

Teen Devotion

Year A – Proper 5

Holy Ministry



One truth shared: God calls us to serve!

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt... So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

And God said, “I will be with you.”

2 Corinthians 13:14

Bruh or Bro? Jesus—Give Us The Words To Serve!

It’s kind of funny when some of the latest and greatest words floating around in the world today are confusing to older generations. Have you ever had to “translate” for aging ears what is being said?

Imagine if you if you had to do the same today, but the words were from Scripture. How would you help adjust aging ears to Moses’ interaction with God through the burning bush? Let’s give it a try.

God had some amazing work for Moses—go and tell Pharaoh to “let his people go!” In power God also promised he was going to be with him as Moses proclaimed God’s Word. Moses’ response? Excuse after excuse, all the while freely admitting that he was unworthy as he remembered his past and his guilt and his weaknesses. Basically, he told God that this was not going to work. That *he* didn’t think *he* was the right choice for God. To sum up Moses’ response in one teen word, “Bruh.”

But God wasn’t going anywhere, and his plan for Moses was not going to change—he had work for him to do—and he was going to be with him every step of the way. God’s response, I suppose you could say was, “Bro!” In boomer terms: “Moses, focus up. You got this, and I’m with you. You’re forgiven—you know me, it’s time to get it done—and you just wait to see what I’m going to do!” Ten plagues later, God’s work of power and judgment against Egypt came on display and it was amazing, it was phenomenal, it was “slay.”

So what does that mean for you? It’s hard thinking that the all-powerful ruler of the universe actually thinks we are exactly the ones he needs to serve others, to share Jesus our Savior, and share with confidence too! We are broken, weak, and can easily come up with 100 excuses of our own—all of which might be accurate and on point. We are sinners just like Moses. But the God who didn’t give up on Moses will never give up on you either. Our God rejoices, not when he calls the equipped, but as he equips the called! And he has fully equipped you. It all goes back to Jesus’ perfect life, his love-filled sacrifice on Calvary’s cross, and the glory of an empty tomb. Forgiveness was won, and in faith it is yours! You are ready. And God shouts out your name in victory and adds to the end the biggest “Bro!” ever heard! So focus up!

Look around, you might not see a Pharaoh, but you’ll see someone soon enough that you will get a chance to share your amazing God with—just like Moses. No. Cap.

Prayer: Powerful Jesus, I am weak, but you are strong. I am broken and sinful, but your work of saving me has done more than fix me—it has made me perfect in your sight. Thank you for calling me to faith through the Holy Spirit. Thank you for calling me to serve. Give me courage. Give me strength. Give me the words of truth—your Word is truth—to share with others in joy! In your name I, a humble minister of your Word, pray. Amen.

Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

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Bruh or Bro? Jesus—Give Us The Words To Serve!

Starting the Discussion: *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

What are some words being used by your friends that you are kind of “sick” of... (wow I hope it’s not *bro*, *no cap*, or *slay*...)? What are some of your favorites right now?

Connecting: *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they’ve looked at it.*

If Jesus walked into the room, what might be some words you think he would use to describe you (any you can think of)?

Digging In: *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Share some words or a passage of Scripture where God talks about how he sees you:
- When you hear the word “minister” what words/images pop into your mind?
- “Minister” in its simplest form means “one who serves.” God calls all of us “ministers.” In what different ways does God call us all to serve others?
- Share confidently with each other what you think is one of your greatest God-given gifts. If you are in a group, everyone take turns focusing on one person and using one word to describe a gift you think they have, even if they don’t think they have it! (This is meant to be nothing but encouraging—make sure you focus on the great gifts God has blessed them with!)

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the “connecting question” above.*

Remember what Jesus thinks about you. After your discussion with others (family, friends, etc.), what’s one thing you want to remember about who God has made you to be as you minister (serve) others this week? Tell yourself that in the mirror every morning and see how it affects your day.