

# EXODUS

A GRACESPRING BIBLE CHURCH SERMON SERIES



NOVEMBER 4, 2018 | **COMMUNITY** GROWTH GUIDE

## ■ God Makes Himself Known

Exodus 2:23-4:17

### Message Big Idea

Real confidence doesn't come from personal competence, but from the assurance of God's presence.

### BELONG

This week we will look at the parallels between the story in Exodus and Luke 2. As a group, discuss times when someone has been confident in your ability to do something, however, you were reluctant to go forward. What held you back? Or did you move forward despite your reservation and how did it turn out?

Read the following from William Nicholson (Shadowlands), "*God creates us to be free, free to be selfish, but He adds a mechanism that will penetrate our selfishness and wake us up to the presence of others in this world, and that mechanism is called suffering*" - discuss as a group as to whether reluctance and selfishness are tied together. Some of the time? All the time? How might we "suffer" through our selfishness?

### GROW

Luke 2 describes the conversation between Gabriel and Mary in which Mary is informed that despite being a virgin she would give birth to a son.

- Read vv. 28-29
  - Gabriel spoke favor (or grace) towards Mary and gave her assurance the Lord was with her. Discuss times when you have been someone's Gabriel? How did they respond? How did you encourage them?
- Read vv. 30-33

- Gabriel tells Mary, “Do not be afraid, Mary” Discuss the applicability to us today as both ‘a Gabriel’ to someone or “as the Mary”.
- Are words enough to overcome reluctance? Read verses 32-33 again and discuss Gabriel’s methods to provide assurance to Mary.
- Read vv. 37-38
  - Gabriel provides Mary with an example to a real life situation. Discuss the power of stories in helping someone overcome reluctance.
  - Mary has come to a point of simple submission – “I am the Lord’s slave...May it be done to me according to you word.” - Discuss what Mary recognized in the words of Gabriel such that she could make this statement of submission with such confidence.
  - The Gabriel departed – discuss the action in light of the call you may have someday to be a ‘Gabriel’ to someone....is departing (you can define what this means) a good thing to your ‘Mary’?
- Read vv. 39-55
  - She confirmed the words spoken to her by Gabriel regarding Elizabeth further inspiring her confidence. Read through vv. 46-55 again highlighting Mary’s words that begin with “He has...” or “His...” – what do they reveal regarding Mary’s confidence? In whom was her confidence placed (note: is wasn’t in her ‘Gabriel’)?

## REACH

“In our own case we accept excuses too easily; in other people’s, we do not accept them easily enough” – CS Lewis

1. In the context of living out Jesus with those around us, discuss the tension of allowing people to “be where they’re at” and “pushing them to be stretch and/or grow” or “to take the next step in their faith journey”.
2. Discuss as a group something the Lord or a “Gabriel” has challenged you to do.... what has been your reaction to date? Are you all in as a “Mary”, are you scared to move? Are you unsure of the first step to be taken? How can the group pray for you?