



EXODUS 3:7-10

The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people ... I have heard them crying out ... and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them ... 10 So now, go. I am sending you ...

EXODUS 4:2-3

Then the Lord said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' 'A staff,' he replied. 3 The Lord said, 'Throw it on the ground.'

NOTES FOR LEADERS

This Sunday, we launched our Nation Changers Month. We aim to impact our local communities through over 230 projects. We encourage our LifeGroups to get involved and take ownership of one of the projects (some require time, some need money, and some require both). [You can find a list of projects here.](#)

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from this Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

1. In Exodus 3:7-10, God declares He has come to rescue the Israelites, and then He commissions Moses by saying, "So now, go. I am sending you."
 - a. How do you react to the idea that God's plan to address suffering often involves sending individuals to act on His behalf?
 - b. Have you ever felt that God was sending you to make a difference in a specific situation? What was your response?
2. Read Exodus 4:2-3
 - a. God asks Moses, "What is that in your hand?" How does this question and Moses' response inspire you to use what you have to serve God?
 - b. What "staff" do you have in your hand right now (skills, resources, or opportunities) that God might be asking you to use for His purposes?

START SHARING

1. Share a personal experience when you witnessed someone 'using what they had in their hand' to help those in need. How did it impact you and the people involved? How can you apply the lessons learned from that experience to your own life?
2. Have you ever been involved in a Nation Changers Month project before? What was involved? How did your involvement personally impact you? How did it affect your relationship with Jesus?

START PRAYING

Thank You, Father, for caring about the needs of the world and for choosing us to be Your hands and feet on earth. Thank You for all that You have blessed us with. Please use the talents, time, and treasure that you have placed in our hands so that we may be a blessing to others and, in doing so, shine Your light into the world.

START DOING

As a group, select a project from the list ([see the catalogue here](#)) and be part of changing the nation.



This Sunday, in part one of our Nation Changers series, Steve encouraged us to use what we have in our hands.

The nation of Israel was living in slavery. Economically and in every other way, they were 'stuck.' (The situation is reminiscent of the cycles of poverty that we see played out across our country and in different parts of the world today.) Then God appeared to Moses in a burning bush: *7 The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people ... I have heard them crying out ... and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them ... 10 So now, go. I am sending you ...'* Exodus 3:7-10.

Three things stand out to us from this story:

1. God Is Concerned

"I have seen ... I have heard ... I am concerned" Exodus 3:7 He sees the misery, hears the cries, and is concerned about the suffering in His world.

Another way of putting it is that these things are close to the heart of God. And the closer we get to God, the more we will be concerned with the things that are on His heart.

This means that we need to 'see, hear and be concerned'. We need to see the world through His eyes and be concerned because His compassion fills us. *Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.* James 1:27 (NLT)

This is difficult because the problems are big, the suffering is great, and we have a limited capacity for empathy and compassion. So, we often feel overwhelmed by it all or just dial out.

2. God Acts By Sending Us

Note the amazing link in these verses:

God first says to Moses: *"I have come down to rescue them ..."* Exodus 3:8. If you pause the story at this point, you would probably think, what a relief! God has seen and heard. And He is going to act. What an answer to prayers!

But God doesn't stop there. He goes on to say: *"So now, go. I am sending you ..."* Exodus 3:10. Suddenly, it becomes a lot more real for Moses. It goes from general to being personal.

This is something God has done throughout history. Whenever He wants to act, He finds a man or a woman and tells them, "So now go, I am sending you ..."

3. God Asks Us A Question

Moses is full of excuses and reasons why he is the wrong guy for the task (we will look at this more next week). Later in the same story, we read: *2 Then the Lord said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' 'A staff,' he replied. 3 The Lord said, 'Throw it on the ground.'* Exodus 4:2,3.

God never asks a question because He is unsure of the answer! It is always for our benefit. This is a very profound verse. God asks Moses a simple yet profound question: What is in your hand? At this stage in his life, Moses was a shepherd. He worked for his father-in-law and looked after the family business. He was out every day doing his shepherd work. The primary tool of his trade was the shepherd's staff.

When God asks Moses, "What is in your hand?" the answer is 'only my shepherd's staff.' Moses said, 'I don't have what it takes to make a difference,' and God said to him, 'I am powerful enough

to take the simple thing that is in your hand and use it to bring about great miracles.

The question to us is: What is in our hands? Our education, career, passions, money, and time. None of that is enough on its own to solve the problems, but in God's hand, it can be multiplied to achieve amazing results.

This year, our Nation Changers month runs from June 22nd to July 31st, and God is calling us to action:

- There are over 230 projects to get involved in. (Some require time, some need money, and some require both.)
- The total cost of these projects is R1.1m (Some projects - totalling R569 000 - have already been taken)
- And to accomplish this, 1300 volunteers are needed.

So, how do we apply Sunday's message to Nation Changers Month?

1. **Ask God where to get involved** - So many great things are already happening because of our faith in action, but so much more can be done. Ask God to show us specifically what is in our hands.
2. **Contribute (even if it is just R10)** - Every single one of us can make a collective difference.
3. **Sign up for a Nation Changers event** ([See list of opportunities here](#)).