

Small Group Discussion Guide

Enlisted: AWOL or On Duty

May 24, 2026

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I. The Books of Moses, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

- A. Moses Was the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All/His Time)
- B. The Formation of a People

• **Scripture describes Moses as “very humble, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.” His meekness was not weakness, but humble strength shown through his obedience to God, patience with others, and willingness to lead, despite constant challenges and opposition. Discuss with your group the difference between being meek—having strength under control—and being weak.**

II. Encountering God is Expressed in Service

Exodus 3:10 (NIV[®])

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

• **Moses was called by God to serve and lead people through difficult circumstances. What stands out to you most about Moses' obedience in Exodus 3, and how does that challenge the way you respond to God's calling in your own life?**

III. The Bible Shapes Our Expectations (If We Will Listen and Learn)

- A. Jesus' Prophetic Preparation

Matthew 24:9–14 (NIV[®])

⁹“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

¹⁰At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

• **Jesus warned His followers that living for Him would involve opposition and persecution. In what ways can expecting challenges as a Christian help you stay faithful to Christ during difficult times? How can you encourage others to do the same?**

- B. Moses' Experience with Serving God

Exodus 5:21 (NIV[®])

and they said, “May the Lord look upon you and judge you! You have made us a stench to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

Exodus 14:11–12 (NIV^o)

¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

• **The Israelites often complained and doubted God, even after seeing miracles. Why do you think people can quickly forget God’s faithfulness during hard seasons? Share how you—or someone you know—have experienced that personally.**

People Believed Moses (For Awhile)

And when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and **put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.** Exodus 14:31 (NIV^o)

Exodus 15:23–24 (NIV^o)

²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”

• **God led the Israelites to Marah/bitter. How can Moses’ example of meekness help us trust God when He leads us into difficult or uncomfortable places? When was a time God used hardship to grow your faith or dependence on Him?**

Exodus 16:2–3 (NIV^o)

² In the desert **the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.** ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

Numbers 12:1–3 (NIV^o)

¹ Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. ² “Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the Lord heard this. ³ (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

• **Throughout Scripture, God’s servants faced criticism not only from enemies, but sometimes from their own people. How does serving God create conflict in our culture today, and how should Christians respond when they are misunderstood or feeling discouraged?**

C. Jesus & His Friends

Acts 5:40–41 (NIV^o)

... They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.**

• **The apostles rejoiced after suffering for the name of Jesus. What does that reveal about their perspectives and faith? In what ways can believers begin to develop that kind of spiritual maturity?**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for delivering me from an empty way of life. I offer myself as a living sacrifice to You. May the thoughts of my heart and the actions of my life be pleasing in Your sight. Grant me the understanding to recognize Your invitations and the humility to say “yes.” Forgive me for my reluctance to join You. Holy Spirit, teach me to recognize Your voice and to treasure Your direction more than I seek the approval of people. May the purposes of God be fulfilled in this generation. In Jesus’ name, amen.