



# Sermon Growth Guide

**March 16, 2025**

**Directed**



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**“Directed”**

**Exodus 3:1-14**

**Key Verse:** Exodus 3:10

“So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt”

**Big Idea:** God directs us through calling, convicting and commissioning.

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## Foundations

This week we continue in our theme of Turn Again. This passage comes after we hear about Moses, a man who was angry at injustice, lacked self-control, fearful, caring and looked out for others. We further see Moses being humbled, going from growing up in Pharaoh’s house to now shepherding the flocks of his father-in-law.

Moses sees the burning bush, is called by God, and God introduces Himself. Moses rightly recognizes his sinfulness and inferiority as he is afraid to look at God. God speaks of the misery and oppression of the Israelites, and calls upon Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. Moses recognizes his inferiority. Just a chapter earlier we hear of Moses’ sin and fall from a high status. God quickly turns around Moses’ question of “who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh...” to a focus on who God is. God is I Am and will be with Moses – that is all Moses needs to know. Moses was called, convicted and commissioned, directed to move out in God’s purposes by faith, as Pastor Tim points out.

God uses Moses right where he is, including using his background. In fact, God uses Moses’ background to fulfill His purposes for the Israelites. Moses followed God’s leading.

## Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Exodus 3:1-14.

Moses comes upon a burning bush that is calling his name. Moses reacted by hiding his face. How would you react?

God directs Moses and assures him of His presence and His identity. How do we take comfort in God’s presence and identity as we follow Him?

## Applying God’s Word

God tells Moses that he too has heard the Israelites’ cries against injustice. We see from the previous passage that Moses had a passion to fight injustice.

Think of some of the passions you have. How would you respond if you found out that God not only shared your passion, but was sending you to be part of the solution?

## Witnessing God’s Word

God interrupted Moses in a dramatic way. How is God interrupting your life right now?

Pastor Tim talks of our need to follow God’s heart. What do you know of God’s heart? Is He directing you towards anything?

Some things are worth turning aside to see. A few years ago, we did Thanksgiving in Moab. That was pretty fun, and on the way home, we wanted to stop off and see a few things. We saw Mesa Verde. I hadn't been there since I was a kid. We saw the famous Mittens in Monument Valley. We decided to go see Four Corners. I wanted to see it. I talked it up. You can stand in four states at one time! So cool! We drove two hours out of the way. It was closed. Gates locked. Big chain link fence. "Right over there, kids." Some stuff is not worth turning aside to see. A burning bush that doesn't get burnt up? That is worth it, I'd say.

We are looking at conversion in this series. Turn Again. Conversion, at the heart of it, is about meeting Jesus. "What do you mean, meeting Jesus? You mean studying Jesus?" Not exactly. "You mean talking about Jesus, worshipping Jesus?" Yes. But more. What I mean is that Jesus is still running around. Ask people who know Jesus and they will talk about meeting Jesus. You can meet Jesus. He is roaming these halls. He is interrupting people's lives. He is showing up—spiritually. You can meet Jesus. You might need to turn aside, like Moses, and go see. There may be some odd prompting or new emotion or stunning sentiment, and part of you says, "Nah. Let's just get back to normal life. Let's go on home. I want to watch Netflix." But another part of you says, "Wait a minute. I want to go see." You may just be walking into the divine encounter you have always wanted and needed and actually longed to have. An encounter with God. God is the God who has a purpose for your life. You will be Directed.

"Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God." (Exodus 3:1) Moses was born to the Jewish people in the time of slavery in Egypt. But worse, it was when Pharaoh

thought the slaves were too numerous and strong—a threat. So, he ordered the boys killed at birth. Moses was squirreled away, tucked into a basket and floated down the Nile River, with the crocodiles. He was saved by Pharaoh's daughter, raised in Pharaoh's palace, but by now had run off after killing an Egyptian slave master. Now he's a nobody from nowhere. Just running sheep for his father-in-law. Right there, God intersects with Moses. "There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.'" (Exodus 3:2-3) Some things are worth turning aside for. Go see.

I'm calling this Moses' conversion story. Conversion is about meeting God, meeting Jesus. It's when God interrupts. In that moment, what are you going to do? What are you going to say? Are you going to walk away and keep going with your ordinary, run of the mill day? Or are you going to take a step and go see? Moses meets God here. "When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.'" (Exodus 3:4) Sometimes that is all you need to say. "Here I am, Lord." Suddenly, Moses is on holy ground. "'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.'" (Exodus 3:5) There are moments when you realize God is at work, the place, the time, it becomes holy and sacred. God is showing you something, maybe showing you who He is. "Then he said, I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God." (Exodus 3:6) Moses is meeting God. But it isn't just about Moses. Notice, it doesn't say, "From that time on, Moses was happy and fulfilled. He truly felt that his existential needs had been met." Not really. I believe that's part of it. I



believe we are happy and fulfilled when we know God and live out our true purpose in Him. But it doesn't say that. What it says is that, upon meeting God, Moses realized that his Creator has a purpose for him. God is the God who has a purpose for your life. "The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.'" (Exodus 3:7-10) Moses is Directed. The rest as they say is history.

