

Exodus 4:1 – 5:9

Day 1

God gives Moses Signs. Read Exodus 4:1-14

1. What was Moses' next reaction to God's calling? 4:1 How understandable was his concern?

- How did this directly contradict what God had said? 3:18a

Food for Thought: "Moses second excuse was totally hypothetical. It began with the words, 'What if...?'...Many people feed their minds on the uncertainty of tomorrow, allowing the 'What If' monster to keep a grip around their throats. That's what Moses was doing. He was so worried about what *might* happen he didn't hear God tell him what *would* happen. His mind was filled with imaginary scenarios." - Charles Swindoll (119)

2. List the miracles the LORD performed for Moses. What would they show a power over?

- 4:2-5
- 4:6-8

FYI: "Snakes played an important role in Egyptian religion. The cobra was a symbol of power and especially of power over life. God used this miracle to demonstrate that He has power over the natural creation and that His envoy can defy the power of the gods of Egypt and of Pharaoh himself." - The Africa Bible Commentary (92)

3. What was Moses instructed to do if they did not believe these miracles? 4:9

- How had the LORD answered Moses' concern in 4:1?

FYI: "The Nile provided transportation, as well as water for drinking, washing, and irrigating crops; and its regular floods deposited fertile soil on fields. To alter it indicated the power to destroy all Egyptian life." - The Woman's Study Bible (103)

Moses' resistance

4. How did Moses react to God's miraculous demonstrations? 4:10 (Contrast Acts 7:22)

- Imagine experiencing what Moses had just experienced. In what way(s) is Moses' reaction surprising? In what way is it understandable? How had his focus shifted?

5. What assurance did God give Moses? 4:11,12 (Note: When would Moses receive this ability?)

Food for Thought: "Some have thought it cruel that God would say He **makes the mute, the deaf, . . . the blind**. But the point here is...that He can even call the mute, the deaf, and the blind to do His work - Moses' perceived inadequacies don't matter at all...If Moses was a poor speaker, it didn't matter - the mighty God said **I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say**. By extension, God can be the sufficiency for a person, no matter what real or imagined inadequacies they have."
 - David Guzik

Digging Deeper
 Compare the struggles of the following men, and God's promises.
 - Gideon: Judges 6:15,16
 - Jeremiah: Jeremiah 1:6-9
 - Paul: 1 Corinthians 2:3-5

6. What was Moses' last response to being called? 4:13

7. Why do you think this last objection made God angry (4:14)? (i.e. How was this different than his previous questions or doubts?)

- In spite of His anger, what did God provide? 4:14
- What had God already been arranging?

8. Fill in the following chart by summarizing God's answer.

Moses' question/objection/excuse	God's answer
<i>3:11 "Who am I"</i>	<i>3:12 I will be with you.</i>
<i>3:13 Now they may say to me, "What is His name?" What shall I say to them?"</i>	<i>3:14,15</i>
<i>4:1 "What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say?"</i>	<i>4:2-9</i>
<i>4:10 "Please, LORD, I have never been eloquent ...for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."</i>	<i>4:11,12</i>
<i>4:13 "Please, LORD, now send the message by whomever You will."</i>	<i>4:14-17</i>

- What does this say about Moses' focus and the focus God was always pointing to?

Applying the Word: What are some of the “what ifs”, fears, or insecurities that you deal with? What do God’s instructions to Moses teach you?
(Read Romans 8:31-39 and thank God for His boundless love!)

Day 2

God Provides Aaron. Read Exodus 4:15-23

9. What part did Moses have in relationship to Aaron? 4:15,16b

- How was Aaron going to serve Moses? 4:16
- What does that say about Moses’ position versus Aaron’s?

FYI: “God accommodated Moses’ desire. But the compromise was less than the best; brother Aaron proved to be an albatross around his neck. It was Aaron who got impatient while Moses was on the mountain and created a golden calf for the people to worship.”
- Charles Swindoll (126)

10. What part was the staff going to play? 4:17 What would this indicate to Moses and Aaron?

11. Why do you think God didn’t give up on Moses in spite of all his objections? (What does this reveal to you about God?)

Digging Deeper

What does the I Corinthians 1:26-29 say about the kind of people God uses?

Why? 2 Corinthians 4:7

Moses leaves for Egypt

12. Interestingly, what did Moses do before he left? 4:18 What does Jethro’s response say about their relationship?

13. How did the LORD reassure Moses before he left for Egypt? 4:19 (*How do you think Moses felt about that information?*)

14. Who and what went with Moses? What does taking these indicate about Moses' decision and trust in God? 4:20



15. What further revelation did God give Moses in 4:21? (Mark the words "let the/my people go" and "harden(ed)" throughout Exodus.)

- Who was responsible for this hardened heart at first? See 7:13,14; 22; 8:15,19,32; 9:7,34,35

FYI: "It was Pharaoh's own stubbornness from beginning to end that led to his destruction. This stubbornness was rooted in his awareness of the economic consequences of the Israelite's departure...and was expressed in refusal to acknowledge or submit God...We must also remember the Egyptians' contempt and hatred for Hebrews (1:8-10)...All these elements combined to make Pharaoh blind to reason and led him to persist in his folly...God does not ignore those who close their ears and hearts to him. When God hardens someone's heart, it is because he has begun to judge that person for refusing his light and His purpose. The more one closes one's heart, the deeper one is drawn into disobedience. One's choices have logical consequences." - The Africa Bible Commentary (93)

16. Underline what is associated with Pharaoh's hardened heart:

- Exodus 7:13 Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said. NASU
- Exodus 8:32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go. NASU
- Exodus 9:34 But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. NASU

17. What is the condition of mankind's' heart apart from the LORD? Jeremiah 17:9

- How wicked had mankind's heart become before the flood? Genesis 6:5

18. How is Christ the remedy for our hearts? Ephesians 3:16-17

Applying the Word: Where is God nudging you to step out in faith? What questions or doubts do you have? What is a first step that you can take?

