

# trailblazers



Title: Trailblazers— The Power Behind Moses and His Staff

Date: November 27, 2022

## WORSHIP:

**Option 1: In person gathering** — assign someone to lead in worship or play two praise & worship songs from YouTube.

**Option 2: Online gathering , at a public place, at the park, school campus or café** — Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: What are you thankful to God about this past week?

**Main Text:** Exodus 3:1-12a, 4:1-5NLT

**Key Verses:** vv.10-12

**Quote:**

## Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end on time.
2. Facilitate discussions.
3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

**WELCOME:** Greet everyone. Introduce yourself. Acknowledge guests/first-time visitors. Ask the group to take turns introducing themselves.

## Intro:

Ordinary things are not expected to produce extraordinary value. Wood cannot become as valuable as gold. It is just the nature of things. This message is for the next 2 Sundays is about the story of Moses. How his ordinary life and staff became extraordinary. I will start when he was 80 years old.

## Ice Breaker on Old Age:

An 80-year-old woman was recently married to her 4th husband. A reporter asked for the occupation of her newly acquired husband. She replied that he owned a funeral home. The reporter was curious about the other three husbands, but also asked about their occupations. The old woman paused for a while and stated that her first husband was a banker, the second one she was madly in love with was a circus master. The third one was a minister. Surprised by her answers, the reporter replied, "None of these people have anything in common! Why did you marry these?" The old woman stated that **she married number one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go.**

<https://sermons.faithlife.com/sermons/73175-one-for-the-money-two-for-the-show>

**WORD:** **Note:** LG leader, please read Exodus 1-4 before the gathering.

**Background:** The life of Moses covered 120 years. The first 40 years he lived as the Prince of Egypt. When he ran away from Pharaoh after he was discovered to have killed an Egyptian beating an Israelite (one of his own people). For the next 40 years, he lived as a shepherd in Midian, taking care of his father-in-law's sheep. His last 40 years, the most fruitful years of his life, he lived as a man and servant of God.

What can we learn about Moses and how did God work through him using his staff?

## 1. Together with his life, Moses surrendered his staff to God.

God specifically asked Moses for the staff in his hand. Since his life is surrendered to God, everything was at God's disposal. Some people say that they have surrendered their lives to God but withhold things from Him. God asked what Moses was holding onto at that moment. To Moses, his staff symbolized everything his life was all about during the 2nd 40 years of his life. An ordinary shepherd's staff/ life surrendered to God was transformed into an instrument of miracles. To Moses it was just a staff, to God it was an instrument for miracles. The staff by the power of God became the staff of God (Exodus 4:20) and it was used to part the Red Sea, perform the 10 plagues, bring water out of the rock etc. Read Exodus 17:9-11, Numbers 4:19-20 NLT

## Application:

If God will ask you, "What is that in your hands?" What will you say to Him in response? What may seem ordinary to us, when we give it to God, no matter how ordinary, it will be used for His glory!

**Q: What is that ability, gift, potential, talent that you do best that if you allow God to use will make a difference in the lives of people?**

## 2. Moses lived the last 40 years of his life according to God's way and plan.

The life of Moses is composed of three (3) 40-year periods. He lived his first 40 years as an Egyptian prince under Pharaoh's rule, and the 2nd 40 years as a shepherd of his father-in-law, Jethro's flock in the desert. His last 40 years, he lived as a man of God, a servant of God. His last 40 years (80yrs. -120 yrs.) were the most powerful and fruitful years of his life because of God's presence and power behind everything he did. When Moses responded to God's call, God used Him powerfully to deliver the people of Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians.

## Application:

We do not need to wait for the last 40 years of our lives in order to respond to God's call to serve Him. Today, we can avail ourselves to be used by God whenever we have an opportunity to be used by God, even in practical ways of helping people with a practical need.

**Q: We see and hear from the the radio, TV or internet about people in need of help. How often do we make excuses to God especially in the aspect of responding to those needs?**

## Conclusion:

We have seen the difference God made in the last 40 years of Moses' life. Because he responded to God, the Lord powerfully displayed His power through him. Today, whatever phase we are in our lives, let us keep our hearts right with God. He will make sure that we will arrive at the best possible condition to succeed in fulfilling our God-given purpose in life, even if what we have is a **worn-out ordinary life** (wooden staff). In Christ, the best is always yet to come. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 NKJV

## WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer

**Q:** How can we pray for you today?

**Q:** Who among your loved ones or friends you think need an encounter with Jesus today? Can you list at least five names? Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another as well as pray for the names of people on your list. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.