

**Resistance**

**Monday, 2/16/09 – Read Exodus 4:1-17**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: As you read through today’s passage, notice all Moses’ good reasons why God should not call him to liberate the Hebrew slaves in Egypt. (Actually, if you want, go back and include Moses’ other good reasons from Exodus, chapter 3.) Jot down all Moses’ reasons. ... This week we’re digging into our typical initial response to God’s call. ... Let’s remember that our experience won’t be like Moses’ experience. Each of us will have our own, unique encounter with God. And also note that resistance is not necessarily a bad thing. It’s a normal part of the process of responding to God. ... Moses is instructive for us because Moses, like us, does initially resist God’s invitation. ... And Moses has good reasons why he should not be the one. Which of Moses’ reasons feels most like something you’d say? What are your good reasons?

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**Tuesday, 2/17/09 – Read Genesis 17:15-17  
and Genesis 18:9-15**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Moses, of course, was not the first to resist God’s initiative. In today’s readings both Abraham and Sarah laugh at God’s promise. They think, “We’re old people. We cannot have a child! This is ludicrous!” ... One way of resisting God’s initiative in our lives is simply to dismiss it as ludicrous. ... Can you think of one of God’s promises that seems ludicrous to you?

**Wednesday, 2/18/09 – Read Jeremiah 1:4-10**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Lots of us discriminate on the basis of age. Abraham and Sarah thought they were too old. Jeremiah thought he was too young. ... How do you think about your age? In what way do you think that your age disqualifies you? Do you use your age as a good reason why God shouldn’t do something wonderful through you? What do you say to yourself about your age? What would you say to God about your age?

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**Thursday, 2/19/09 – Read 1 King 19:1-13**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Today’s reading is such a wonderful story of the great Hebrew prophet Elijah. As you read it through, what seems to you to be Elijah’s attitude? How would you describe it? Some have suggested that in this passage Elijah seems to be whining. He says, “O poor me! Just look at all the terrible things that are happening to me!” ... Does it seem to you that Elijah is whining? ... Do you whine to God? Do you sometimes deflect God’s intentions and purposes for you by whining?

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**Friday, 2/20/09 – Read Matthew 21:28-32**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: When we think of our initial resistance to God’s initiative in our lives, we probably think it’s a bad thing. But not necessarily. Jesus dealt with this issue directly in the story we read today. The son who did his father’s bidding was not the one who initially said “yes” -- but the one who actually ended up going to do the work. Sometimes we

have to say “no” before we can say “yes.” ... Can you remember a time in your life when you had to say “no” before you could say “yes”?

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**Saturday, 2/21/09 – Read Luke 5:1-11**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Jesus called disciples to follow him. The way the Bible tells it maybe it sounds like the disciples never hesitated. Today’s reading makes it clear that Peter experienced resistance like we all do. Peter feels unworthy, and so he tells Jesus to go away. But notice Jesus’ response in verse 10: “Don’t be afraid!” ... Nobody feels qualified when God calls -- even for the little things that God asks us to do. None of us feels “up to it.” But the word of the Lord is always the same: “Don’t be afraid.” ... As you pray today, spend some moments quietly listening. Can you hear God telling you not to be afraid?

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**Sunday, 2/22/09 – Read Luke 18:18-30**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: “What is impossible for people is possible for God.” ... Think for a moment: What are some of the things that you have suspected that God wanted you to do? Think about little things, not just the big things. Now hear Jesus whispering in your ear: For God it is possible. When you get one of those “nudges,” would it feel different if you remembered that it’s possible for God? Would it make a difference in what you do?

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*My Faith Journal*, February 15, 2009  
Experiencing Call #3  
***Anatomy of Call (2)***

**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.*