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**2009 AFTER CAMP
BIBLE STUDY**



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Faith to MOVE Forward

Teaching Aim: Students will learn how to stop hiding from past regrets and trust God to help them move forward.

Study Passage: Moses flees to Midian
Focal: Exodus 2:11-25

Life Questions: What is your natural tendency when you make a major mistake?

From what past regrets are you hiding?

How does hiding keep us from moving forward?

Do you believe God still has plans for your life and can use you?

What steps do you need to take to begin moving forward?

Scripture Truths:

- We cannot hide from God. He knows everything about us.
- God pursues us in spite of our sinful state.
- Learning from and allowing God to redeem our past allows us to move forward into the future He has planned for us.
- The enemy will try to discourage us by often reminding us of everything from which we are hiding; he will tempt us to believe that our mistakes are what define us; he will attempt to destroy the evidence of what God has done in our lives and distract us from what God wants to do.

Supplies

- Paper
- Colorful Markers
- One small stone for each student
- Black permanent markers

MOTIVATION

Establish some boundaries and play an old-fashioned game of hide-and-seek with your group. After a few minutes, blow the whistle and call everyone to meet back together. Debrief this game by asking students to describe their strategies for hiding, how they felt about being in dark places alone, and so forth. Transition to the EXAMINATION by correlating some spiritual analogies to the game of hide-and-seek. Ask: **“What is our natural response when we make a mistake? Why do you think we hide, and from whom are we hiding? How do you believe God seeks us out in our disobedience?”**

EXAMINATION

Explain that this session goes back to the beginning of Moses’ journey of faith. His story can teach us lessons that should have an impact on our own journeys. If

Moses had chosen not to move past his sin and his fear, he would have spent the rest of his life tending sheep in Midian. He would have missed the opportunity to change the course of a nation and to live one of the most influential lives in all of history. The same is true for us today. We must learn to let go of our past and to move forward as God leads!

Direct students into three groups, and instruct them to read Exodus 2:11-25 together. Then, they must complete one of the following activities in relation to the Scripture (give supplies as needed):

Group One: Create a comic strip highlighting the story

Group Two: Create a storybook with pictures and narration in your own words

Group Three: Create a skit that portrays the story

After a few minutes, encourage groups to share their creations. Ask students to discuss the following: **“What brought on the rush of emotions that caused Moses to act violently? While it initially seems he killed the Egyptian for a just cause, what indication can you find that Moses sinned in his anger? Why do you think Moses ran away from Egypt? What do you think he hoped would happen in Midian? Based on these verses, for what kind of life was Moses ready to settle?”**

Give students a quick review of what happens at the beginning of Exodus 3. (They should remember this passage from day one of Bible study at camp.) Highlight the following evidence found in this story: God pursues us even when we try to hide from Him; God can still use us even after we have messed up; we should approach God with reverence and a repentant heart, and then we should trust His forgiveness and His desire to help us move forward into an eternally significant future!

APPLICATION

Lead the three groups of students to create three single-file lines. Assign the person at the end of each line to be the leader, and instruct each group to try to walk backward in a designated pattern without breaking the line.

Debrief this activity by asking why it was difficult to stay on target or to walk in a straight line. Close by saying: **“Living in the past is like trying to walk backward. Your future gets farther away and you end up tripping over your regret. Learn to repent. Turn back to God instead of hiding from Him. Follow Him into new adventures.”**

Give each student a small stone and permanent marker. Lead students to consider the regrets that currently cause them to stumble and then to write their responses on their rocks. Instruct them to pray, asking God to help them let go of their past so they can be used to serve Him to the fullest. Guide them to place their rocks in a pile in the center of the room, which will be symbolic of letting go of their past.

Close this session in prayer.

Faith that Brings Us Together

Teaching Aim: Students will see how faith brings us together for a common purpose . . . to glorify God among the nations!

Study Passage: Moses and Aaron
Focal: Exodus 4:13-17, 27-31

Life Questions: How is teamwork a part of your life?
How do you feel after working together for a common purpose?
Why do you think God desires for His people to work together?

Scripture Truths:

- Our gifts and talents make us unique but are given for a greater purpose.
- When we work together we become a part of something bigger than ourselves.
- We are called to challenge and encourage each other as God's people.
- When we work together for God's glory, the world sees a beautiful picture of unity.

Supplies

- Large or jumbo-sized jigsaw puzzle (or several, depending on group size)
- Permanent marker

MOTIVATION

Place the jigsaw puzzle(s) on a table or on the floor. Set a time limit and challenge students to work together to see how much of the puzzle they can complete within that time. If you have a large group, divide students into small groups for this activity. Transition to the EXAMINATION by holding up a single piece of the puzzle and asking students to describe it. Share how on its own, the piece has little noticeable value; however, when connected to the other pieces, it helps create a vivid picture. So it is with the body of Christ. As individuals, we have each been given gifts and talents that make us unique, but only when we are connected to other believers can we reflect the bigger picture.

