



Equip Christian congregations to minister with adults with intellectual disabilities

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# 2024 Discussion Booklet

**Day 1 - HE IS WORTHY  
GOD IS HOLY**  
God appears to Moses in the burning bush  
(Exodus 3:1-12 )

**Day 1  
BIBLE VERSE**

*“God spoke to him from inside the bush. He called out, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am,” Moses said. “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground.””*

*Exodus 3:4-5 (NIRV)*



Our story today starts in Exodus chapter 3. Moses was 80 years old. Moses grew up in Egypt as the adopted son of the Pharaoh’s daughter. Moses had to flee to the desert because he murdered an Egyptian out of anger. The Egyptian was beating a fellow Hebrew. Moses hid himself for 40 years and became a shepherd in the land of Midian.

*“Moses was taking care of the flock of his*

*father-in-law Jethro. Jethro was the priest of Midian. Moses led the flock to the western side of the desert. He came to Horeb. It was the mountain of God.”*

**REFERENCES**

**Images**



**Bible References**

New-International-Readers-Version-NIRV-Bible/

## IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

### Day 1

- Only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is holy.
- God is holy and perfect and set apart from anyone or anything else that is sinful. There is no one better than God,
- God wants a relationship with us so He sent His only Son Jesus to die for our sins so we can live in the presence of a perfect God.
- God had a mission for Moses and God has a mission for us. God promises to go with us on our mission.

### Day 2

- Only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is powerful.
- God's uses His power to lead His people.
- God's uses His power to protect and save His people.
- We need to trust in God's loving power and not our own because His ways are perfect.

### Day 3

- Only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is loving.
- God's love is a perfect love. It is a sacrificial love and never expects anything in return.
- God's love forgives even when it is not deserved.
- God sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for the forgiveness of our sins.



*“There the angel of the Lord appeared to him from inside a burning bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire. But it didn’t burn up. So Moses thought, “I’ll go over and see this strange sight. Why doesn’t the bush burn up?””*

*“... God spoke to him from inside the bush. He called out, “Moses! Moses!””*

*“Here I am,” Moses said. “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground.” “*

God told Moses not to come any closer. He literally stopped Moses in his tracks because he was approaching the presence of God which was “Holy Ground”.

Another way to think about the Holiness of God, is think about the best person you know. Do you think they ever did anything wrong? Did they ever sin? Even the best person you know has sinned. The God we worship has never sinned. He is perfect, He is Holy, and because of this, **God is worthy of our worship and praise.**



The passage continues,  
*“I am the God of your father.  
I am the God of Abraham.  
I am the God of Isaac. And  
I am the God of Jacob.”*  
When Moses heard that, he  
turned his face away. He  
was afraid to look at God.”



Moses was afraid to look at  
God because God’s  
perfection made him aware of his own sinfulness.

Maybe Moses remembered that he murdered an Egyptian 40 years earlier, along with a thousand other sins. This made him afraid to look at the Most Holy and perfect God. So, he hid his face.

**In our sinfulness we also hide from God. But God knows all our sins, yet He still wants a relationship with us and He has a purpose for our lives.**



When we approach God, like  
Moses, we need to be  
humbled by knowing we are  
sinners. We can only be  
saved by the free gift of  
God’s grace. This grace is  
given to us through the work  
of Jesus who died on the  
cross for our sins. **In  
gratitude, we can  
approach this perfect and**

**Holy God who is worthy of our praise and worship.**

## Discussion Questions Continued

- Why was worshipping a golden calf not a good idea?
- Why was God going to destroy the Israelites?
- What did Moses do when God said He would destroy them?

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What do we love more than God? (What is our golden calf)?
- What are some ways we can worship God?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT IT

- Only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is loving.
- God's love is a perfect love. It is a sacrificial love and never expects anything in return.
- God's love forgives even when it is not deserved.
- God sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for the forgiveness of our sins.

