

INTRO

- What is your memorable childhood summer vacation?

Faith is fundamental to following Jesus. This series explores faith as a journey and how our faith, like a muscle, can and must be exercised to grow and strengthen.

READ

Gen 3:1-12 CSB

REFLECT & RESPOND

Moses' journey of faith started with an overwhelming call to follow God in saving His people. His response was not an immediate, positive, resounding yes but a series of questions of doubt and fear. He also made excuses and explained to God why he was not the perfect fit for the mission. Amidst all his mixed emotions, God provided assurances that eventually led him to follow.

Qu: What assurances did God make to Moses to help him overcome his doubt, fear, and excuses?

1. Assurance of God's presence and character

He answered, "I will certainly be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I am the one who sent you: when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship God at this mountain." [14] God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." — Exodus 3:12,14 CSB

Doubts stem from past experiences, failures, and lack of information. Hence, God telling Moses of His presence and character provides assurance to counter his doubt. God saying, "I will be with you" and "I am who I am" to Moses is enough to defuse his doubts.

2. Assurance of God's power

Webster's Dictionary (1828) defines fear as a painful emotion or passion excited by an

expectation of evil or the apprehension of impending danger.

Moses answered, "What if they won't believe me and will not obey me but say, 'The LORD did not appear to you!'" [2] The LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. — Exodus 4:1-2 CSB

God's call for Moses was clear, compelling, and massive—in other words, it was just too big for him. God patiently answered his "What if" questions by demonstrating His power to Moses. This shows how God can use ordinary things for extraordinary purposes.

Qu: In light of following God in your life, what are your "what if" questions that you would like to ask Him?

3. Assurance of God's provision

But Moses replied to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent—either in the past or recently or since you have been speaking to your servant—because my mouth and my tongue are sluggish." [13] Moses said, "Please, Lord, send someone else." — Exodus 4:10, 13 CSB

Moses' lack of motivation and desire to avoid responsibility is reflected in the questions he asked God despite the assurances He had already given. Left to Moses, he would not want to be bothered by it, so he asked God to send someone else instead. God provided help to Moses so he could still follow Him in his call to save the Israelites.

CLOSE

Following God differs from person to person. Yet we have hope through Jesus Christ. Jesus perfectly exemplifies faith and obedience. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He faced the ultimate test of faith and obedience. Despite His anguish, He submitted to God's will. Through His grace, we can also have faith that overcomes doubts, fears, and excuses.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for faith that overcomes doubt, fear, and excuses.