October 4/5, 2025 "Moses"

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SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 Exodus 20:1-17 | Moses and the Law

"You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments." Exodus 20:5-6

God sends Moses back to Egypt to lead the Israelites out of slavery. Moses repeats the Lord's command to Pharaoh: "Let my people go, so that they may worship me" (Exodus 6). In response, Pharaoh hardens his heart, and Egypt is overwhelmed by plagues. Only when Pharaoh loses his own son through the final plague does he yield. As the Israelites leave, Pharaoh regrets losing his slaves and sends an army after them. Blockaded by the Red Sea, God parts the waters for the Israelites to cross safely. God sends the waters crashing back to their place, destroying the army of Egyptians. Free from Egypt's grip, God shares how he desires his people to live.

God used the law to reveal who he is and who he wanted the Israelites to be. Four hundred years of slavery and exposure to Egyptian culture left the Israelites with distorted views of God. We can find ourselves in a similar position. Hurt from Christian people, traumatic life experiences and misrepresentations of God's Word may leave us confused about God's character. We must come to Scripture and allow truth to transform our thoughts and beliefs.

TODAY: Ask God to reveal his character as you read the Bible. Allow him to reshape any distorted views you have of him. Pray: "Father, I know my sin and the brokenness of the world have disfigured my understanding of who you are. Please reveal your true character to me through your Word, Amen."

Day 2 Exodus 20:2 | Rescue

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." Exodus 20:2

Moses ascends Mt. Sinai multiple times to talk with God. Before sharing any of the laws, God reminds Moses of what he has done for Israel. He showed Pharaoh his power through miraculous plagues. He parted a sea and allowed Israel to walk through on dry ground. He saved them from an ensuing army. Before presenting his laws, God wants his love for his people to be clearly understood. God wants the Israelites to remember the grandeur of their deliverance. Before God shares rules, he reminds them of his rescue. God knows they are going to have to keep their rescue in mind if they are going to live as transformed people.

Understanding the gravity of our rescue is necessary for our transformation. Israel's freedom from Egypt foreshadows a greater salvation from slavery: salvation through Jesus Christ. We are born into a broken and sinful world. Our slavery is to sin. Perfect adherence to God's law is impossible for us. Jesus lived a perfect life, and through his death, he paid the penalty for all our sins. Putting our trust in Jesus is our deliverance and hope

for living a full life. It's only through the acceptance of this astounding rescue that we can live lives "worthy of the calling we have received" (Ephesians 4:1).

TODAY: Have you accepted Jesus's offer of rescue? If not, this could be the moment you take your first step into freedom from sin. Using Romans 10:9 as a guide, confess your brokenness to God and trust in Jesus's death and resurrection for your salvation. If you have a relationship with Jesus, journal your rescue story and praise God for how he saved you.

Day 3 Deuteronomy 6:4-9 | Response

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Deuteronomy 6:5

This passage is the foundation of who God says he is and who he calls his people to be. God is the God alone. He calls his people to worship no other god. More than that, he calls for total surrender—heart, soul and strength. This passage becomes the foundational prayer of Jews for generations. They remind themselves of who they worship, so their hearts are eager to respond in love. Their obedience to God hinges on remembrance of their rescue.

We, too, need to continually remember what God did for us. Jesus shares how we can show him our love: "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15). Evidence of our love for God is in how we shape our lives around his rules. Love for God can feel blazing and passionate at the start, but like a honeymoon phase giving way to routine, our motivation to love God through obedience can cool and fade. We must not allow ourselves to become numb to our rescue. Like the Israelites, we must continually remind ourselves of our deliverance and let it shape our response to God's rules.

TODAY: How do you need to re-engage your rescue? Ask God for grace to reveal how he wants to transform your actions by the reality of his salvation. For help re-engaging the greater story of God's rescue, explore Moses's story on the <u>Beyond the Weekend Podcast</u>. Find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on <u>YouTube</u>.

Day 4 Matthew 22:36-40 | Relationship

"All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:40

Jesus had silenced the hostile questioning of the Sadducees, and now the Pharisees come up to bat. Knowing the law thoroughly, one Pharisee asks Jesus what the greatest commandment is. Jesus's response is to echo God's command to love the Lord with all of one's heart, soul and strength (<u>Deuteronomy 6:5</u>). He goes on to say that they must also love each other. This lesson sums up the heart behind all the commandments God gave. All six hundred thirteen laws are boiled down to this: love God and love others.

Living a life that honors God may feel like an enormous task. We can do so and uphold his commands by continuing to grow in love for him and others. We can love God better by setting our phones aside and setting our attention on him. One day a week, we can honor the Sabbath and rest to remember him and love others from a refreshed heart. We can set boundaries for our hearts, and avoid chasing after what and who are not ours. When we love God and others well, we agree with God that all his commands are good.

TODAY: Consider what it could look like to grow in your love for God and others. Ask God to reveal an actionable way to love him or people better. If you want additional help in this area, then consider attending one of the <u>Ada Bible Academy</u> classes starting Thursday, October 16. Topics include Made for More: Understanding God's Design for Sexuality and Live it Well: Charting a God-Centered Course for your 4th Quarter. Learn more and register today.



Day 5 Ephesians 3:14-21 | Question 39: The Church's Purpose

Question: What is the purpose of the church?

Answer: The church exists to bring glory to God through evangelism, edification, worship and love.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

Paul writes this climactic conclusion to his prayer for the Ephesian believers' spiritual growth. He longs for them to understand that all creation exists to bring God glory, and the church plays a central role in this purpose. Paul emphasizes God's power at work within believers to accomplish more than they could ask or imagine, and to bring God glory. The Ephesians need to grasp that their community wasn't just for their benefit; it served the greater purpose of magnifying God's greatness and character to the world.

The church continues to exist for this same purpose—to bring God glory. We, as the church, bring God glory when we fulfill four core functions. First, we are salt and light in the world through evangelism. Jesus followers are called to fill the earth with his image (Matthew 5:13-16, 28:18-20). Second, through edification—building up believers into mature, fully devoted followers of Jesus who reflect Christ's character (2 Corinthians 3:18). Third, through worship—responding to the Creator with praise, adoration and thanksgiving, offering our lives as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). Fourth, through love—the distinctive mark of Christ's followers, loving God and others sacrificially as Jesus commanded (John 13:34-35, Matthew 22:37-40).

TODAY: Consider how you can participate in bringing glory to God through the church's four core functions. Choose one area—evangelism, edification, worship or love—and identify a specific way you can contribute to the church's mission. Read more about the church in our We Believe document.