Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies, reflection and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 4:

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 4. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a journaling question. Write your thoughts as you meet with the Father.

As we enter into this chapter, it opens with a question from Moses to the Lord. “***What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you?’”*** (verse 1). Imagine what was going on inside Moses’ mind. He was reluctant to step into the call of God. He felt inadequate for the assignment that the Lord was giving him. And probably overwhelmed by the idea of going back to Egypt and confronting not only Pharaoh, but the Israelites as well. Much time had passed and the Israelites’ plight had not been relieved by God. Moses struggled with this call from God. But the promise of God in this assignment was that He would be with Moses. God wasn’t asking Moses to do something on his own or with his own resources. God was with him in it. God’s infinite resources of provision were available to Moses from the moment he walked into Egypt. Have you ever felt that kind of insecurity? Have you felt a lack of resources, talent, gifts, intelligence, etc for a job or an assignment you’ve been given, let alone for an assignment from God? Remember that the God who calls you into something bigger than you has promised to be with you. You can draw on God’s unlimited resources for the assignment He has given you. Do not shrink back or make excuses why you can’t do something that God believes you can.

While Moses is struggling, God responds to him with a question, not an answer to Moses’ question. “*Then the Lord said to him, ‘****What is that in your hand****?’”*. In that question, God was affirming that Moses had everything he needed. God used what was in Moses’ hand, that which was familiar to Moses. For 40 years, he had used a staff to tend the flock of his father-in-law. A staff was normally a long, slender stick, often with a crook or a hook on one end. It was selected with care by its owner, then shaped, smoothed and cut to best suit his own personal use. Moses’ staff would feel like an extension of himself.

God didn’t give Moses an assignment that would be completely out of his skill set. Moses was comfortable and familiar with his staff. What we get to witness in the reading of chapter 4 is this exchange of possession. Reading through the rest of the chapter, Moses’ language shifts. By the end of the chapter, the staff no longer belongs to Moses, but it belongs to God. Verse 20 tells us, *“...and he took the staff of God in his hand*”. The ordinary tool used in Moses’ daily life transformed to something extraordinary, filled with the power and authority of God. In order for this transformation to occur, Moses had to give his staff (skill set, gifts, talents, passions, intelligence. Etc) to God. If Moses held onto the staff for his own security or because of fear, it would have been limited to Moses’ personal resources & experience.

**What do you have in your hand**? What is familiar to you? What is your skill set? Gifts? Talents? Strengths? Passions? What you have has been shaped for you. It has been formed for you. It is probably familiar and comfortable and may come with ease. Too often, we do not recognize the skill set that we use in our “ordinary” life as something God can use for an extraordinary purpose. Take the next step. You have what it takes! God wants to encourage you and move you into the assignment where your ordinary tool is transformed into something extraordinary, filled with the power and authority of God. But just as Moses had to release his staff, so you too, need to release your “staff” into God’s hands, letting go of your limited experience and resources, trusting that God is unlimited in all provision so your “staff” will become the “Staff of God” to be used for His purpose and His glory.

As we close this chapter, spend some time in the secret place. ***Turn aside*** from the routine of your day and listen to what the Father in heaven speaks to you and what He desires for you, as you partner with Him in the next assignment.

Journaling question 1: What is in your hand? What do you give your time to? Gifts? Talents? Strengths? Passions? What do you desire to do with God?

Journaling question 2: What are core values that are stamped in your DNA? What is your “soap box” issue(s)? What are “problems” you see in the world that you want to help solve?