

MOSES: Every Life Proof of God's Promises

Leader's Guide

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Book Distinctives:

The story of the life of Moses is a story of second chances. It's a story that shows us that circumstances that appear hopeless, absent of the fingerprints of God, are not blind to our Heavenly Father, nor out of His sovereign reach. There are no steps on our journey that God is not watching. He doesn't get distracted and then suddenly find us again and notice that we've wandered off course. He sees and He is concerned, guiding and protecting every step of the way. Moses' life shows how God's timing is as important as His purpose. It teaches us that in all things, at all times, and in all circumstances, we serve a God Who desires a relationship with us.

For most of us, when we talk about second chances, we aren't thinking of another opportunity to accomplish some great task or deed. Generally, for women, when we talk about second chances we are talking about a relationship. Something we wish would could take back, do over, do differently, do better, or somehow change. Our regrets lie mostly with how we relate to other people. The story of Moses teaches us that God delights in restoration! He longs to restore us to Himself as well as to others. Broken relationships need to be brought to the LORD.

The following four truths weave their way through the story of Moses' life:

1. Even in the darkest of times, when we are surrounded by oppressive circumstances, His eye is upon us. He sees us in our sorrows and our difficulties and He is concerned.
2. God's promises will always come to fruition. Though we may go through seasons where we are unable to witness tangible evidence of their fulfillment, He has not forgotten His promises.
3. There is no such thing as "too late" with God. There is nothing in our past that precludes us from being an instrument of purpose for the glory of our God in His perfect time.
4. God's deepest desire through all of circumstances is not merely to use us for some magnificent, divine work; rather, it is to have *relationship* with us.

Key Components:

Weekly Theme: There is a title page for each week listed in the table of contents. This short phrase gives you an overall idea of the theme for the coming week.

Scripture References: Each day begins with a title for the day and a scripture reference. Begin each day of study *by reading that scripture reference in its entirety* before diving into your workbook. Encourage your group members to do the same. The format is intentionally written this way. I want the women to develop the habit of reading a portion of scripture in its entirety in order to delve into the story and get a general idea of what is happening: the who, what, when, where, and why. After they have gotten the gist of the story's contents, they then go back and begin to look at each detail more closely, drawing personal application. At the end of their time in the Moses study, my hope is that the participants have a better understanding of how to apply these same study practices in their personal reading time.

Types of Questions: Each week contains various types of questions. *All questions in bold, italics are meant to have a written answer to cause the reader to slow down and really dig for and reflect upon their response to the question.* Most are straightforward who, what, when, and where questions. The answers to these questions should be limited to less than 25% of your small group discussion time. The why and how questions should comprise the other 25%, with the remaining 50% focused on sharing of life lessons, personal testimonies and application of the biblical truths to our current life stages and circumstances. The remaining 50% should also include the Intentional Trekking and Passionate Prayer components (see below). We don't want to grow solely in biblical knowledge, it is equally important that we focus on biblical application and obedience.

Intentional Trekking: This component lays out simple, specific ideas on how you and your group members may choose to implement and apply the biblical truths presented that week. There is an Intentional Trekking Idea listed at the end of each week. I would suggest turning to the end of the week and reading through the ideas presented before you begin your weekly lessons. Devote a portion of your weekly small group time to discuss if any of your group members followed through on any of the ideas presented. Encourage them to take some extra steps of obedience to the LORD by modeling yourself how to implement some of these activities into your weekly schedule.

Passionate Prayer: The truths laid out for us in scripture give us the knowledge to make wise decisions and to know and understand God's design for living. Prayer is the method God uses to infuse us with power to live in obedience. The first day of the study, you and your group members will be asked to identify 3-5 people for whom to pray throughout the next 11 weeks. At the end of each week, a topic of prayer will be presented to guide you in prayer for those 3-5 individuals. Again, you may want to read through this component before you begin your weekly lessons. Encourage each group member to spend time at the end of their daily lessons in prayer. Spend some of your

small group time sharing the work that God is doing in each member's relationships with their listed individuals as a result of their commitment to intercede for them daily.

Whole Group Teaching Videos: At the start of each week, I will teach a whole group lesson to further discuss the key themes and elements laid out in the study as well as bring in additional portions of scripture to lend broader insight into the truths presented in your daily lessons. A link to these teaching videos will be provided at no cost to you on my website: www.EricaWiggenhorn.com. **Please note that these videos will be added weekly and the first one will not be available until after September 15, 2013.*

Getting Started:

Read the Introduction. I'll say it again: *read the introduction*. If you really want to know where this study is going, start there.

