



Let's Go | *Against All Odds* | Shawn Johnson | 5.21.17

LG Weekly

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer these two questions:

We all have a favorite store we like to go into or visit online, what is yours and why?

SHARE

In this series, we are going to be challenged.

Throughout Scripture, God continually says, "Let's go." From Abraham, Moses and Gideon to Mary, Joseph, the disciples, and the apostle Paul; all had moments of God asking them to trust him. "Going" is not always a destination, but it does take obedience and faith. For some of us, *let's go* can mean it is time to stay right where you are and dig in. For others, *let's go* means drop what you are doing, turn the other direction, and go where Jesus is leading you. God truly speaks to us through his word, prayer, and through the Holy Spirit who guides and counsels.

God can do anything you know --- far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around, but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Ephesians 3:20

It is such a beautiful paraphrase in The Message translation: "He does it not by pushing us around, but by working within us." God is at work inside each of us who have a relationship with Jesus. When we take a moment to grasp that the Holy Spirit is within us and wants to guide our lives, a whole new world opens up to us. So let's chase down the plans God has for us, the dreams that he has given us, and the life he has in store for us to live. It is God who calls us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. We get our identity from him alone. It comes from no one and nothing else. When God whispers *let's go*, we can trust him completely.

This week, Shawn changed direction and focused on how God viewed Moses, when he had a tough time trusting God and his own abilities. Moses had a very complex and difficult past. God saved him as a tiny child as he floated away in a papyrus basket from a certain death into the arms of Pharaoh's own daughter. God had his hand on Moses' life, as he was drawn out of the water as a child and was raised in luxury and privilege. The same palace hallways he played soldier in, would be the very same hallways he would walk through to confront Pharaoh to let his people go. God was preparing Moses for his calling, but Moses needed to come to terms with his plan.

Read Exodus 3:1-14

Moses says "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" How does God respond to his question and why is this so significant?

Do you ever feel that your past gets in the way of believing the things God has to say about you in Scripture? How do you overcome that?

Read Exodus 4:13-17

God sent Moses, but reminded him that he isn't alone. Moses will have God himself helping him, resources, and support from Aaron. We might make excuses for our inadequacies, but God does not ask us to go it alone. He is with us on our journey.

How have godly friendships helped you in the life God is calling you to? If you feel like you lack those types of friends, what do you think you need to do to start building those friendships?

G R O W

Long before God sent Moses, God saved Moses. God had a plan for him even as a baby. Although Pharaoh ordered all boys born be killed, against all odds, Moses lived. Not only did Moses survive the mass slaughter, but he floated in a papyrus basket right into Pharaoh's own household. What are the chances? The odds mean nothing to a God who is omnipotent or 'all powerful.' What God plans comes to pass, His will cannot be thwarted by man.

Let's read Exodus 1:22-2:17

In, Stuart, D. K. (2006). *Exodus*, we read about the significance of Moses name and adoption:

Though giving up her little boy when the time came to turn him over to the princess must have been heart wrenching for Jochebed, we should not assume that Moses never had contact thereafter with his family. The descriptions of his later reuniting with his brother Aaron as described in chap. 4 assume that they knew each other all along, and the importance of Miriam's role in the exodus leadership suggests that she and Moses were hardly strangers. The emphasis of v. 10 rests on the adoption, with requisite Egyptian name. "Moses" follows the typical pattern of ancient naming in which a name (usually an existing, known name) was not selected prior to birth, as in modern Western practice, but only after birth and suggested by some sort of circumstance or speech experienced or heard at the time of birth—in this case at the time of the child's discovery. So a relatively common Egyptian name, meaning "son" or "to beget a son,"¹³⁰ is chosen as appropriate because it sounds something like *mōšēh*, the active participle of the verb *māšāh*, "draw out," which connects to the circumstances of Moses' discovery and being "drawn out" of the water. Through this name, the princess both consciously honors the Hebrew origins of her son and also makes him legitimately Egyptian with a name in her own language that emphasizes that she is adopting a son.

Moses means "drawn out," which is a visual reminder of what God did for Moses. Ironically, the very river in which little boys were to be drown, was the same river Moses was saved through. What the enemy meant for harm, God intended to use for good to save others (Gen. 50:20)

When we give our lives to Christ, we are 'drawn out' of our sin. How does the story of Moses being saved as a child, remind us of our own salvation?

How difficult do you think it must have been for Moses to have to leave his life of power and privilege and experience brokenness in the wilderness?

On paper, it looks like Moses story is over, but to God it is a reset point for his life. Have you experienced a period of time like that?

M O V E

Against all odds, this helpless Hebrew baby boy is saved from the Nile, grows up an Egyptian in Pharaoh's household, murders a man, loses respect and everything else, finds God in the process, sent to go and deliver two-0million Israelites and then lead God's people. What are the chances? As Shawn reminded us in the message, there is no situation in which God cannot use and turn around for His Glory. There is no past, however dark and sordid, that God cannot redeem, and no person that God cannot use, including each of us. Moses was concerned that he couldn't be the deliver because he was a stutterer, but God called him to be a deliver who stutters. Where we feel most insecure and weak is often the place where God wants to demonstrate his power in our lives.

Re-read Exodus 4:10

Think about your own life. If you were to fill in the blanks, what do you think your excuse would be to not follow God's desire for your life.

"Oh Lord, I have never been _____, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am _____ and _____."

As we end in prayer for this session, if you are comfortable, share what you filled in as a group and have the person next to you pray for God to fill you with his power as he helps you overcome that insecurity.

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

T O G O

2 Corinthians 12:9

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

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