

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

O Come All Ye Faithful, Everlasting God, Revelation Song, Way Maker

## WELCOME

Have you been disappointed about something lately? Or do you feel like you have been a disappointment to God and others? How does disappointment affect the way you live your life and relate to others and God?

## WORD

### ACTS 7:30-37

<sup>30</sup>After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning thorn bush. <sup>31</sup>When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look more closely, there came the voice of the Lord: <sup>32</sup>'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.' Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look. <sup>33</sup>But the Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground. <sup>34</sup>I have certainly seen the oppression of My people in Egypt and have heard their groans, and I have come down to rescue them; come now, and I will send you to Egypt.' <sup>35</sup>'This Moses whom they disowned, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one whom God sent to be both a ruler and a deliverer with the help of the angel who appeared to him in the thorn bush. <sup>36</sup>This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt and in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. <sup>37</sup>This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren.'

**Read Exodus 1:6-22; chapters 2-4 & 11, Deuteronomy 31:1-8; 23-27; 34:1-8, Matthew 17:1-3**

Failures and unmet expectations can drive us to deep disappointments — with ourselves, others, or even towards God. But can we TURN DISAPPOINTMENTS INTO BLESSINGS? By trusting God through it all, we can! For most people, they begin to withdraw when they are disappointed. They immerse themselves in destructive vices, allow their moral lives to go wild, or stop being intimate with God. So how can we respond in a more God-glorifying way whenever we encounter disappointments?

Let's learn valuable lessons from MOSES as we look at three parts of his story:

### FIRST 40 YEARS: A SOMEBODY

Egyptians had a different perspective about Jews in their land compared to their ancestors (**Exodus 1:22**). This was a generation that has forgotten Joseph and how he had saved Egypt. The new government treated Israelites harshly. God allowed this because He did not want his people to be so comfortable in Egypt. It was time to move into the Promise Land. If you were not trusting God to fulfill His promises, you will see this as desperate times. But the parents of Moses trusted in God and hid their infant son from the Egyptians who wanted to kill all baby boys to control Israel's growth. The decision to have Moses float in a basket down the river brought him to Pharaoh's daughter who kept him safe (**Exodus 2:5-6**). Trusting God means trusting His timing -- to trust that GOD is in CONTROL even through hard times.

God allowed circumstances to work in such a way that Moses can be "homeschooled" by his own mother!  
**Hebrews 11:23-24** The faith of Moses' parents enabled

them to keep him safe—in the arms of the Egyptian princess! Yet, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter — he knew who he was. While people knew him to be a prince of Egypt, for Moses, his identity was never in question. However, Moses used his own ways to try to rescue his people from their taskmasters. He killed an Egyptian to save an Israelite slave. But Moses' way of delivering Israel couldn't "hold water" – it had to be God's way. He had to learn this through brokenness – as a fugitive running away from the consequences of the grave sin he committed.

### SECOND 40 YEARS: A NOBODY

As he entered the next 40 years of his life, Moses had to deal with a wilderness experience – he was a man with no country of his own; a former "somebody" turned into a "nobody" (**Exodus 2:15**). Seasons like these can sound like it's the end of the road for us. Moses was seemingly put on a shelf, discarded and rendered useless. From the pinnacle of power and influence, he ended up as a shepherd of a in the Midian desert. He tended sheep every day for forty years. God capitalized on the silence and solitude of Moses in this season of brokenness. But it was at this time that Moses encountered God through a burning bush (**Exodus 3**). He has learned silence, solitude, and obscurity, preparing him to discover who GOD is (**Exodus 3:6-7**). But Moses' solitude in the wilderness had a rather sad effect on him: when God commissioned him to finally deliver Israel, he had so many excuses (**vv. 10-22**)! He has lost all confidence in his abilities acquired in Egypt, and he had too many "what if's". A fresh encounter with the Living God – His promises, His power, His Lordship – will change even the hardest of

## WORD (cont'd)

hearts, and as God answered Moses' every doubt, no other choice was left but to obey the Sovereign LORD. At about 80 years old, Moses received his call to go back to Egypt and deliver the Israelites. God assured him of His presence and enabling power as Moses fulfills this mission. How many of us think that our later years in life are retirement years? Moses proved to us that it is never too late for God to use us mightily!

### THIRD 40 YEARS: SOMEONE EXTRAORDINARY

The last 40 years of Moses shows us an improved version of his character. Now more yielded to God, obedient to His will, Moses by God's consistent presence and empowering was able to take millions of Israelites out of Egypt (*after plagues were sent by God to Egypt, and after a series of Pharaoh's hardening of heart*). With the Passover instituted, the angel of death's last blow to Egypt brought the Jews out of the oppressing country they once called home. They crossed the Red Sea on dry ground, in itself a desirable ending – but Moses' adventure had just begun. There were many disappointments on the way to the Promised Land – the people's complaints and grumbling, their disobedience and rebellion against God and Moses.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. How do you normally handle disappointments and failures? Based on our lesson, how can you improve?
2. What will it look like for you to trust and wait on God to turn your disappointments into blessings?
3. Are you using your years for God's mission? No matter what period of life you are in, Christmas is a great time to let others know about Jesus who delivers us from our sins. What will you do this holiday season to do just that?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for the people that God wants you to help "deliver" from the slavery of sin. Take advantage of the Christmas season to care and share to family, friends, officemates, even strangers about the Savior who was sent by God to save us.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

*One's capacity to handle disappointments is proportionate to your intimacy with God.* Moses knew the God he was serving, and so even in the hardships, trials, and his occasional failures, Moses' heart was fixed on obeying the King of kings. Towards the end of the journey, God tells Moses that he was not going to enter the Promise Land. Can you imagine how greatly disappointed Moses would have been? And yet when God told him to appoint a new leader, he talked to Joshua wholeheartedly (**Deuteronomy 31:7**). Moses spoke highly of GOD, and relayed God's promise to Joshua. Years of brokenness and willingness to obey God all out enabled Moses to do this. Even if he was still physically able to lead the Israelites across the border into the Promised Land, Moses accepted God's will without complaint. Perhaps the greatest redemption to Moses' story is encapsulated in these two facts: God has acknowledged him to be faithful (**Hebrews 3:2, 5**). The other redemptive note is in **Matthew 17**, at the Transfiguration of Jesus, where we meet Moses on that mountain inside the Promise Land! Today, Moses is held in high regard by most people. It took time, and it took many steps of brokenness, but GOD was faithful in accomplishing His mission for this man. God will do the same thing in our lives as we TRUST IN HIM to turn our disappointments into blessings!