

A Question to Answer: Perhaps God could have “waved a magic wand” and liberated the Israelites from slavery. But most often God doesn’t work that way. God works through us humans. God says to Moses, “Come, I will send you ...” God invited Moses (and God invites us) into a partnership to achieve extraordinary things. ... How does that feel? How does it feel to realize that God is inviting you in partnership?

Saturday, 2/14/09 – Read Exodus 3:11

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Moses’ response is typical. Maybe it’s the way we all respond. “Who am I that I should do this great thing?” “I am just one person, and not a particularly great or gifted person at that.” ... Entering into partnership with God feels daunting, overwhelming, beyond our abilities. Is that the way you feel it? Re-write Moses’ response in your own words.

Sunday, 2/15/09 – Read Exodus 3:12

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: God is going to make Moses a number of promises, but the first is this: “I will be with you.” And finally this is all we ever really need: knowing that God is with us. ... When we turn aside, pay attention, hear our name called, face our resistance, then we experience the promise; we hear God say, “I will be with you.” ... Do you ever feel lonely? Do you sometimes feel that God is distant? Today, in the quiet of your own heart, listen for God’s promise to you. Write down your thoughts & feelings.

My Faith Journal, February 8, 2009

Experiencing Call #2

Anatomy of Call

The non-coercive God appears. (Exodus 3:1-2)

Turning Aside, Paying Attention. (Exodus 3:3)

God waits on us. (Exodus 3:4)

Encounter (holy ground). (Exodus 3:5-6)

**Individual, personal, and particular
(God calls us by name).** (Exodus 3:4)

God sees, God cares, God acts. (Exodus 3:7-9)

God acts through people. (Exodus 3:10)

Human resistance. (Exodus 3:11)

God’s promise(s). (Exodus 3:12)

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.

Anatomy of Call

Monday, 2/9/09 – Read Exodus 3:1-2

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Last week we did an overview of some of the Bible's stories of God's **CALLING** people into partnership. This week we are going deeper into this theme by examining just one of these stories in detail. We'll work almost verse by verse through the CALL of Moses -- which is perhaps the best model for understanding the way God calls us all.

In today's verses notice that God does not coercively impose himself on Moses. God's angel appears in a bush off in the distance. ... Most people (at least most of the time) do not have dramatic experiences that force them to pay attention. God shows up at the edge of our awareness, luring us with an invitation. ... Have you ever become aware of something and felt invited or lured. Maybe someone told you about a great movie. Maybe you saw a picture of a spectacularly beautiful place. Has God ever come present for you off at a distance?

Tuesday, 2/10/09 – Read Exodus 3:3

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Perhaps Moses was busy. After all he had all those sheep to tend and account for to his father-in-law. Moses could just as easily have ignored the curiosity of a burning bush. But notice what Moses does -- recounted in today's single verse reading: he turns aside to look. ... Perhaps you too need to "turn aside" from the routine, from the obligations, from the busy-ness. ... Remember a time when you turned loose of life's necessities for a moment and focused your attention on something unexpected. ... What was that experience like for you? What God in it? ... Make some notes for yourself.

Wednesday, 2/11/09 – Read Exodus 3:4-6

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: There are three things in today's verses for us to pay attention to: (1) God waits until Moses turns aside; (2) God calls Moses by name; (3) God tells Moses that the place where he's standing is "holy ground." ... God is waiting on you; God knows **you**, knows you by name; and God's presence makes your ground holy. Consider all this for a moment! ... Sometimes we wonder why God doesn't fix some problem -- when actually God is waiting on us. ... God's interest in us is personal and particular, tailored to our individuality. ... The very ground under our feet is filled with God's presence. ... Which of these meanings grabs you? Write down your thoughts and feelings.

Thursday, 2/12/09 – Read Exodus 3:7-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: We are often aware of the misery and suffering of others. And when the misery goes on and on and on, we all come to a point where we ask, "Does God care?" ... Today's reading is an emphatic assertion: God sees our human struggle and suffering. God sees, God cares, God acts. ... Have you ever asked that question, "Does God care?" What was the situation when you asked the question? ... If you fully accepted today's assertion (*that God sees, cares, and acts*) -- if you fully accepted that, would it make a difference in the way you felt about God? In the way you lived your life?

Friday, 2/13/09 – Read Exodus 3:10

My Observations: _____