Secondly, prepare yourself to be *real*. If you want your group to be honest and vulnerable, then you are going to have to be. I'm not saying you go and air your dirty laundry every week; it's not about you. What I am suggesting is that if you pretend throughout this study that you have no hurts, habits, heartbreaks or hangups in your life, your group members will follow your cue and pretend to be perfect too. This study is about allowing God to bring healing into areas of our lives that we intentionally try and keep out of His Sovereign reach by repeatedly stuffing them down into the deepest recesses and canyons of our hearts. If you are not going to be open to allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you in areas where you need some heart surgery, neither will your group members.

Thirdly, commit to pray for your group members. For some of them who may have come out of abusive or highly dysfunctional relationships, this study may unleash some strong emotions or hurts. That's not a bad thing if it leads them to finally bring it before God. You need to be prepared for some of them to share some difficult things.

Lastly, remember that you are the facilitator, not the healer nor the teacher. When you don't know the answer, say so. When you feel like your group is turning into a therapy session rather than a Bible study, direct your members back to the Word. When someone has a serious issue for which they need professional help, point them in that direction. Don't take on an issue out of your scope or depth of expertise.

Diving In:

Opening Session:

You may have chosen to meet together as a group and watch the first teaching video and/or just get to know one another and discuss the purpose and logistics of your group. This would be a good time to have each group member open their books and read the introduction together. This gets everyone on the same page and gives them an idea as to where the study is headed.

You can also use the quote from Ed Stetzer at the beginning of the introduction as a springboard for discussion:

What is your reaction to this quote? Does it make you laugh, cry, or merely shake your head?

Do you agree with this quote? Why or why not?

What do you think he means when he calls us “advertisements”?

This is also an opportunity to discuss group norms such as polite listening, confidentiality, etc. You want to make sure your group is a safe place.

Point out the importance of reading the daily scripture passages in their Bibles *first* and then beginning to work their way through the questions.

Direct them to the bold, italicized questions, informing them that they should have written answers to these questions, causing them to pause, slow down, and really internalize their answers.

Challenge them to go to the end of the week and read through the Intentional Trekking and Passionate Prayer Ideas prior to beginning Day #1 in their weekly study time. Ask them to visit the ideas daily and ask God to prompt their heart to step out of their comfort zone and follow through in obedience!

Emphasize the importance of completing their homework. It's not a guilt thing, it's an admonishment. The more time they devote to the study, the more they are going to get out of it. While everyone is welcome and has seasons in which life is painfully busy, encourage them to try and make their study time a priority. **Note: if you have a single mom or someone with a special circumstance in your group, this is an excellent opportunity for your group members to implement many of the Intentional Trekking ideas and serve this group member allowing her to have time to do her study!*

Session #2/Discussion of Week #1 Weekly Theme: Snapshots

Make sure every participant read the introduction. If you find that several of them skipped it, start your group time by reading it together.

Participants are asked on Day #1 to identify 3-5 of their closest relationships and to commit to pray for them daily. Challenge them to follow through with that commitment. Provide some tips and encouragement as to how they can make prayer time for these individuals a regular part of their daily study.

The Why & How Questions: Remember we want to focus about 25% of our study time on the Who, What, When and Where and another 25% of the Why and How. If you only work your way chronologically through the daily workbook pages, you will probably not achieve this balance. So each week I will include here the specific Why & How questions that you will want to make sure you cover.

1. How do Pharaoh's actions to subdue and destroy the Israelites coincide with our enemy's schemes to subdue and destroy us?
2. Why do you suppose Moses had such a fascination with his heritage?
3. Are you presently married or do you hope to be? What are some ways that your upbringing could have a positive effect in helping your husband?

The Application Questions: again, this should take about 50% of your group discussion time and should include discussion of the Intentional Trekking and Passionate Prayer components.

1. Who in your life do you often find yourself trying to please? Is it a struggle for you to disappoint someone and say "no" when asked of something from them?
2. What are some practical ways that you can discern if you are pleasing man or following the LORD?
3. Can you think of a season of your life where God had you in His perfect classroom? Maybe you are in one now! Share how God equipped you during that season and circumstance in your life.
4. Is there a relationship in your life that you have had to completely surrender over to God? Or maybe one that you know God is calling you to surrender over to Him now? Why do you think it is so hard to trust God completely with our relationships?
5. Do you have a moment in your life that you look back on and wish you could have a do over? Do you believe God can still use that supposed mess up on your part to accomplish His plan for you?
6. Think about a circumstance in your life that frequently drives you to your knees for direction. What is the REAL question you have about it? What role does fear play in this question?

