



## Gifted

**29-Mar:** The excuses we use

**Series Summary:** Every believer has been empowered by the Spirit and gifted by God to fulfill the mission of the Church. Our goal in this series is to help students see this is true. They have unique gifts and abilities that they are called to use for the glory of God.

**Big Idea/Question:** The excuses we use to justify not using our gifts reveal that we have far too great a focus on our own strength, and too little trust in God's strength.

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## GET THEM TALKING

What excuses do we use, or could we use for not serving, sharing the Gospel, or using our spiritual gift(s)?

## VIDEO TEACHING

### Summarize Exodus 3:1-7

**Exodus 3:8-9** *So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.*

**Moses is pumped at this point.** His people will be set free. He will see a great miracle that was promised so long ago. But....

**Exodus 3:10-11** *So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”*

What changed? Moses found out that God’s plan ran through him.

This same reaction happens in our lives all the time. We are excited to see God do great things just as long as we get to stand on the sidelines. We will create all kinds of excuses to justify us being a spectator and none of them work

## GROUP DISCUSSION

(The excuses we use)

**Read Exodus 3:1 - 4:17 together as a small group.** As you read, think about these questions.

- What excuses did Moses use to not be used by God to deliver his people from Egypt?
- What did God say in response to that excuse?

**Leader Note:** Because the passage for tonight is very long I would recommend breaking it up into small sections and asking these questions above as you go.

What excuses did Moses use to not be used by God to deliver his people from Egypt?

**Answer:** Here are some of the excuses that I noticed.

1. 3:11 - why pick me? I am not the one you should have picked.
2. 3:13 - who will I say sent me? I
3. 4:1 - What if they do not believe me?
4. 4:10 - I am not a good public speaker
5. 4:13 - “please send someone else”

What did God say in response to that excuse?

Which one of these excuses is tempting for you to use?

What do you need to change to not cave in and believe that excuse?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

(trust over time = growth)

**Transition** - Ten chapters later (after God released ten plagues on Egypt to free his people from slavery in Egypt) they find themselves facing certain death as Pharaoh's calvary/chariots close in on the unarmed Israelites at the water's edge by the Red Sea. Look at how Moses responds...

**Exodus 14:10-14** *As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. **11** They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? **12** Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"*

**13** *Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. **14** The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

What changed about Moses? Why is he a completely different person?

**Leader Note (answer):** It is true that Moses had seen amazing signs and wonders in the form of the Ten Plagues. But so had the rest of Israel, and they were all losing their minds. It was Moses alone who displayed a remarkable trust in the Lord. I believe the difference was that Moses' faith had grown immensely in a relatively short period of time because he had become accustomed to trusting in the Lord. It had become his norm to trust and obey God even when he was afraid and uncomfortable.

What is God calling you to do?

What excuse do you need to set aside to boldly obey God's calling?