**If your Gathering does not have Day 3 Discussion Group time, we encourage you to work on these questions at home.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How did God show His love to the Israelites?
- How is God's love seen in your life today?

God had an important mission to send Moses on, and God has a mission for all of us as well.



The LORD told Moses, *“I have seen how my people are suffering in Egypt. I have heard them cry out because of their slave drivers. I am concerned about their suffering. So, I have **come down** to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them up out of that land. I will bring them into a good land. It has a*

*lot of room. It is a land that has plenty of milk and honey. And now Israel’s cry for help has reached me. I have seen how badly the Egyptians are treating them.”*

God knew the suffering His people were experiencing as slaves in Egypt and He wanted Moses to lead them to freedom.

**God may be sending you on a mission to help someone.**

*“The Lord said to Moses, “So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh. I want you to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. They are my people.””*

God was sending Moses to tell Pharaoh to “let God’s people go!”

*“But Moses spoke to God. “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?” he said. “Who am I that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?””*





*“God said, “I will be with you....  
When you have brought the  
people out of Egypt, all of you will  
worship me on this mountain.””*

Like Moses, none of us are worthy of the mission God has for us because we are all sinners. But God still goes with us. We are to respond to God the same way

Moses responded. **We are to give God all our worship and praise because He is holy and worthy.**

- Only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is holy.
- God is holy (perfect) and set apart from everyone because we are sinful. There is no one better than God, and we should give Him all our worship and praise.
- God wants a relationship with us so He sent His only Son Jesus to die for our sins. Jesus paid the price for our sins so we can live in the presence of a perfect God.
- God had a mission for Moses and God has a mission for us. Like Moses, God promises to go with us on our mission.

**LET'S THINK  
ABOUT IT**

John 3:16 reads “*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.*”

Think about this. God sent His Son Jesus, and Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. This is an amazing demonstration of God's goodness to us. Through the Holy Spirit we have the presence of God all the time, to help us, comfort us, guide us, and give us rest. **Because of His love, God is truly worthy of our praise and worship;**



Yes, God kept His promise that He made to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob, but He wasn't going with them. God said He would send an angel ahead of them. God was going to withdraw His presence. He was going to give them the land, but without Him.



In Exodus 33 Moses continues to plead with God on behalf of His chosen people. Moses said to the Lord, *"You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' If you are pleased with me, teach*

*me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."*

The LORD could see Moses' humility, and that Moses cared about God's people. *"The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.""*

*And the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.""*

*'Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory.""*

*"And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence.""*

In God's perfect love, we all know that God sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins. That was a sacrificial love. God has also promised that He will never leave us.

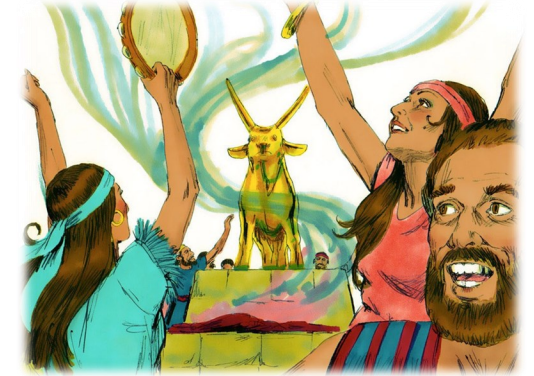
## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why was the mountain where Moses saw the burning bush important?
- Who appeared inside the burning bush?
- What did God tell Moses to do after He called out his name?
- What did God tell Moses He was going to "come down" and do for His people?
- How was Moses part of God's plan?
- What did God tell Moses His people would do after He brought them out of Egypt?

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think Moses was afraid to look at God?
- What are some ways you come near to God?
- How do we approach God? How can we acknowledge His holiness?

*took all their earrings and cast an idol in the shape of a calf. The Israelites said, "Here is your god, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." Many of the people worshipped the golden calf.*



In spite of all that God had done for the Israelites, they chose to bow down and worship a golden calf. They exclaimed this was their god who brought them out of Egypt. They became so caught up in worshipping the golden calf that they started to do things that were sinful against God.