EXAMINATION

God used both Moses and Aaron to accomplish His plans. He could have done His work without either of them, but He chose to let both of them play a part in a much bigger picture. In their relationship, we see a living illustration of how we are called to work together as the body of Christ.

Instruct students to pair up and discuss the gifts and talents that make them unique. After a few minutes, lead them to dig a little deeper and discuss how they can use those gifts and talents to work together for the bigger picture of the church and God's glory. Invite a few students to share their thoughts after this exercise.

Enlist a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 4:13-17. Lead a discussion by asking the following questions: **“Why do you think Moses was hesitant to play his part in God’s plan? How can you relate to his fear and reluctance? How did Moses and Aaron use their gifts and strengths to work together to accomplish the task before them?”**

Enlist another volunteer to read aloud Exodus 4:27-31. Lead a discussion by asking the following questions: **“In what ways did God prepare Moses and Aaron for this incredible calling? What was the first thing they did together? How did the people respond to the news that Moses and Aaron brought?”**

As you wrap up this part of the story, allow students to recall (from day two of Bible study at camp) how God used Moses and Aaron to deliver His people from the hand of Pharaoh.

APPLICATION

Direct students to gather around the puzzle(s) they worked on earlier. (If students did not finish the puzzle(s), instruct an adult volunteer to complete those at the back of the room during the session.) Allow students to talk about how they as a youth group fit together, and then discuss some things God is calling them to accomplish together. Take a permanent marker (use a color that will show up on the puzzle) and write the name of your church or student ministry in large letters across the picture. Instruct students to write their own names somewhere on the puzzle in smaller letters. Once everyone has had a chance to participate, encourage students to take one piece back with them to their seats.

As you close this session, challenge your students to hold their puzzle pieces in their hands as a reminder that they are part of a bigger picture. Pray over them and ask God to open their eyes to ways they can work together as the church body to accomplish His plans!

Faith for the Future

- Teaching Aim:** Students will learn that growing in their faith requires a teachable spirit and a moldable heart.
- Study Passage:** God prepares Joshua to succeed Moses as Israel's leader
Focal: Exodus 24:12-18; Deuteronomy 31:1-8,14-23
- Life Questions:** How well do you take instruction from adults or those in leadership?
Who are your spiritual mentors or people you look up to for wisdom?
What changes do you need to make to become more teachable?
- Scripture Truths:**
- Moses invested himself into Joshua's life and future as the leader of Israel.
 - Joshua was teachable and exhibited a humble attitude that allowed him to learn from one of the greatest leaders the world has ever known.
 - Moses challenged Joshua; he spoke truth into his life.
 - God gave Joshua courage and faith to lead His people into the future.

Supplies

- Play-Doh®
- Index cards with names of objects written on them
- Copies of the Application questions

MOTIVATION

Direct students into three or four teams, depending on the size of your group. Instruct each team to send one representative to the front of the room. One of the volunteers must blindly select an index card and show the word to the other volunteers. The objective is to create something using the Play-Doh that resembles the object they want their teams to guess. The first team to say the word wins a point. Play a few rounds of this game as time permits. Transition to the EXAMINATION by talking about how important it is to remain moldable throughout our lives. God desires to teach us life lessons through His Word, through His creation, and through those He places in our paths. The relationship between Moses and Joshua is a beautiful example of how God honors a teachable spirit.

EXAMINATION

Take the Play-Doh and pass it around so that everyone has a small piece of it. As you read the following passages, instruct them to create different things that represent the story as it unfolds.

1. Instruct students to form something that represents a “**tablet of stone**” while they are listening to the story. Read aloud Exodus 24:12-18.

Ask: “Although we don’t know for sure what Joshua would have actually seen or heard, what are some possible things Joshua might have taken away from this experience with Moses?”

2. Instruct students to form something that represents “courage” while they are listening to the story. Read aloud Deuteronomy 31:1-8.

Ask: “What are some reasons Joshua might have been afraid? How did the Lord use Moses to set up Joshua for success as he took on this new leadership role?”

3. Instruct students to form something that represents the “Tent of Meeting” while they are listening to the story. Read aloud Deuteronomy 31:14-23.

Ask: “What are some things that make it difficult to transition from one leader to another? (Think of examples from your own life or church.) How did the Lord prepare Joshua and the people for the passing of Moses, their beloved leader?”

APPLICATION

Distribute the copies of these questions to each of your students. Instruct them to take a few minutes to think through their answers.

- How are you allowing godly people to build truth and perseverance into your life?
- How do you listen and take it to heart when leaders challenge you to step up as a leader?
- What are some ways you can attempt to live up to your potential?
- What are some things God has called you to that are bigger than you? Who can help encourage you and hold you accountable in that pursuit?
- Name some people in your life who inspire, encourage, and spur you on spiritually? Think of two ways you can thank them for the important role they have played in your life:
- In what ways are you inspiring others to live out their faith? List some examples of this in practice:

Challenge your students to pray for courage and to trust the Lord to give them faith for the future. Pray over them that they will have a teachable heart throughout their lives and that they will look for ways to impact the world for His glory!