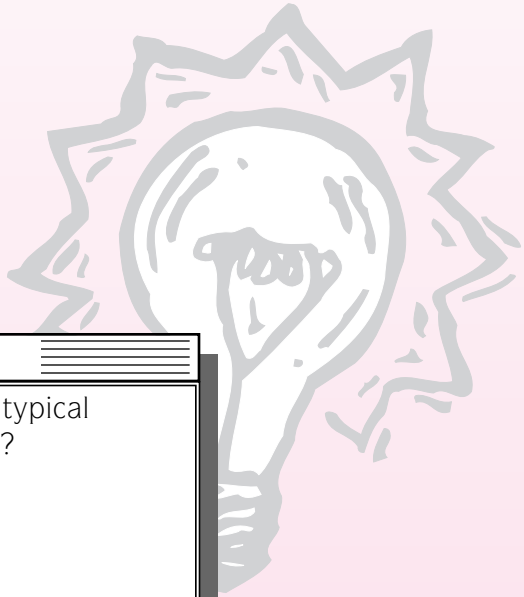




BRAINSTORM



What are some things God asks you to do that seem difficult?



IDENTIFY

What are some of your typical excuses and fears?



ANALYZE

What do your fears and excuses reveal about ...

You?

Your view of God?



CONSIDER

What are God's answers to you?



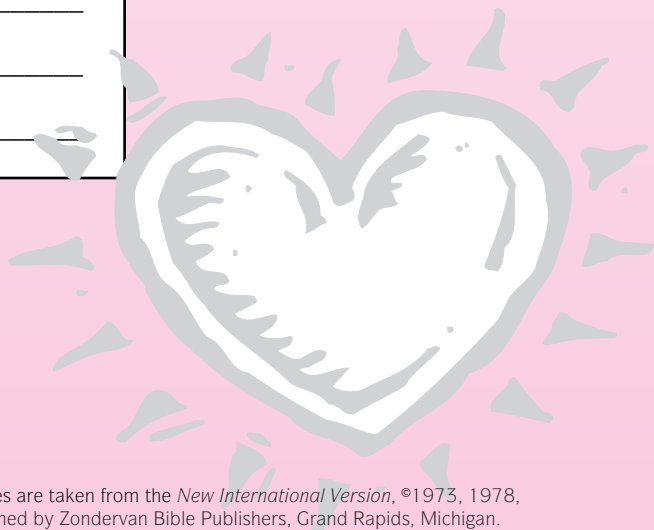
FINISH THIS ...

Okay, God, I'm going to trust you for _____

Though I feel _____

I know you are _____

So I will _____



Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.