Session #3 Discussion of Week #2 Weekly Theme: Going Back In Time

Who, What, When, Where= 25% of your discussion time. Choose a couple from the daily lessons.

Why & How Questions= 25% of your discussion time.

1. Why do you think it is important to remember that God doesn't deliver us from sin just for freedom's sake?
2. How did God tangibly demonstrate to Moses His power over his fears?
3. Why do we often repeatedly ask God the same questions over and over and desire tangible responses from Him?

Application Questions/Intentional Trekking & Passionate Prayer= 50%

1. What is a fear that you are currently facing or have faced in the past? Has God demonstrated His power over that fear to you? If so, how? Share with your group and encourage someone!
2. Moses' primary factor in his desire to not follow God's directions initially appeared to be due to fear. What is your primary factor that keeps you moving forward in obedience to God?
3. Can you think of a time when God prompted you to an act of obedience in which you were reluctant? Share what happened.
4. In all of your human relationships, from whom do you most fear rejection? Why?
5. Have you ever asked God to reveal to you what fears you may have harboring in the deep recesses of your heart? Are you able to identify them or are they still hidden?
6. Have you ever gone through a circumstance that seemed so monumental at the time you thought it might emotionally devastate you, only to realize later it was a short season to prepare you for something else?
7. Can you think of a time in your life when you felt like God wasn't playing fair; where He seemed to have let you down?

Session #4 Discussion of Week #3 Weekly Theme: Confrontations

Who, What, When, Where= 25% of your discussion time. Choose a few questions from your daily lessons.

Why & How Questions= 25% of your discussion time.

1. Why do you think God often unfolds His plans in ways that are entirely unexpected by us?
2. In what position of ministry or service are you currently participating? How do we intentionally keep ourselves in the game?
3. How do the actions of our enemy demonstrate his belief in the power and sovereignty of God?

Application Questions/Intentional Trekking & Passionate Prayer= 50%

1. Describe a time in your life when you thought you were following God's leading but it seemed to lead to disaster or disappointment.
2. Do you have some unfinished business that you need to bring before God? Something that you have told yourself is in the past and you have tried to forget about, but it still haunts you?
3. Have you had a time when you were serving the Lord and it was just flat out hard? Maybe even disappointing? Why do you think God allowed it to happen that way?
4. Can you think of a time in your life when you faced disappointment or defeat and you ran to God? How did He reveal Himself to you or comfort you during that time?
5. Have you ever acted presumptuously and independently, not seeking God for His leading? Share what happened.
6. Have you ever had a time in your life where you saw evidence of God's handiwork in another person's life, but they seemed oblivious to it? Without naming names, describe the circumstances. Have you ever been the oblivious one?
7. What are some practical ways that we can keep our hearts humble and our mind stayed on His leading even during seasons when the path is relatively smooth and stable?

Session #5 Discussion of Week #4 Weekly Theme: Escalation

Who, What, When, Where= 25% of your discussion time.

Why & How Questions= 25% of your discussion time.

1. Why is comparing ourselves to others such a dangerous and destructive habit?
2. How does our choice to “cease befriending” a loved one in the courts of heaven demonstrate our belief in and understanding of the grace of God?
3. Why do you think God did not rebuke Moses for losing his temper in front of Pharaoh?

Application Questions/Intentional Trekking & Passionate Prayer= 50%

1. Share an example of how something that may weaken us physically or emotionally could be used by God to strengthen us spiritually.
2. How do we set and keep healthy boundaries with loved ones who repeatedly inflict emotional pain upon us?
3. Do you struggle more not to manipulate or not to be manipulated? Or maybe both?
4. When you feel you are following God and someone challenges you, do you have more of a tendency to behave as Moses did or do you let it affect you emotionally and distract you?
5. What are some practical ways that we can keep ourselves focused on what God has called us to do and not get wrapped up in defending ourselves or turning the process into a battle of wills?
6. What is your biggest challenge in “getting there”? Is it taking that step of obedience to follow God out? Or is it to generously sacrifice to Him whatever He is asking of you once you “get there”?
7. How can we grow in grace in our battles against anger? If we are really struggling in this area, how can we support one another during our small group time?

