

SCRIPTURES FOR 3/19/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

Hebrews 11:23-28

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Acts 7:17-21

"As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased. Then another king, who knew nothing about Joseph, became ruler of Egypt. He dealt treacherously with our people and oppressed our forefathers by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies so that they would die.

"At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for in

his father's house. When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son.

1 Timothy 4:7

Have nothing to do with godless myths and wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

Luke 12:34

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

James 2:26

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Matthew 14:28-31

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<p>NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed</p>

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

INTRODUCTION:

This week, we learned about Moses and his example of how a leader responds to his faith. If you think you know what “faith” means, you may need to re-evaluate.

Have someone read Hebrews 11:23-28.

THE FAITH OF MOSES

Jeff asked us, “What is the object of your affection?” which was pretty easy to answer. They are the things about which you care so much you will do whatever is necessary to protect them. But then Jeff asked “What is the object of your faith?” which can be a little more difficult. Do you place faith in yourself? Your friends and family? The government? The media? Your culture? Your boss? Don’t speak too soon – everyone must place faith in all of these things sometimes, but can you live according to that faith?

Have someone read Acts 7:17-21.

Moses’ family had plenty to be scared of, but they knew right from wrong and chose to stand for what they believed in. Their faith was strong enough that they refused to submit.

Have you ever had to do something unpopular or refuse to do something in order to stand up for your beliefs? What did it cost you?

In order to please God, Moses’ family may have had to rely on Egypt – to trust Egypt – for something else that very day, but God would not require them to play a role in the murder of their son; God will never require you to do something that runs counter to His word.

Have someone read 1 Timothy 4:7.

This does not imply that we should avoid everything that is fictional, but refers instead to religious myths that depart from scripture. He wants us to practice spiritual discipline and to draw lines in the sand, across which we will not step.

Have you ever set a rule for your kids (if you have kids) that they thought was unfair? That they insisted was out of touch with their friends’ rules? How did you justify it?

In order to know where that line is, we have to place our faith in God. We may depend on others when it is necessary or appropriate, but ultimately we must place our trust in Him.

Have someone read Luke 12:34.

We have to know where our treasure is in order to take a stand.

THE DEPTH OF OUR RESPONSE

This is a controversial subject. As a leader, you need to decide whether or not you can tackle this now. If so, have someone read James 2:26.

While faith is critical, many churches seem to think that faith is all that is necessary to accomplish salvation – belief sealed with a vow.

Do you think intellectual assent is all that is required for your journey to salvation or is there more?

Does faith require obedience or is it, or are they mutually exclusive?

THE REWARD

While Moses may have questioned his own worthiness, he eventually trusted God’s judgment and stepped out. The reward was amazing – protection from the plagues on Egypt and deliverance of his people from bondage. Faith leads to redemption. That is the power of the entire Biblical narrative, and that narrative is lived out even today in our imperfect, messy lives.

Have someone read Matthew 14:28-31.

Why do you think Peter choked?

What do you think is the most important part of this story – that Peter stepped out of the boat, that he later sank, or that Jesus helped Peter back in the boat? What does each part teach us?

CONCLUSION

Jeff said, “Faith brings us out.” Faith is the fundamental undercurrent of everything we do, every action we take. But we must rely on our faith in God to inform all of those actions, because without it, we have only our weakness; with it we have God’s strength. What will be our legacy – great daring, occasional failure, and changed lives, or timidity, intellectual assent, and our own personal security?

Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.
Psalm 31:23-24