

God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

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. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

—Exodus 3:4-12

*This we pray...*

**G**od, your Word makes it clear that you hear and respond to the cries of your people. Your Word also reveals that you call individuals to participate with you to alleviate the suffering of humankind. What role, oh God, do you want me to play in responding to the needs of the poor and oppressed? Like Moses and Jeremiah, your call can make me feel incompetent and afraid. Thank you for declaring that you will be with me as I go, even until the end of the age. I will listen, Lord. Please speak. Give me the courage and strength to obey.

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