Session #6 Discussion of Week #5 Weekly Theme: Turning Points

Who, What, When, Where= 25% of your discussion time.

Why & How Questions= 25% of your discussion time.

1. What parts of God's character are hardest for you to keep in perspective? Why do you think this is so?
2. How did you describe God in your "top 5". Why do you think you chose the character traits that you did? Why do you think you did NOT choose some of the others that someone else had written?
3. Why do you think it is important to keep the stories of Thomas and Peter fresh in our memory banks?

Application Questions/Intentional Trekking & Passionate Prayer= 50%

1. When God stirs something in your heart that is new or unexplained, can you follow in obedience as the Israelites did, or do you prefer to seek further clarification before obeying?
2. How would you describe your current leg of your journey: in a place of promise, a dry and dusty desert, a dark night, in the middle of the Red Sea, a long detour, being chased down by Pharaoh? Why would you describe it this way?
3. Has God ever asked you to "turn back"? What do you think was God's reasoning for asking you to do so? Has God stirred some reason in your heart to "turn back" now? If so, why do you think that is?
4. When was a time that God called you to face your fears? How did He provide courage and strength for you during that time? Is there a fear He is calling you to face now? What is keeping you from obedience?
5. How did you rate yourself as a threat to our enemy? Why did you place yourself there? How do we keep our focus on the spiritual battle and staying in step with the Spirit in a world that offers so many distractions?
6. The Israelites had to stand firm and be still all night long while God parted the waters. Why do you think God asked them to do that? Has God ever asked you to wait for Him to bring about an answer or deliverance? Why do you think God asked you to wait?
7. Has God ever allowed you to experience a dramatic deliverance or miracle in your life? How did that experience affect your faith and/or your belief in God?

Session #7 Discussion of Week #6 Weekly Theme: Providing, Praising, and Pitching Fits

Who, What, When, Where= 25% of your discussion time.

Why & How Questions= 25% of your discussion time.

1. Why do you think the Israelites didn't just ask God for water?
2. Why do you think grumbling is so contagious? Why is it so hard to stop and turn around once you enter through the gate of grumbling?
3. Why do you think God was so gracious and merciful to the Israelites when they grumbled about having no water?

Application Questions/Intentional Trekking & Passionate Prayer= 50%

1. Have you ever wandered with God into a great unknown? How did you feel at the time and what did you learn through your experience?
2. How did you rate yourself on the "Ask-o-meter"? Why do you think you approach "asking God for things" the way that you do?
3. How has your perspective about asking God for things shifted or changed after this week's lessons?
4. How does obedience with tangible provisions build faith and trust in God? Why do you think God may choose to use tangible blessings to test us?
5. What are some practical ways that we can keep perspective about our "stuff", realizing that God expects us to be obedient with it and He may have given it to us for the purpose of "testing us"?
6. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray and said, "Give us this day our daily bread," what do you think He may have meant by that other than the obvious request for provision?
7. Rest and self-sufficiency are at polar ends of the spectrum. Why is intentionally setting aside a time of rest fundamental to our spiritual health? How do we do this on a practical level?

Session #8 Discussion of Week #7 Weekly Theme: The Rules of Relationship

Who, What, When, Where= 25% of your discussion time.

Why & How Questions= 25% of your discussion time.

1. Why is investing in a “tent-kicker” relationship fundamental to our spiritual growth?
2. Why is jealousy so destructive to authentic friendships? How do we guard ourselves against jealousy?
3. Why do you think God consistently reminds His people that He is a covenant keeping God?

Application Questions/Intentional Trekking & Passionate Prayer= 50%

1. How do you personally develop or maintain a “tent-kicker” relationship with others? If you have not done so in the past, how can you change this?
2. How do you approach giving advice to others? Do you have more of a tendency to “mind your own business” or do you tend to give your advice when it is unwanted? How do we grow in discerning when to speak and when to remain silent?
3. In the list of the healthy marks of a tent-kicker, which area convicted you the most? What are some practical ways you can grow in that area?
4. What is your natural bent when it comes to serving in the church or your community? Do you tend to take on too much and micro-manage others or do you tend to settle back and get comfortable and let others take on more than their fair share?
5. In Ephesians 4:11-16, Paul listed the benefits of every member in the church body using their gifts in service to one another. Which of those benefits would you like to see more of in your own life? What are some practical things you can do to allow that benefit to become a reality?
6. On a day to day basis, how do we live as “a kingdom of priests”?
7. How do we consecrate ourselves in preparation to meet with God? Why is it important to take the time to do that?

