



Small Group Discussion Guide

October 14, 2018

Sermon Title:

“Doubts or Promises?”

Sermon Text: Exodus 3:9-4:13

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 41:8-10

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting. Have someone offer a brief prayer inviting God to speak and lead using the group’s discussion.*

Getting Started: In the area of “this OR that” choices, which ones can you share from your life? Fun? Annoying? Serious? Easiest? Hardest?

Why are some choices harder than others? Why are the choices that should be easiest often difficult?

Discussion:

Which is your default, doubt or God’s promises? Does it surprise you that Moses, a hero of faith, was filled with such doubt? Does it change your understanding of him?

Doubt #1: I am not special (v 3:11) Can you identify with Moses? How do you doubt your specialness?

Promise: God is with you (v 3:12) Does the promise of God’s presence tangibly impact your self-perception? If so, how? If not, why? God chose Moses (v 12), he also has chosen you. How did God choose you? What is his calling for you? Read the scripture reading from Isaiah. How does it reinforce this first promise?

Doubt #2: I will look crazy (vs 3:13, 4:1) Do you feel people of faith are generally received with skepticism? What makes you feel that way? Is there a point when you become skeptical of someone’s faith statements? Why?

In addition to Moses, the pastor mentioned Noah, Joshua, and Jesus as other who were thought to be a little crazy. Can you name some modern people of faith who were not initially as well thought of as they were at a later time?

Promise: God is watching over you (v 3:16) **and working ahead of you** (vs 3:19-20) Do you understand why the Israelites might have thought God had forgotten them? Has there been a time when you thought God had forgotten you? How can we know God is watching over us when he feels so distant? Looking back at difficult moments, can you identify where God was doing some work ahead of you? How do you feel about those circumstances now?

Promise: God will confirm his plans (vs 4:2-9) Do you find yourself trying convince others or even yourself on behalf of God? Why do we feel it necessary to prove God, his plans, or his works? Who are these proofs really meant to benefit, God or ourselves?

Doubt #3: I am not capable (v 4:10) Moses said he was not an eloquent speaker, what was his real doubt? What doubt did Sarah have (Gen 18:10-14)? What was doubt did Jacob express? Do we raise issues intended to mask weaknesses in our faith?

Promise: God provides what is necessary (vs 4:11-12) God promised Moses that he would help him speak and teach him what to say. What is your “necessary” that would allow God to move you to the next level of faith?

Moses did not move past his doubts and requested a last time for God to send someone else. God sent Aaron with Moses. Have you missed out of the fullness of God’s blessings because you chose doubt instead of God’s promises? Are you missing out now?

Closing: Close *by sharing prayer requests.*

Pray for each another and for the needs that were shared.

GO SHARE JESUS!