



Discussion Guide

Date: 7/12/2026

Sermon Title: Is it ok to be comfortable?

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-12

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and Holy God, like Moses, we often become comfortable with what is familiar. We enjoy places of safety and routine, yet you continue to call your people toward the needs of the world. Open our eyes to see where you are already at work. Open our ears to hear your voice. Give us courage to step beyond comfort and trust your presence. May we not simply admire the burning bush but respond as Moses did; with humility, obedience, and faith. Amen.

OPENING QUESTIONS: (Choose one to start with)

1. Share about a time when you were pushed outside your comfort zone. What made it uncomfortable? Looking back, how did God use that experience for your growth?
2. Share about a time when you felt like a different version of yourself in a different setting (like "Vacation You" vs. "Everyday You"). What brought out that different side?

SETTING THE SCENE:

Comfort is not God's highest goal for our lives; faithfulness is. In the story of the burning bush, Moses discovers that God often interrupts our ordinary routines with an extraordinary calling. God invites Moses out of the safety of Midian and back into the pain of Egypt because God has heard the cries of the oppressed. As followers of Christ, we are called not to avoid suffering but to join God in bringing hope, healing, justice, and redemption into the world.

By Exodus 3, Moses has spent nearly forty years living in Midian. He has escaped Egypt after killing an Egyptian, married, started a family, and become a shepherd. Life has become predictable. Then everything changes. The burning bush represents God's interruption. Notice something important here. God does not call Moses into comfort, but towards suffering. Specifically, God says, "I have observed the misery of my people... I have heard their cry..." (Exodus 3:7). God's mission begins with compassion. The mission of God's people has always been to join Him where people are hurting.

DIGGING INTO Exodus 3:1-12: Use these questions to discuss and study the scriptures.

1. Looking at verses 1–3, Why do you think Moses stopped to investigate the burning bush?
2. What does this teach us about paying attention to holy interruptions?
3. How busy or distracted are we today?
4. What "burning bushes" might we overlook because we are too busy?
5. Moving further into the story in verses 4–6. Why does God tell Moses to remove his sandals? What does this reveal about God's holiness?
6. How should we approach God today?
7. Why is love called the greatest?
8. Look back at verses 7–10. What does God say He has done? List every action God describes here. (I have...)
9. What does this tell us about God's character?
10. God does not merely observe suffering. He responds. Where do you see suffering in: your family? our city? nation? World?
11. How might God be inviting the Church to respond?
12. Re-read verses 11–12 where Moses immediately objects and said, "I am no one..." Have you ever felt unqualified for something God seemed to be calling you toward?
13. What fears usually keep us comfortable?
14. Notice that God never answers Moses' question directly. Instead of explaining Moses' abilities, God simply says: "I will be with you." Why is God's presence more important than our qualifications?

METHODIST CONNECTION:

When United Methodists celebrate Holy Communion, we hear an invitation rooted in grace: "Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another." Notice that worship always points us toward reconciliation and love within the community. Likewise, Wesley's General Rules encourage Methodists to: Do no harm - Do good - Attend upon all the ordinances of God (Stay in love with God). Each flow from loving God and loving neighbor.

1. Which General Rule is the easiest for you?
2. Which one stretches you the most?
3. How does communion strengthen our ability to love difficult people?

SERMON QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Allison starts with a background of understanding of Moses (rescued from the river, raised in Pharaoh's palace, fleeing after killing an Egyptian). How does this shape his response to God's call at the burning bush?
2. The sermon challenges the idea that the "Old Testament God" is different from the "New Testament God." How does this story demonstrate God's consistent character of love throughout Scripture?
3. In verse 7 we find a pattern that God the creator of the world is aware of the suffering of people and enters that suffering. In what ways do we, like Moses, flee to places of comfort and stability rather than facing the suffering we have witnessed?
4. In the sermon we hear that "God doesn't rescue us for comfort, God rescues us for calling." How does this statement challenge or encourage you?



5. Pastor Allison uplifts the story of the Capitol Crawl in the 1990s with the disability act. How does this illustrate the practical application of knowing, entering into, and redeeming suffering in our contemporary world?
6. Pastor Allison's sermon talks about the different versions of herself on vacation. In what ways do we encounter different versions of ourselves in different settings, and how might God be calling us to integrate our faith consistently across all circumstances?

REFLECTIONS:

1. How does the pattern of God knowing, God entering, and God redeeming suffering challenge our typical responses to the pain we see in the world around us?
2. How can we move from simply being aware of suffering through news and social media to actively entering into and helping redeem that suffering?
3. Where do you see God already at work in places of suffering? How might God be inviting you to join Him?
4. What are the modern-day Egypt's in our lives that God might be calling us back to, despite our discomfort or fear?
5. Why do you think God chooses ordinary people like Moses instead of extraordinary heroes?
6. What is one practical step you can take this week to move from comfort toward compassionate action?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of the burning bush, thank You for seeing the pain of this world and for never abandoning your people. Thank You for calling ordinary people into extraordinary work. Forgive us when comfort becomes more important than compassion or convenience becomes more important than obedience. Give us eyes to see where You are already at work. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we may trust Your promise: "I will be with you." May we faithfully participate in Your mission of bringing hope, justice, mercy, and healing to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND:

Choose ONE of the following practices to focus on this week:

1. Notice Pay attention this week to suffering around you that you normally ignore or avoid. Write down what you notice. Don't feel pressure to act yet; just practice seeing.
2. Enter in identifying one person in your life who is going through difficulty. Reach out to them this week not to fix their problem, but simply to be present with them in it.

3. Partner with redemption by researching one organization in your community that is addressing suffering (homelessness, disability rights, food insecurity, etc.). Learn about their work and consider one concrete way you could support it.
4. Examine your comfort by reflecting where you've found your "Midian". These are places of comfort and stability that might be keeping you from where God is calling you. Journal about what fears or obstacles are keeping you there.