Just as God was giving them His Word to guide their lives, they sinned against Him by making and worshipping an idol rather than worshipping the one true God.



Moses went to the Israelites and told them they had committed a great sin. He then humbled himself and went to the Lord asking Him to forgive His chosen people.

Exodus 33:1-3 *"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place. You and the people you brought up out of Egypt must leave it. Go up to*

*the land I promised to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I said to them, 'I will give it to your children after you.' I will send an angel ahead of you. I will drive out (your enemies)... Go up to the land that has plenty of milk and honey. But I will not go with you. You are stubborn. I might destroy you on the way.'"*



needed to gather it off the ground. Every evening God sent small birds called quail that they could eat.

There were no lakes or rivers, but God loved His people. When their water ran out God provided water. It was like a river flowing from a rock.

When the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai, God told Moses to go up on the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments. These were special instructions for God's chosen people. It was a new and better way to live.



On stone tablets God Himself, carved out Ten Commandments they were to follow. Moses was on the mountain for 40 days.

While Moses was up on the mountain with God, the people became impatient. They didn't know what could have happened to Moses.

The people went to Moses' brother Aaron. They asked him to make them a god that would lead them, since their leader Moses was gone.

Aaron told the Israelites, *"Take the gold earrings off your wives, your sons and your daughters. Bring the earrings to me."* So all the people took off their earrings. They brought them to Aaron. Aaron

## Day 2 - HE IS WORTHY GOD IS POWERFULLY

God parts the waters of the Red Sea  
(Exodus 13:20 – Exodus 14)

### Day 2 BIBLE VERSE

*"God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us..."*

Ephesians 3:20 NIRV)

Did you know God has power over His whole creation: the weather, the rulers of the nations, and the hearts of people. God has power over everything, and there is nothing He can't do. There is nothing that is impossible for God!

God's people marched out of Egypt and were on their way to the promised land. After seeing His great power, they put their trust in Him and worshipped Him.

Exodus 13:20 says, *"The people camped at ... the edge of the desert. By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. It guided them on their way. At night he led them with a pillar of fire. It gave them light. So they could travel by day or at night."*



God didn't just let his children wander around not knowing where to go. Just imagine being guided by A giant column of clouds every

day or fire every night! Wherever the pillar was, that's where God was. God was showing His people the way through the desert.



The passage continues...  
"Then the Lord spoke to Moses. He said, "Tell the people of Israel to turn back. They must camp by the sea, Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land. They don't know which way to go. The desert is all around them.' I will make

Pharaoh stubborn. He will chase them. But I will gain glory for myself because of what will happen to Pharaoh and his whole army. And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." "So the Israelites camped by the Red Sea.""

God also wanted the Israelites to see His glory. God wanted to show them that He is all powerful so they would worship Him.

God's plan always makes sense, even when it doesn't make sense to us. God always has a purpose for everything He does. He wants us to trust His ways, not ours.

When we trust God to lead us in the right direction, He gives us a peace in our hearts even when things don't make sense.

*"The LORD made Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, stubborn." "All Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen and troops*



## Day 3 - HE IS WORTHY GOD IS LOVING

God promises to go with the Israelites to the promised land  
(Exodus 33:12-19)

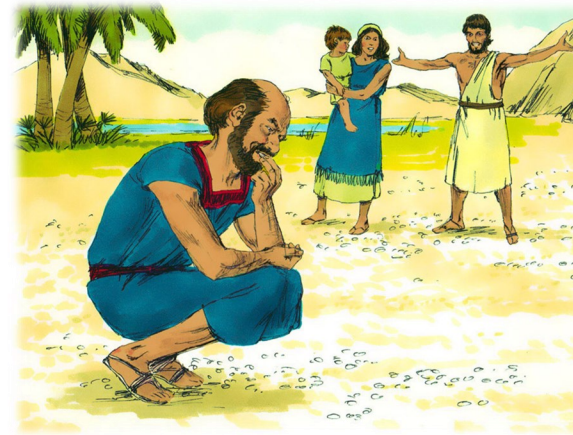
### Day 3 BIBLE VERSE

*"The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

*Exodus 33:14*

This lesson shows us that God is also worthy because of His love. God heard the cries of His people, and out of His love, He sent Moses to free His people from slavery and lead them out of Egypt.

