



# 40 Days of FAITH



## Faith When You Have a Past

### MAIN THING

The Past Paralyzes You; Faith in God Energizes You

### SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:11-15, Exodus 3:1-15, Exodus 4:1-17

### ICEBREAKER

If there was something in your life that you could have “do over” on, what would it be? What would you do differently?

### OPENING THOUGHT

It seems like everyone has a “past”. Sometimes, we look at it as “the good ol’ days”, and other times, we see our past as something we’d rather not remember. In both situations, it seems like we try to hold on to those parts of our lives. We say things like, “They define us.” or “It makes me who I am.” What if that’s really not true? What if our past is just that....the past? What if we are defined by what we do now? What if who we are now makes us who we are? Our faith in Christ needs to be the defining factor of who we are, and Who’s we are.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend’s message?
2. Read Exodus 2:11-15. Our pasts have a way of coloring how we look at life, and how we react to different situations. How did Moses react in this passage? How did his past affect his reaction? Although your reaction may not be as extreme, have you allowed your past to affect how you react to things in your life?
3. In Exodus 3:1-15, we see how our past can cause fear to settle in and take root. Has your past ever caused fear to lead in your decision making? Have you been hesitant to try things only because of that fear? Is that, necessarily, a bad thing?

### LIFE APPLICATION

Moses wanted a sign from God to prove that his fears were unnecessary. Read Exodus 4:1-17. It’s obvious from reading this that God simply wanted him to trust and go. This week, serve God without expecting Him to give you some kind of miraculous sign. We haven’t been called to wait. We’ve been called to go. Have faith that God will fill in the blanks. Don’t let your past hinder that. How will you serve God and His mission in faith this week?

### CHALLENGE

Encourage each other to get over the past and move into the future. We all carry baggage that tends to load us down and keep us from moving forward. Discuss what your past is holding you back from, and take some time to pray for each other as you work to put your past where it belongs: behind you. If there’s someone you need to forgive, forgive them. Is there’s someone you need to apologize to, do it. It’s time to leave those things in the rearview mirror.