

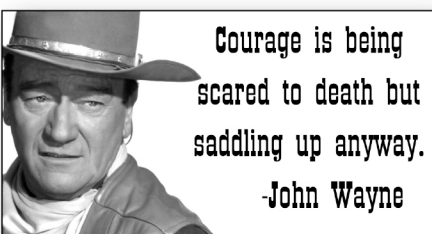
Weekly Action Plan

But Moses protested to God, “**Who am I** to appear before Pharaoh? **Who am I** to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² **God answered, “I will be with you.”** -Ex. 3:11-12

On Sunday we dug into Exodus 3, the familiar story of Moses and the burning bush. In it God reassures Moses that whatever challenges lay ahead, He will be with Moses! In fact **this reassuring truth is not just for Moses, but for you and I too.** Remember what Jesus promised his friends nearing the end of his time with them, “*I will not abandon you as orphans*” (John 14:8). God’s very real presence was meant to spur Moses on and would enable him to do immeasurable more than he ever thought he could accomplish (Ephesians 3:20). In obedience we can rely on God’s power to do the same for us!

When you read Exodus 3, do you ever wonder what is going on when God warned Moses “*Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground*”?

It is a unique event, there is only one other place where a similar event happens (Joshua 5:15). Clearly God is telling Moses that this piece of earth is different from all others because ***right then, right there, God is face to face with Moses*** and the moment demands to be treated with the highest degree of respect. In Moses’ era removing your shoes before entering into a house was a necessary sign of respect to



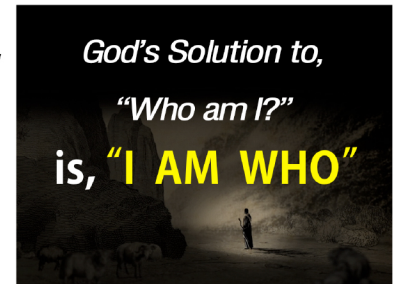
Courage is being
scared to death but
saddling up anyway.
-John Wayne

the owner, showing that you were a guest and that the place you entered did not belong to you. Moses quickly understands that indeed he is a guest in the place where he is standing and his sense of awe, fear and respect drives Moses to not only take off his shoes, but he completely hides his

Overheard:

“Moses’ second excuse was totally hypothetical. It began with the words, “*What if . . . ?*” Those are, and always will be, the words of worriers. Many people feed their minds on the uncertainty of tomorrow, allowing the “What If” monster to keep a grip around their throats. That’s what Moses was doing. ***He was so worried about what might happen, he didn’t hear God tell him what would happen.*** -Charles Swindoll

face! As I was studying this story this week I couldn't help but think of how casual our culture has become and how rare it is for people to give respect to others who are deserving of it. Could it be that we are too casual in our approach to the God of the universe who certainly deserves our awe, fear and respect? It's worth asking yourself what it should look like to give God the respect that he deserves? I believe that ***the very highest way we can pay our respect to God, is not taking off our shoes, but moving our feet in the direction He wants us to walk!*** Did you catch that? Like Moses, what God desires is that we would obey Him even when we are uncertain of the outcome (1 Samuel 15:22)!



Talk it out: Make some time to sit down at a kitchen table, at a coffee shop, or at the beach and explore with someone some of these questions:

- Where or to whom has God been calling you to "Go" that you have been avoiding?
- Which of Moses 3 excuse can you most relate to: #1 He feared he couldn't answer peoples questions, #2 His past attempts at leadership had failed or #3 Moses was not a gifted speaker?
- Sunday I asked you to consider that the word "Faith" could replace the word "courage" when we think about what it means to trust God. Do you agree or disagree?
- Who do you know that exemplifies faithful obedience to God?

Pray it in: Make some time this week to pray. Thanks God for the people that God has placed in your life that push you to follow God even when it is painful and filled with uncertainty. ***Ask God to remind you that His Spirit is right there with you in the thick of the challenges you will face this week.*** Ask God to help you experience His peace this week as you choose to obey Him in difficult circumstances (John 14:27).

Store it up: Committing verses to memory is a key way to hold on to the truths of God that we need to be regularly reminded of. Here is a great one for this week: ***"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*** (John 14:27).