

*Hebrews 11:24-28* It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.<sup>25</sup> He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin.<sup>26</sup> He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.<sup>27</sup> It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons.

Note: the O.T. Passages referenced here include Exodus 2:1-15; 3:1-4:23; 12:1-36. The book of Acts contains a very full yet concise summary that would be good to look at for context/back story.

*Acts 7:20-36* At that time Moses was born—a beautiful child in God's eyes. His parents cared for him at home for three months. <sup>21</sup>When they had to abandon him, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son. <sup>22</sup>Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action.

<sup>23</sup>One day when Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his relatives, the people of Israel. <sup>24</sup>He saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. So Moses came to the man's defense and avenged him, killing the Egyptian. <sup>25</sup>Moses assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn't. <sup>26</sup>The next day he visited them again and saw two men of Israel fighting. He tried to be a peacemaker. "Men," he said, "you are brothers. Why are you fighting each other?"

<sup>27</sup>But the man in the wrong pushed Moses aside. "Who made you a ruler and judge over us?" he asked. <sup>28</sup>"Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" <sup>29</sup>When Moses heard that, he fled the country and lived as a foreigner in the land of Midian. There his two sons were born.

<sup>30</sup>Forty years later, in the desert near Mount Sinai, an angel appeared to Moses in the flame of a burning bush. <sup>31</sup>When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight. As he went to take a closer look, the voice of the LORD called out to him, <sup>32</sup>"I am the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses shook with terror and did not dare to look. <sup>33</sup>Then the LORD said to him, "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. <sup>34</sup>I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groans and have come down to rescue them. Now go, for I am sending you back to Egypt."

<sup>35</sup>So God sent back the same man his people had previously rejected when they demanded, "Who made you a ruler and judge over us?" Through the angel who appeared to him in the burning bush, God sent Moses to be their ruler and savior. <sup>36</sup>And by means of many wonders and miraculous signs, he led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and through the wilderness for forty years

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\* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. These guides rely heavily on a few study guides; including "Run the Race" by Marilyn Burson (ISBN 1593870639), "When Faith is all you Have" by Ruth Reken (ISBN 0877880271), "Treasures of Faith" (ISBN 0875520960), and the Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A).

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

### **Discussion/Topic Starters** (Ice Breakers)

- What was the hardest choice you've ever had to make?
- Who have you seen (or heard about) make the biggest sacrifice for their faith?
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

### **Hebrews 11:24-28** (context at Acts 7:20-36 & Exodus 2:1-15; 3:1-4:23; 12:1-36)

- O: Based on this passage, describe Moses' value system (what does he value and how do we see that play out?).
- O: How old was Moses when he made the choice mentioned in [Heb. 11:24](#) (note: see Acts 7:20-27)?
- O: Why did Moses make the choice to reject his standing in the Egyptian royal family ([v.24](#))?  
*Another way to ask this question: What was Moses thinking about when he made his choices?*  
*Note: focus on verse 26b & 27b*  
*Potential follow-up: Realistically, describe what Moses was choosing to give up. What was he receiving in its place (think both good as well as tough stuff)?*  
*Potential follow-up: Compare the alternatives that Moses had when he made this choice (see Acts 7:22).*
- O: Observe and discuss the connection between [Heb. 11:27](#) and [Heb. 10:35-36](#).
- I: According to [v.25](#) Moses chose sharing with his people's suffering over the "fleeting pleasures of sin."  
What reasons led Moses to make that choice?  
What issues in your life force you to choose between obeying God and enjoying some fleeting pleasures of sin?  
What resources could help you choose to follow and obey God instead?
- I: Describe the tension in [v.27b](#) (keeping our eyes on an invisible God). How did Moses do this? How can we do this?
- I: Why did it take faith to keep the Passover ([v.28](#))?  
*Potential follow-up/focus: Read Ex. 12:1-13 and write down briefly what they had to do.*  
What would have happened if they had done everything except apply the blood to the doorposts?  
In what way is the Passover lamb a picture of Jesus Christ? (1 Cor. 5:7)
- A: How could Moses' life encourage you to persevere through difficult times? Be specific.  
*Another way to ask this question: What has God asked/required of you? Are you being faithful? What can you learn/apply from Moses' calling/choices/courage/& encouragement*
- A: How have you adopted the world's value system (See 1 John 2:15-17)? How does your life and values and choices compare with Moses'? Are there any choices (big or small) that you need to make in response to this (especially this Christmas season)?
- A: The Egyptian empire was the mightiest kingdom on the earth at that time, that gives perspective on what it meant for Moses to not be afraid ([Heb. 11:23, 27](#)). What is the alternative to fear for us? (Ps. 56:3-4; John 14:1, 27)

### **Recommended Follow-up:**

- **Pray:** There are so many topics that the group could pray about in response to this passage: Bold God Choices ([v.24](#)), personal sacrifice ([v.25a](#)), purity ([v.25b](#)), That we would choose Jesus over the pleasures of the world ([v. 26a](#)), eternal perspective ([v.26b](#)), Action ([v.27a](#)), fearless faith ([v.27b](#)), devotional lives/eyes on Jesus ([v.27c](#)), faith in the cross/gospel ([v.28](#)).
- **Respond:** In a smaller setting, be it the home group or in the 1-on-1 relationships in the group, really process through the second half of [Heb. 11:25b](#). Are there areas in your life that you need help overcoming? Search the scriptures for encouragement, be open with your home group leader, seek God in prayer, potential fast in response to this struggle, etc.  
  
**Respond #2:** Read/Meditate on Ephesians 2:10 this week. As you think about how this verse is illuminated in the life of Moses, consider what God has placed in you and potentially prepared for you to do. How has he formed you/shaped you? What's your next step to live this out by faith? Are you playing it safe or is your faith leading you to venture out and take risks?
- **Read:** Next week's sermon (11/28/2010) will focus on Hebrews 11:29-30 (the community of faith). Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, etc.