Session #9 Discussion of Week #8 Weekly Theme: The Roadblocks of Relationship

Who, What, When, Where= 25% of your discussion time.

Why & How Questions= 25% of your discussion time.

1. Why is desiring only our personal deliverance setting our sights too low?
2. Why did God give the Israelites the “Book of the Covenant” before He gave them the plans and instructions for building the tabernacle?
3. Why do you think it is important to be a “people person” if we are going to serve the LORD effectively?

Application Questions/Intentional Trekking & Passionate Prayer= 50%

1. What is the biggest “snare” in your life and what are some practical ways to guard against it?
2. Can you think of a life lesson that led you to repentance or brought instruction? Have you had to repeat it?
3. What are some practical ways we can “write down everything the LORD has said” during these times of instruction, so we don’t foolishly forget and repeat the same mistakes?
4. Have you intentionally given your gifts and talents over to the LORD for Him to use as He wills? How do we do that on a practical level?
5. What are some practical things we can do to encourage our spiritual leaders? (For those of us who are married, this also includes our husbands!).
6. How do we guard ourselves against people pleasing? Did you notice any of Aaron’s actions in your own life?
7. Have you ever had to “drink in your rebellion”? How does the concept of poor leadership and personal responsibility work together in God’s social order?

Session #10 Discussion of Week #9 Weekly Theme: The Roles We Play In Relationship

Who, What, When, Where= 25% of your discussion time.

Why & How Questions= 25% of your discussion time.

1. How do we guard against allowing our disappointment in others affect our own obedience to the LORD?
2. Why does God describe Himself as jealous and why is that not a sinful description?
3. Why are we “saved to serve”?

Application Questions/Intentional Trekking & Passionate Prayer= 50%

1. Are you able to approach God boldly and ask Him to reveal aspects of His character to you in moments of sin, doubt, or uncertainty? Why do you think it would be appropriate to ask God to do so?
2. How do we set and keep feelings of deep dependence upon God, rather than allowing the enemy’s schemes to entice us with feelings of independence to take hold?
3. Have you ever wasted your treasures worshipping the things of this world? Give some examples of what that might look like.
4. How do we maintain the attitude of a “cheerful giver” when it comes to our time, talents and treasures as well as our spiritual giftedness?
5. Has God stirred something in your heart that He wanted you to do in service to Him? Did you obey? Are you willing to obey now?
6. How does others’ grumbling change our perspective about things? How do we guard ourselves against joining “the multitude of grumblers”?
7. How can we identify and repent of our own “graves of craving”? Why is it important to remember Paul’s warning in I Corinthians 10:12?

Session #11 Discussion of Week #10 Weekly Theme: The Restored Relationship

Who, What, When, Where= 25% of your discussion time.

Why & How Questions= 25% of your discussion time.

1. Why is it important to know the lies our enemy commonly uses against us?
2. How do difficult circumstances bring our areas of unbelief out in the open?
3. Why should we quote God's own Word back to Him when He already knows what it says?

Application Questions/Intentional Trekking & Passionate Prayer= 50%

1. Can you think of a time when you had to be a Joshua or a Caleb and stand alone against the crowd? Why is it so hard to go against the grain?
2. Have you ever allowed the LORD to ask anything difficult of you? Why do you think Oswald Chambers suggests that God asks "difficult" things of us?
3. To which 4 lies of the enemy do you most often fall prey? Why do you think that lie is so effectively used upon you?
4. What are some of God's promises to which you need to cling mostly tightly right now? Why those particular ones?
5. What are some practical ways that we can keep God's faithfulness in the forefront of our minds during times of fear and uncertainty?
6. Have you ever gotten swallowed up in your own pride? How do we guard ourselves against this?
7. Why must we and how do we offer grace to our spiritual leaders? What are some practical ways we can affirm them?

Connecting With Erica:

If you or your group are confused about a portion of the study, would like further clarification, or you really identified with it and would like to share your story, please connect with me! I would love to have the opportunity to dialogue with you about it! You have several options:

- 1.** You can connect with me via email through the Contact Form on my website: www.EricaWiggenhorn.com.
- 2.** You can connect with me on Facebook: Erica Wiggenhorn or Twitter: @wiggenhorne.
- 3.** Lastly, you can comment on my blog: www.ericawiggenhorn.wordpress.com.