God is the God who has a purpose for your life. What path does He have for you? What will this journey be like, following Jesus? Moses recognized the presence of the Lord and hid his face in repentance. This is a true acknowledgement of his own sin. But God called Moses near, promised to walk with him through all his life, and then directed Moses to move out in His purposes by faith. Moses was called, convicted and commissioned. Conversion leads to new life. This is a move from purposelessness to purpose; from self-distracted to God-directed; from aimless to focused and devoted to the mission of God. People need purpose. A Harvard study two years ago found that anxiety, hopelessness and depression are on the rise in the younger generations. Pressure to succeed, finances, and a general feeling of lack of control in a world that is unraveling were cited, but one of the most concerning contributors was the lack of meaning or purpose. Fifty-eight percent said they felt no meaning or purpose in their lives in the last month.

They said they feel like their lives have a "lack of direction." We have a big bunch of young adults in our Basecamp class. [PICTURE] Parker Samelson leads that. He says that's true. People are looking for purpose.

A self-interested life is directionless and often runs out of steam. A professor out at Biola published a book last year called, "Don't Follow Your Heart: Boldly Breaking the Ten Commandments of Self-Worship." We tell people to follow their heart. But, as Jeremiah says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9) Maybe we need to follow God's heart. God gives us a new purpose and a new meaning to life when we experience conversion and meet Jesus. Jesus called His disciples saying, "Follow me," and promised they would become "fishers of men" who would capture people—into freedom, not slavery. Don't you wonder what God has planned for your life? Don't you want to know what God intends? You have to be willing to be directed to find out. Conversion entails repentance and faith. J. I. Packer wrote, "The repentance that Christ requires of His people consists in a settled refusal to set any limit to the claims which He may make on their lives." Here I am, Lord. Directed.

About a year ago, I went to prison. As a guest. I was invited to speak to a class, about twenty guys going through seminary out at Limon Correctional. Seminary. They are learning Bible, Theology, Preaching, Pastoral Care, all the stuff you learn to become a Pastor, but, to a man, they are all life-sentence inmates. I only had a short time with them, but I met a man I'll call Brian. Brian is a combat veteran, Afghanistan. He got in an altercation some years ago and killed a man in a rage. When police came, he shot at them, injuring one severely. His sentence is about 150 years. He's not even thirty years old. He will never see the outside of the Colorado correctional system. His young wife and kids drive from Denver on Sunday



afternoons to visit him in the yard or cafeteria for two hours, when they can. Young men have a hard time finding their purpose. I think about Brian. I remember driving away looking at the hillside and thinking, "I bet he has this hillside memorized. It's all he can see. He can't even see the mountains from there." How do you get out of bed in the morning?

Brian's rage was like a fire in his bones for years. A fellow inmate, a Christian, came alongside him. He introduced Brian to the Prison Chaplain, told Brian the gospel—the good news that Jesus died for his sins, and he could be forgiven—and started inviting Brian to Chapel Services and Bible Study. One night, in Brian's cell, he said it was like a light filled the cell; he knew Jesus was there. He gave his life to Christ that night. The fire, the rage in his bones, immediately stopped. Now he lives to tell others about Jesus. He runs Crossfit exercise class in the prison and uses it to intersect with other inmates and tell them about Jesus. When he heard there was a program to take life inmates and make them chapel servers, he jumped on it. If he can find purpose...

See, you don't need a global platform to have purpose, to make a difference. You don't need to fly to India and Kenya and everywhere (I mean, go if God's calling you!). But you don't need this enormous, platformed, influential life to have influence, to live out your purpose. That's the amazing thing. Jesus has a purpose for every life right where you are! Even in prison. Jesus has a purpose for your life too, if you are willing to be directed, if you will turn again to Jesus. You don't have to be Moses, but you need to be like Moses. Jesus is here. Moses, when he recognized the presence of God, he repented of his sins. He humbled himself. Jesus is here. Moses, when he heard God's Word, he believed. He had faith. Jesus is here. Will you bend the knee to Jesus? Moses said, "Who should I tell them sent me?" "God said to Moses, 'I am who I am. This

is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14) Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you...before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58) Jesus is here. Jesus still roams these halls. Jesus is alive and active here in Colorado Springs, today. Will you bend the knee to Him and be saved? He has a purpose for your life.

I want to pray for you. You don't have to repeat it, but make it your own, take this prayer into your heart as I pray. "Jesus, I open my heart to you. I have been pursuing my own desires too much. I want to know what you have for my life. Save me Lord, and I will be yours. I want to know you. I want to follow you. I give you my life today." If that is something you prayed for the first time, please talk to one of us. We will have a baptism service on April 27 at the end of this series. Maybe it is time to come to the water. If you have renewed your faith today, share that with someone. New life is here in Jesus. Amen.

