



# LESSON 3

## Listening to God

### Vocabulary

- **Revelation** – Something that is revealed or shown; God’s communication to us
- **Doubt** – To distrust; a feeling of uncertainty or unbelief about something
- **Parable** – A story that pictures or illustrates a lesson
- **Vineyard** – A place for growing grapevines

### 3-A God Speaks to Moses

The Bible is God’s **revelation** to us. He revealed His Word so we could know Him better. When we read through all this history, poetry, and prophecy, we should ask what it shows us about God.

Before Scripture was complete, people needed to listen to God in different ways. When God first spoke to Moses, He appeared in an unusual form.

► Read **Exodus 3:1-8** and answer the following questions.

- Before hearing God call to him, what did Moses see? (vv. 2-4)
- God told Moses to show respect in this place. What did Moses need to do? (v. 5)
- The Lord had seen the suffering of His people. What would He do now? (v. 8)

Suddenly, at the age of 80, Moses had a mission from God. The Israelites had lived in Egypt for 430 years. They spent much of that time as slaves. But God had compassion on them, and He told Moses to lead the people out of Egypt to their own land.



- When God called him, Moses didn't think he was a good choice. How did God answer Moses' **doubts** and questions? Read the following passages and fill in the blanks of each summary.

	Moses' Doubt	God's Answer
<b>Exodus 3:11-12</b>	Who am I to go to Pharaoh and bring out the people?	I will be _____.
<b>Exodus 3:13-14</b>	What if they ask for the name of the God who sent me?	Say, "_____ has sent me to you."
<b>Exodus 4:1-5</b>	But the people will not believe me or listen to me.	God turned Moses' _____ into a _____, and then changed it back again. This would be one sign of God's power.
<b>Exodus 4:10-12</b>	But I cannot speak well.	I will teach you what _____.

- From this conversation, how do you think Moses felt about what God asked him to do?

- Finally, read **Exodus 4:13-20** and answer the following questions.

- ◉ Who was sent by God to help Moses speak? (vv. 14-16)
- ◉ Did Moses eventually decide to go? (v. 20)      Yes      No

## 3-B God Speaks to Jonah

Many years after Moses led Israel out of Egypt, God spoke to Jonah the prophet. God didn't ask Jonah to help some poor, oppressed people. Instead, Jonah needed to share God's truth with Israel's enemies—the wicked, violent people of Nineveh.

- Read the following passages and match each sentence to its correct ending.

<b>Jonah 1:1-3</b> – When God first told Jonah to preach in Nineveh, Jonah . . .	<b>A.</b> got on a ship heading for Tarshish.
<b>Jonah 1:8-12</b> – When the sailors found out he was running from God, Jonah . . .	<b>B.</b> vomited Jonah up onto land.
<b>Jonah 1:16-17</b> – Before Jonah could drown, God . . .	<b>C.</b> went to preach in Nineveh.
<b>Jonah 2:1-2, 10</b> – After Jonah prayed for help, God spoke to the fish, which . . .	<b>D.</b> made a huge fish swallow him.
<b>Jonah 3:1-3</b> – The second time that God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, Jonah . . .	<b>E.</b> told them to throw him into the sea.

- Read all of **Jonah 4** and answer the following questions.

- ◉ When Jonah found out that God wouldn't destroy Nineveh after all, how did he feel? (vv. 1-4)
- ◉ What do you think God taught Jonah with the plant that died?



- Read each statement and mark if it applies to Moses or Jonah. Some statements may be true for both men or neither.

	Moses	Jonah
Chosen to help save the Israelites		
Chosen to help save the Ninevites		
Was afraid to do what God said to do		
Obedied God's commands without doubt or hesitation		
Told God his doubts and fears		
Ran away from God's calling		
Eventually asked God for help		
Didn't want his audience to listen to him and change		

### 3-C True Obedience

- In **Matthew 21:28-32**, Jesus told a **parable** to some religious leaders who were very prideful. Read the story and mark the correct ending to each sentence.

#### Verses 28-29: In the story, the first son . . .

worked in the <b>vineyard</b> as soon as he was told.	said he wouldn't work, but later did, after all.	said he wouldn't work and then relaxed all day.
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#### Verse 30: When the second son was told to go work, he . . .

worked in the vineyard as soon as he was told.	said he wouldn't work, but later did, after all.	said he would go to the vineyard, but did not.
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#### Verse 31: The son who actually obeyed his father was . . .

the first son.
the second son.
neither son.

#### Verse 32: Jesus showed the religious leaders that they were like . . .

the first son.
the second son.
neither son.



The religious leaders claimed to obey God, but they didn't really. Jesus pointed to other kinds of sinners with bad reputations. He said that even these people could enter God's kingdom before prideful leaders.

## Winning Your Race

God wants us to listen to His words and respond to them. It's not enough just to know about Scripture. We should learn *and* do. The Word can change us from the inside out.

- ▶ Look again at **James 1:22-25**. If we hear the Word but don't do what it says, who are we like?

The whole point of a mirror is to show you what you look like. Is your hair messed up? Do you have a smudge on your nose?

Scripture can do the same thing, but spiritually. The Word shows us who Jesus is. We can study Him and compare ourselves to His love and kindness.

- ▶ In the spaces below, list three reasons why it can be difficult to study God's Word.

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- ▶ Choose one of the reasons above and explain how you might make it *less* difficult. How can you seek help? How can you study the Word despite the challenge?