Day 3

God Confronts Moses. Read Exodus 4:24-26

19. What extreme final consequence did God tell Moses there would be for Egypt? 4:22-23

- What does calling Israel His *firstborn* indicate about their position and calling? (See Exodus 19:5,6)

20. How the term “firstborn” is used of King David in Psalm 89:26-28

- What titles is Christ given in Colossians 1:15,18?

FYI: “The **firstborn** son in patriarchal society...became the head of the family upon his father's death, having received his father's blessing (Gen 27) and a double portion of the inheritance (Deut 21:17)...Of special significance is the divine claim that Israel was God's firstborn (Exod 4:22-23). This signified Israel's favored status among the nations to be in covenant relationship with God. But it also meant Israel had a priestly function to perform as God's saving light to Gentile peoples.”
- Luke L. Keefer, Jr.
<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/firstborn/>

“This expression is applied to Jesus in several New Testament passages...In Col 1:15, Jesus is described as the “firstborn over all creation,” indicating that He existed before creation and actually participated in the creation process (John 1:3)...The phrase, “firstborn from the dead” (Col 1:18; Rev 1:5), refers to Jesus' resurrection, which assures victory over sin and death to all who trust in Him.”
- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

“Israel, considered collectively, is God's first-born, presumably as being His chosen people and as ‘first-fruits’ of all his peoples (Jer. 2:3).”
- R. Alan Cole (78)

21. What strange event occurred on the way to Egypt? 4:24 (See Exodus 18:3 for the names of Moses' two sons.)

- God had just warned what it would cost Pharaoh if he stood against God. (4:23) How was Moses doing the same thing with his firstborn son? 4:25,26

22. Fill in the information about the covenants God made:

Person(s)	Covenant	Sign and it's meaning
Gen 9:9-10,17	Gen 9:11	Gen 9:12-16
Gen 17:7	Gen 17:4-6,8 (See also 15:18-21)	Gen 17:11-14

23. In the following, underline the penalty or prohibition connected with being uncircumcised.
- Genesis 17:14 Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." NIV
 - Exodus 12:48 "But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it. NASU
 - What does this say about the seriousness of this issue?

24. How do you think Zipporah knew what the problem was? (What tone do you hear in Zipporah's words to Moses in 4:26? Anger, fear, contempt, devotion...? Explain.)

25. What was the result of Zipporah's actions? 4:26a

26. Why do you think the LORD dealt so severely with Moses? Why do you think the LORD had waited to deal with this issue now as Moses was on his way to Egypt? (See a page in the back of the homework for commentaries about the event in 4:21-26.)

Applying the Word: Are there any areas of your life that you have neglected to bring before the Lord? Do you see any consequences because of that?

Day 4

Aaron Comes to Moses. Read Exodus 4:27-5:9

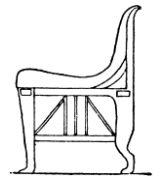
27. Where and why did Aaron come to Moses? 4:27 (Apparently, when had Aaron received this message? 4:14b)

28. What did Moses and Aaron communicate to the elders? 4:30

- How did the people respond? 4:31 Cf. 3:18a

Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh

29. By whose authority did Moses make his request to Pharaoh? 5:1



- Rather than the complete release that God had promised (3:8,17), what was Moses' request? 5:1b

FYI: Please, let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD our God: "Moses relayed the demand God first gave him back at Exodus 3:18. God presented the smaller request to Pharaoh first so that the request would be as appealing and as easy to accept as possible. He did this so Pharaoh would have no excuse at all for refusing God and hardening his heart... This confrontation took tremendous courage, and Moses and Aaron should be commended for their obedience to God in doing it. Pharaoh was nothing like a public servant; the entire public lived to serve the Pharaoh. His power and authority were supreme and there was no constitution or law or legislature higher or even remotely equal to him. The Pharaohs were said to be the children of the sun; they were friends to the greatest gods of Egypt and sat with them in their own temples to receive worship alongside them."
- David Guzik

30. Why did Pharaoh refuse? 5:2

"Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice...?"

⇒ Pharaoh's heart

31. What authority did Moses and Aaron attach to the request? 5:3a

- What consequences did they warn about? 5:3b (In what way was their approach polite, reasonable, and realistic?)

32. Instead of focusing on the message or God's authority, who did Pharaoh focus on next and attack? 5:4

33. What was Pharaoh's reason for not letting the people go? 5:5

- What conditions did he put on the people's work? 5:7,8a

34. What motive did Pharaoh give for the complaints? 5:8b

- How did he label Moses' message? 5:9

FYI: "Straw has an acidic content that makes the bricks stronger. The use of straw in making bricks in Egypt during this period is confirmed by archaeology. 'Bricks of all sorts have been found in Egypt, some with regularly chopped straw, some with rough roots and oddments, some without straw at all.' (Cole)" - David Guzik

Applying the Word: *What do you see as ways to approach someone with God's Word/authority about issues in a loving, non-confrontational but realistic way versus an argumentative, harsh way?*

Questions and Discoveries: