

# GROWTHguide

**"Always There"**

January 28, 2018



## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Exodus 3:1-6, Exodus 3:7-11, Ephesians 2:1-10,  
Matthew 4:1-9, Exodus 3:2

### DAY 1

Read [Exodus 3:1-6](#)

- **What are your thoughts about the bush that is on fire but not consumed?**
- **Why does God tell Moses not to come closer?**
- **How do you feel when it comes time for you to approach God?**

### DAY 2

Read [Exodus 3:7-11](#)

God is a God of justice.

- **How does God engage Moses into the plan to free the Israelites?**
- **Has there been a time when you were confronted with an issue of justice? How did you get involved? What was the outcome? If you did not get involved, why not?**
- **Why do you think Moses was giving excuses and choosing not to do as God asked?**

At this juncture of his life, Moses had become a shepherd, and was no longer the Prince of Egypt.

- **Why do you think many of us do not aspire to greater things? What holds us back?**
- **What is the one thing you feel God is asking you to do? What are you doing about it?**

## **DAY 3**

**Read [Ephesians 2:1-10](#)**

We were created to fulfill God's plan of reconciling a broken world back unto God. This means surrendering our desire to pursue our own life's goals and instead, pursuing the goals God has for our life.

**Take a moment and write out what you believe to be your personal life goals. On another sheet of paper, write down your goals based upon Paul's words to the church in Ephesus.**

- **How are they different? How are they the same?**

Part of the process of sanctification is making us a new creation so that we become the arms, legs, and heart of Jesus Christ on earth. It has been said that sanctification is seeing not your personal reflection when you look into a mirror, but the face of Jesus.

- **What do you see when you look in a mirror?**
- **If you aren't seeing Jesus, what changes are you willing to make to your life so that you do?**
- **Paul says we are all God's "workmanship." What does he mean by this?**

## **DAY 4**

## Read [Matthew 4:1-9](#)

Moses had to journey through stages of life in order to fulfill God's dream for him. Pastor Bob shared that the first stage is the one of Self-Ascension when we struggle with Appetite (wanting to gain the riches of the world), Approval (compromising our values so that we can be part of the "in" crowd), and Ambition (climbing the ladder to a greater life).

- **What do we learn from Jesus in Matthew 4? How did he deal with the battle of self-ascension?**
- **In what ways are you growing in Christ so as not to fall prey to this life stage?**

In [Luke 14:18-20](#) we learn God throws a party for all to be recipients of his grace.

- **Look at the excuses being made by those receiving the invitation. How are you just like the people in the parable? What excuses have you made?**

## DAY 5

### Read [Exodus 3:3](#)

In his message, Pastor Bob described the second life stage when something happens to cause a crisis of faith which challenges our belief structure and spawns an awakening. These happen to us all and come in the form of illness, unemployment, relationship struggles... Think of a time when you had to face a crisis of belief.

- **How did you handle it? Did you run from God or to God? Why?**

Moses found himself turning to see the burning bush. In Hebrew, the translation of the word used for turning

means, "to move away from life's normalcy to seek a new path."

- **What did Moses discover when he "turned" towards the bush?**

God leads us daily to discover our purpose. The question is whether or not we will stop what we are doing long enough to pay attention. Take time today to stop all of your activities and meditate on God's voice.

- **What is God saying? For what purpose are you being called?**
- **How will you live into the purpose?**

## DAY 6

Today is a day of reflection. Spend some time away from distractions and quietly listen to God. Pray that his voice and guidance will be clear to you as he turns you toward your purpose. Thank him for always being there to stretch you beyond your own capabilities and strength.

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