



FOR GROUPS MEETING: April 20- 25

SERIES: Growth

## INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Imagine if you can when the first time that you ever swam in a pool. Did you have floaties on? Was your parent accompanying you? Was it a part of a swim lesson? Most of us would say yes to one of these scenarios. The point being that when you first decided to swim, you didn't do it alone without any instruction or help. Imagine how disastrous it could have been to be thrown into the deep end without any idea what to do. Unfortunately this is sometimes what happens with those who decide to follow Jesus, they commit and are thrown into the rigors of life (the deep end) without any help or instruction.

On a special Sunday like Easter many people make decisions to either start following Jesus or recommitting their lives to follow Jesus. We as a church are setting aside the next two weeks to discuss how we as believers can continue in growing in our faith. This week we will look into the life of Moses. We will see that one of the biggest catalysts for Spiritual growth is taking our eyes off of ourselves and placing our focus on God.

## TO COMPLETE THIS WEEK'S STUDY

- You will need:
  - A Bible
  - A quiet place for prayer, reading, and reflection
  - A pencil or a pen
- Read the **Introduction to Study**.
- Move through the daily studies consecutively.
- Open and close each day in prayer.
- Meditate on each question as you feel led.
- Record your answers in the space to the right of each day's questions.
- If you miss a day, don't worry. Simply pick up where you left off.

### **Dig Deeper**

*Some people would like to go deeper in their study. If you would like to do so and have the time, please take advantage of the Dig Deeper sections of this Group Life lesson.*



PASSION FOR GOD. COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE.

# (day 1)

**Prayer:** Lord help me to love You more this week than I did last week.

**Intro:** *This week we will be looking at a few stories that teach the importance of keeping our focus on God rather than ourselves. We will see in these stories why this is important. The first story will be that of Moses.*

**Read: Exodus 3:7-11**

**1.) What does God say to Moses? What request does He make of Moses? What could have been going on in the mind of Moses at this point?**

**2.) What was Moses' reply to God? What does His answer reveal about where his focus was? How does God remedy this in His response in v.12?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Try to put yourself in the shoes of Moses.**

**What would you say to God?**

**What does your response say about where your focus is?**



# (day 2)

**Prayer:** Lord help my faith in You supersede any fear of doubt that might try to prevent me from accomplishing what You have called me to.

**Read:** Exodus 4:1-9

**Intro:** *In Moses' dialogue here He turns His focus onto the fact that people won't listen to Him or follow Him. God once again speaks to this in a unique way.*

**1.) What excuse does Moses give God in this section for why he shouldn't do what God is calling him to?**

**2.) How does God reply to this excuse? In verse 5 God tells Moses what the result of this will be? Will the people need to be impressed with Moses or with Who sent Moses?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Are there times when you let the fear of how people might respond keep you from following God?**

**How does changing our focus even in this circumstance help us?**



# (day 3)

**Prayer:** Lord help me to know that You are the one who works in and through us to carry out Your mission. May this encourage confidence in Your strength rather than fear in my frailties.

**Intro:** *In this last exchange that we will look at between Moses and God, Moses informs God that He is not good enough at speaking to do what God had called Him to. Moses has placed his focus on his perceived weakness rather than God's strength.*

**Read: Exodus 4:10-16**

**1.) What excuse does Moses give God this time? How is this different from his earlier excuses?**

**2.) At first glance it may appear that God agreed with Moses and thus chose Aaron to help Moses, but that is not really the answer God gave Moses. Read vv.12 &15; who is the one that will be talking?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**This belief that we are not good enough or talented enough to be used by God is one of the most crippling lies that keep Christians from growing and serving.**

**Do you ever feel as though you aren't good enough to do what God has called you to?**

**How does what God told Moses speak to that situation?**



# (day 4)

**Pray:** Lord help me see how important my focus is during the storms of life. When I focus on you I float but when placed back on myself I sink.

**Intro:** *Another area of life where our focus comes into play is during the storms of our lives. We will look at a storm in the life of Peter and see how Focus changed everything?*

**Read: Matthew 14:22-33**

**1.) What did Jesus call Peter to do in the midst of the storm? Was he successful at first?**

**2.) What happened to make Peter start sinking? What does this teach us about where our focus should be in trials?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Why do you think Jesus rebukes Peter for having little faith?**

**In the passage we see that Peter exhibited faith and fear. The difference between the two was where his focus was.**

**How does our focus change our response to either fear or faith?**



# (day 5)

**Prayer:** Lord help me to trust that your power is made perfect in my weakness.

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**Intro:** *It is important to note that nearly every scholar agrees that this passage is not speaking of sin, but rather an ailment or perceived weakness that would keep Paul from being his best. Most believe this was referring to the fact that Paul was probably going blind but regardless the message applies to us and our perceived weaknesses as well.*

**1.) What does Paul do with his perceived weakness? (v.7)**

**2.) How does God's response to Paul encapsulate everything that we have spoken about this week?**

## DIGGING DEEPER:

**What are some perceived weaknesses that you believe you have?**

**Do you believe that God's grace is sufficient for you in them?**

**How can you remind yourself of this next time you feel inadequate?**

