



# the rescue.

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## stories from Exodus

March 9-

Read

Exodus 32

Have you ever grown tired of waiting for someone to respond? You tried being patient, but after enough time passed, you went ahead without that person.

In Exodus 32, the Israelites allowed their impatience to get the better of them. When Moses took too long returning from Mount Sinai, the Israelites went to Moses' right-hand man and demanded a new god.

The people brought their gold to Aaron, who melted it and made an icon of a golden calf. Everyone worshipped the statue. Exodus 32:6 says, "The people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting and drinking, and indulged themselves in pagan revelry."

God saw what Israel did and threatened to destroy the nation. But Moses interceded on their behalf, and God spared them.

When circumstances test our faith, we can create our own golden calf or we can wait on the Lord to provide. Like Israel, we often let impatience get the better of us. We do this when we date the wrong person because we're tired of waiting for the right one, or when we take on debt because we're tired of waiting for our income to catch up with our taste.

Giving into impatience often leads to sin, and sin always has consequences. Thankfully, Jesus intercedes for us the same way Moses interceded for Israel. Jesus alone has the power to pardon all our sin.

We restore our relationship with God by confessing how we've sinned and doing whatever it takes to make things right. The Bible calls this process of turning away from sin "repentance."

Repentance isn't an excuse to give into temptation. Instead, it's a chance to start fresh listening to God and doing what He says.



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## \_\_\_\_\_stories from Exodus

Reflect:

What's one possible golden calf in your life? One way you've allowed fear or impatience to cause you to settle for less than God's best?

What step can you take this week to repent and remove this idol from your life?

Is there a particular sin in your life that you cannot let go of? Until you confess and repent, this sin will remain a barrier in your relationship with Jesus.

March 10-

Reflect on Exodus 32 and write down your own prayer

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March 11-

Read Exodus 33

The story of Exodus is at best a turbulent one for the Israelites. God's people seem unable to escape the roller coaster of their own making as they turn from God time and time again. In the midst of all this, Moses approaches God. And in spite of Moses' leadership struggles and inability to keep the Israelites on track, God calls Moses a friend.

In the Bible, both God and Jesus are referred to as friends of sinners. Understanding friendship with God is hard because there's nothing and no one like Him. And, as our world becomes increasingly interconnected, the notion of friendship is changing. We refer to everyone from our closest confidants to vague online acquaintances as friends.



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In God and Jesus, we see what makes a good friend — patience, loyalty, kindness. As sinners, we fall short of these characteristics every day. But God offers us perfect friendship. Throughout the Bible, God remains faithful through every circumstance.

God's perfect friendship gives us a beautiful example of how much He loves us. In John 15:15, Jesus explains the kind of friendship Christians experience with God: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

Reflect:

What's one way you talk to God that would change if you began to see Him as your friend?

What's one way you can be more like Jesus in your friendships?

March 12-

Reflect on Exodus 33 and pray through these prayer points:

1. Ask God for help in being quick to obey His instructions and to not be "stiff-necked."
2. Thank God for His goodness to you and His presence that carries you along in life's journey.
3. Ask God to teach you His ways that you might know Him and find favor with Him.

March 13-

Read Exodus 34

Have you ever felt like you had to walk on eggshells around someone? Maybe it was a boss with no patience, a friend with no grace, or a family member with a grudge. Sometimes we make mistakes and experience another person's anger instead of their forgiveness. Because this is what we see in daily life, this is often what we expect of God.

God's first reaction to our sin isn't frustration. Exodus 34 shows us how gracious God is. He already gave Moses the Ten Commandments once, but Moses broke those tablets in anger



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when he discovered the Israelites worshipping other gods. So Moses returns to Mount Sinai having destroyed the words of God. Instead of being angry or impatient, God lovingly spends His time retelling Moses what to write down.

We have the same privilege of coming to God with our mess. Exodus 34:6-7 describes God this way: “The Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin.”

Because of God’s nature, we never have to walk on eggshells around Him. His love and forgiveness are far greater than anything we will experience here on Earth. We are invited to come to Him just as we are.

Reflect

Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt like you had made too big of a mistake to come to God? What happened when you finally confessed to Him?

What in your life is causing you to walk on eggshells around God right now? Pray honestly about your struggles and receive God’s quick forgiveness and abundant love!

March 14-

Reflect on Exodus 34 and take a moment to write down your own prayer for today:

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# the rescue.

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## stories from Exodus

March 15-

Read

Exodus 35- Exodus 37

How many times have you written your tithe check or thrown the contents of your wallet into the offering plate and thought, “Good luck with that, God?” Often we discouragingly give our tithes because it seems measly in comparison to what doctors, lawyers, and other wealthy givers contribute.

In Exodus 36 and Exodus 37, the Israelites were busy constructing the inside of the tabernacle, the place where God’s people could go to worship and meet with Him. Moses had previously asked everyone to give whatever they could to contribute to this massive undertaking. After all, they were building the place where God Himself would live among them. How could they possibly gather enough to reach the ambitious goal set before them?

The builders tell Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done (Exodus 36:5).” Moses actually had to ask the people to stop bringing their offerings! In addition to their regular tithes, God’s people brought any offering they could. If only a few people had given, there would probably not have been much to work with. But with God’s people working together, each giving generously from their heart, they had more than enough.

The next time we’re tempted to wonder how our seemingly small offering could contribute to God’s work, remember the tabernacle. With the hands and offerings of ordinary, generous people, the place God lived was built.

Reflect:

Do you find it difficult to be generous? If so, why?

What is one thing that could be accomplished if everyone in the church was generous?

What is one way you could contribute to the work God is doing around you?