Pharaoh's army chased the Israelites to the Red Sea. It seemed they were doomed, but God held back the water, so the Israelites crossed on dry ground. When the Egyptians tried to follow, God released the water and all the Egyptians drowned.



His powerful presence continued to be with them. He led them with a cloud by day and fire by night. God provided everything for them.

When their food ran out, every morning, except on the Sabbath, God provided heavenly bread for them to eat. They called it manna. They only

## Discussion Questions Continued

- When the Israelites reached the Red Sea, why were they terrified?
- What did the people do when they saw Pharaoh's army chasing them?
- How did God save the Israelites by doing the impossible when the Egyptian army was chasing them?

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- God probably won't lead us today with a pillar of cloud or fire. But He does lead us. What are some ways God leads you?
- Can you share a time when you were terrified and cried out to God for help?
- Do we trust in God's Power when we are struggling, or do we trust in ourselves or others.

If your Gathering is not having a discussion group on Day 3, you can take this booklet home today.

*chased them. They caught up with the Israelites as they camped by the sea."*

*"The Israelites were terrified. They cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Why did you bring us to the desert to die?" "It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die here in the desert!""*

The Israelites didn't think their lives could get any worse. Their lives were bad in Egypt and now everything was hopeless. Pharaoh and his army were behind them, and the Red Sea was in front of them. There was no way out! It looked like God put the Israelites between a rock and a hard place.

When they realized they were doomed, they cried out to the Lord. They had no way to escape. They even wished they could have stayed in Egypt as slaves. Even after God saved them from slavery, the Israelites still could not see God's awesome power.

God wants us to cry out to Him when we are afraid, when we are hurt, or when things seem too big for us. God is always with us and ready to help us. He wants us to trust Him, even when things don't make sense. Sometimes it's in these circumstances we see just how powerful God is and how much He really loves and cares for us.



*"Moses answered the people. He said, "Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the LORD will save you today. Do you see those Egyptians? You will never see them again. The LORD will fight for you. Just be still.""*



*“Then the Lord spoke to Moses. Tell the people of Israel to move on. Hold out your walking stick. Reach out your hand over the Red Sea to divide the water. Then the people can go through the sea on dry ground.” “The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord. I will gain glory because of what will happen to*

*Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.””*

*“Then Moses reached out his hand over the Red Sea. All that night the Lord pushed the sea back with a strong east wind. He turned the sea into dry land. The waters were divided. The people of Israel went through the sea on dry ground.”*

But the Egyptian army was still chasing them. They chased them right into the sea on the dry ground.

*“The Israelites saw the amazing power the Lord showed against the Egyptians. So the Israelites had great respect for the Lord and put their trust in him. They also put their trust in his servant Moses.”*

*“Then the Lord spoke to Moses. He said, “Reach out your hand over the sea. The waters will flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” So Moses reached out his hand over the sea.” “The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen. It covered the*



*entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the people of Israel into the sea. Not one of the Egyptians was left.””*

God’s power is at work in all of us. It’s what keeps us alive, calms our fears, and fills our hearts with love. **When the Israelites experienced God’s powerful deliverance from Pharaoh’s army, they sang a song of praise and worshiped the LORD because He is Worthy.**

- Only God is worthy (deserving) of all our worship and praise because He is powerful.
- God’s uses His power to lead His people.
- God’s uses His power to protect and save His people.
- We need to trust in God’s loving power and not our own because His ways are perfect.

**LET’S THINK ABOUT IT**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- How did God lead His people after He delivered them from Egypt?
- Why did God lead His people into the wilderness?