



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

A FOUR-PART SERIES ON FOUR LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTERS WITH THE DIVINE

DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 2 (SEPTEMBER 14-20)

MOSES: NO MORE EXCUSES

WELCOME.

WORSHIP.

Sing: *I SURRENDER (Hillsong)*

WORD.

Introduction: Wanted for murder, Moses flees the only home he ever knew and tries to start a new life among strangers who became his family. Living a satisfactory life, God miraculously showed up with an expressed purpose for him to return to the land he ran away from, to free his people and lead them to the land they were meant to be in. God helps Moses battle with his self-doubt and disobedience, and put his trust in God so Moses can yield to God's purpose.

Scripture: EXODUS 3:1 to 4:18

Dig Deep into God's Word:

1. Where was Moses and what was he doing when the angel of the Lord appeared to him? (3:1-2) Who called to Moses from the burning bush and how did He identify Himself? (3:4-6)
2. What did God tell Moses He had come down to do for His people? (3:8) Through whom was God going to bring His people out of Egypt? (3:10) By what name is God to be remembered in every generation?
3. What was Moses supposed to ask the king of Egypt and what did God say the king's reaction would be? How was God planning to deal with the Egyptian king's obstinance as revealed to Moses?
4. The exchange between the Lord and Moses consists of a series of questions and responses. Look up the questions Moses asked (and his excuses) and the responses God gave him. Read the following: 3:11-12, 3:13-15, 4:1-9, 4:10-16. What is significance of these questions in Moses head, and the answers that God gave?
5. Which of the questions did God not answer directly? Why? Can you identify with Moses and with his feelings of inadequacy? What are some areas in which God might want to use you, but in which you are holding back, perhaps out of fear?
6. How was God going to equip Moses to be able to prove to the people that the Lord did send him?
7. Who has God brought into my life at just the right time to help me with what I am facing? How has God shown patience with me in times of doubt and reluctance to obey?

WORK.

Apply God's Word:

1. Moses had no clue what his purpose was until His divine encounter. From this story, how can we develop a true knowledge of ourselves and our true purpose? Where should we start the process?
2. God showed Moses signs and wonders to convince him. What is the purpose of signs and wonders? Read John 20:30-31. Do we need to seek signs and wonders before we believe that God is calling us? Read John 20:29.

3. What promises, and encouragement does God give me today that He is with me and for me even in the face of fearful or challenging circumstances?
4. Like Moses, God is calling us to get involved in His rescue plan to set people free and be saved. How has God included us in His great rescue plan through Jesus and in what ways do we get involved in helping people become free from the slavery of sin and death?
5. Is every Christian required to be involved in helping people receive freedom in Christ by sharing the Gospel? Yes or no? What is your excuse for not getting involved?
6. Will you trust God's power and believe that He will be with you when you evangelize others?