

# Answering Excuses

EXODUS 4:1-17

LIVING  
FAITHFULLY  
IN A  
FOREIGN  
*Land*

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**EXCUSE:** "What if people don't believe my message?"

*Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" v. 1*

**God's Answer:** "I will validate my message through my \_\_\_\_\_."

*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence ... 2 Peter 1:3*

**EXCUSE:** "What if I don't know what to say?"

*But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." v. 10*

**God's Answer:** "I will shine through your \_\_\_\_\_."

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 2 Corinthians 4:7*

**EXCUSE:** "What if I simply don't want to obey?"

*But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." v. 13*

**God's Answer:** "I will give you a \_\_\_\_\_."

*"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:26*

**Break the cycle of excuses through reliance on a bigger God.**

Rely on what God has done and \_\_\_\_\_ Him for what He can do.

Rely on God equipping the called and \_\_\_\_\_ through anyone or anything as His instrument.

Rely on God as the great "I AM" who can \_\_\_\_\_ any excuse that begins with "I am."



## DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

# LIVING FAITHFULLY IN A FOREIGN Land

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Exodus 4:1-17. Moses gave God a list of reasons why he thought he could not lead God's people. What were the excuses?

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Excuse 1 (3:11) | Excuse 4 (4:10) |
| Excuse 2 (3:13) | Excuse 5 (4:13) |
| Excuse 3 (4:1)  |                 |

Each time Moses gave an excuse, what were God's responses to them?

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| Response 1 (3:12)    | Response 4 (4:11-12) |
| Response 2 (3:14-15) | Response 5 (4:14-17) |
| Response 3 (4:2-9)   |                      |

2. As you identify each objection and God's answer, discuss some excuses you've used yourself. (Be sure to also list excuses specifically related to our Be, Make and Reach focus over this last year.)

3. Is there a difference between an *excuse* and a *reason*? Why is neither of these a legitimate answer when God asks something of us?

4. What do verses 14-17 reveal about who God is?

5. What does this passage suggest about anyone's ability to ultimately frustrate God's purposes?

6. What do we miss out on when we don't obey God, or we take things into our own hands instead of trusting Him? Has it ever happened to you?

7. How can we be sure to follow through in trusting God, focusing on Him instead of fearing our own weaknesses? Specifically, what should you do in the situation you find yourself today?

8. How did this sermon encourage you to see your own weaknesses and God's strength in a new way?

9. God asked Moses, "What is that in your hand?" He only asked Moses to use what he had: a staff, his own hand, a cup of water from the Nile (vv. 2-9), yet He did extraordinary things through these common items. Talk about some of the common resources you have. Out of these, which can you commit to God for His use?

**"They will not believe' really means 'I do not believe.' .. Moses was making the mistake of looking at himself instead of looking to God (Ex 6:12). The God who made us is able to use the gifts and abilities He's given us to accomplish the tasks He assigns to us. Was Moses manifesting an attitude of pride, or true humility? Forty years before, he felt perfectly adequate to face the enemy and act on behalf of his people, but now he's backing off and professing himself to be a worthless failure. But humility isn't thinking poorly of ourselves; it's simply not thinking of ourselves at all but making God everything. The humble servant thinks only of God's will and God's glory, not his or her own inadequacy, success or failure. Moses was clothing his pride and unbelief in a hollow confession of weakness."**

**WARREN WIERSBE**

**"God did not need Aaron for the job of delivering the children of Israel; all He needed was Moses. Moses was reluctant to trust God all the way, and God had to send another man with him. We need to recognize our weakness, but when God calls us to do a job we should respond with trust. God will enable us to do the job He calls us to do."**

**J. VERNON MCGEE**

**"God was finally willing to say to Moses, 'All right, all right, have it your way. I'll send Aaron, too, but it isn't My best, Moses. The day will come when you will wish you'd followed My call on your own. You don't really need Aaron; all you need is Me.'"**

**CHARLES SWINDOLL**

### A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

*"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."*

## COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events).



**LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?** Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

**EASTER AT CHRIST CHAPEL** Jesus is alive, and we can't wait to celebrate with you during Easter weekend! Join us for worship services at all our locations on Saturday, April 19, and Sunday, April 20. It will be a beautiful celebration of hope, victory and new life! Visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/easter](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/easter) for service times, locations and all the details about our Holy Week events. RSVP today and let us know if you'll be attending and if you're inviting a friend to join us!

**REACH FURTHER THIS EASTER** As you leave today, pick up an Inviter Card and pray over who you can invite to join us for this special celebration. Easter is about the hope and victory found in Jesus Christ, and by inviting someone, you're sharing the gospel! Extend an invitation, RSVP and continue praying with us that more lives will be changed by Jesus this Easter season.

**BE A PART OF AN AUTHENTIC PASSOVER EXPERIENCE**, and join us, along with David Teitelbaum, D.O., as he leads us through Seder, the ceremonial beginning to Passover. We hope to see you there! We'll gather in The Oak Room on Wednesday, April 16, at 7 p.m., and if you would like to learn more, please visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/seder](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/seder).

**TENEBRAE** which means "the darkening," is a moving Good Friday service recounting Jesus' life and death through music and communion. Join us on Friday, April 18, at 6 or 7:30 p.m. as we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter. Please note that due to the dramatic nature of the service, we recommend children ages ten and under not attend. Learn more by visiting [www.ccbcfamily.org/tenebrae](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/tenebrae).

**EASTER LILIES** This Easter, we invite you to honor someone who has deeply impacted your faith or to remember a loved one. Dedicate an Easter Lily in their name, and it will be displayed on Easter morning as a beautiful tribute. To dedicate a Lily, simply visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/lilies](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/lilies). Let's celebrate the season by honoring those who have made a lasting impact on our faith.

**FOCAL POINT** Masculinity today often faces challenges, but God's Word reminds us of our true purpose as men. Rooted in Jesus, masculinity becomes a powerful gift to those around us. Join us this April for Focal Point — an event where men will explore faith, resilience and following God. Sign up at [www.ccbcfamily.org/focalpoint](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/focalpoint).



**IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE** The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.