

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

## I. Moses’ Lips

- Why do you think the book of Exodus spends so much time on Moses’ doubt and resistance to his calling? **Read and discuss** the following quote to help answer this question.
  - Exodus gives much more attention to Moses’s unbelief and resistance to God than it does to the sins of his youth, even though his youthful sins included killing a man. It is not that the importance of the earlier failings is minimized, but that Moses’s lack of faith and unwillingness to obey a direct commission is, in God’s eyes, a serious act of disobedience. – **John L. Mackay**
- Have you ever felt like you were resisting God’s calling in some area in your life? Explain.
- **Read and discuss** the following quote
  - People often come up with excuses for not doing what God tells them to do. Like Moses, we tend to use the same objections over and over. It takes some Christians years to get past their tired old excuses for not giving, not going, not witnessing, or not serving. We need to discover what Moses discovered: God’s call is always accompanied by God’s gift. – **Philip Graham Ryken**
- **Read Exodus 6:28.** What do you think Moses means by “uncircumcised lips?”
- Why is God’s response in Exodus 7:1 somewhat shocking? What does that God mean by saying that Moses will be “like God to Pharaoh?”
- How does Exodus 7:1 point us to Christ? Read the following quote to help answer this question.
  - In Egyptian ideology, the pharaoh was considered to be a divine being. So by calling Moses God, Yahweh is beating Pharaoh at his own game. It is not the

king of Egypt who is god; rather, it is the shepherd and leader of slaves who is God. And this Moses-God defeats Pharaoh in a manner that leaves no doubt as to the true nature and source of his power: He controls the elements, bugs, livestock, fire from heaven, and the water of the sea; he even has authority over life and death. Moses is not simply like god to Pharaoh. He truly is God to pharaoh in that, God is acting through Moses. – **Peter Enns**

- What does Exodus 7:2 tell us about Aaron's role as prophet to Moses? What insights does this verse give us about the office of prophet?
- What was Moses' & Aaron's main calling? What was God asking them to do?
- **Read and discuss** 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. How does this passage relate to Moses and his calling?
- It's interesting that the great miracles of Exodus didn't start until chapter 7 when Moses started to obey God faithfully. What does this truth tell us about God's desire to use human instruments to carry out His divine work? Why didn't God just send angels to Pharaoh?
- **Read Exodus 6:10-11.** According to verse 11, why didn't Moses want to go speak to Pharaoh? Why was this a misunderstanding of his calling?

## II. Pharaoh's Heart

- Why do you think Pharaoh's heart is such a major theme in the book of Exodus?
- Read the following verses and talk about how the hardening of pharaoh's heart is described in Exodus.
  - Exodus 4:21
  - Exodus 7:3
  - Exodus 7:13
  - Exodus 8:15
- How do these verses show that God was sovereign over man's choices, yet Pharaoh was still responsible for his rebellion?

## III. God's Hand

- **Read Exodus 7:4-5** What was God's purpose in hardening Pharaoh's heart? Also read Exodus 9:16 & Romans 9:17-23 to help answer this question.

## **End Prayer**

This prayer came from Martin Luther after meditating on Exodus 7:1-13

O my God, my Lord, and Father, show unto my poor soul, that it may perceive that you are my rock, bulwark, shield, tower, treasure, defense, trust, help, refuge, protection, and goodness; that I in this my great need and tribulation, may, through your godly grace, have help and assistance against my adversaries, and be preserved forever. Lord, upon you do I trust; let me never be ashamed.