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**The Call of Moses**

**Stubborn Reluctance Overcome**

***Exodus 3–4***

**Purpose:** To learn to trust God in the face of seemingly overwhelming obstacles.

The milestones of history are marked by people who have met impossible demands. Battlefield monuments utter mute testimony to these events. Modern Turkey owes its existence to Kemal Ataturk, who rallied his troops with the impossible demand that they drive back the enemy from Gallipoli. Your most impossible demand may seem small in comparison-but not at the time the challenge presented itself. Perhaps it was writing an academic paper without adequate time or expertise. Or maybe it was the time when your church group decided to talk to people on the beach about Jesus Christ. This study shows how God put an impossible demand on Moses and propelled him into national leadership.

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**1.** How do you respond when you see a vacuum in leadership in your community and in your church?

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**Question 1.** You may have to set a time limit on this discussion. Ask people to give concise answers, and do not permit criticism of specific leaders known to the group.

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**2.**  Read Exodus 3. Imagine that you are Moses on the mountain of God. As you look around you, describe everything you see, hear and feel (vv. 1–6).

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**Question 2.** “The mountain of God” was Mount Sinai, where God gave the Law to Israel (19:1–25). Horeb was the range of mountains that included Sinai.

“The angel of the Lord” means that God himself was present in the bush in the form of a flame of fire. As a sinful man, Moses had to be told not to draw near to God. He realized his unfitness even to look (v. 6). Taking off the shoes was a sign of respect and showed Moses' reverence for the presence of God.

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**3.** What motivates God to act on behalf of his people (vv. 7–10)?

What plan does he have in mind?

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**4.** Why do you think God chose an aged desert sheepherder to lead such an auspicious venture?

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**5.** How does Moses respond to God's assignment, and why (vv. 11–13)?

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**6.** When have you felt inadequate to do something God wanted you to do?

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**7.** What reassurance does God give Moses (vv. 12–22)?

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**Question 7.** God identified himself as “I AM” (v. 14). Moses was not asking for a name-tag identification to put on God. He wants to know the significance of what God had told him in verse 6. “I AM” means that God is dependable and strong enough to meet every need of the people.

“A three-day journey” (3:18) was a way of expressing distance. A day's journey might be as much as 24 miles.

“Every woman is to ask her neighbor” (3:22). The Egyptians had oppressed the Israelites for years and made them work for very low wages. This strategy enabled them to get what was really due them, and was not dishonest.

Encourage the group to read next week's passage prior to the meeting, so that the material can be scanned during the session.

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**8.** Read Exodus 4. What other doubts and fears does Moses have (vv. 1, 10)?

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**9.** How does God deal with these inadequacies (vv. 2–9,11–12)?

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**10.** Why do you think Moses' final objection angers the Lord (vv. 13–17)?

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**11.** What reasons can you give for Moses' stubbornness in the face of God's call?

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**12.** When you are sure God is speaking to you, and a specific “Yes, Lord” is expected of you, what things influence your answer?

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**13.** How do the events in verses 27–31 confirm the Lord's promises to Moses?

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**14.** What have you learned about God in this study that would encourage you to trust him in the face of seemingly impossible demands or difficulties?