

Growing Through Life's Challenges

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FISHERMAN
BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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STUDY 1

Growing Through Rejection

SELECTIONS FROM EXODUS 2-5

The consequences of rejection explode on our television screens every day. A rejected suitor shoots his girlfriend. A rejected employee kills his boss. A rejected child commits suicide. Generally speaking, society does not handle rejection very well. Many people, because of their past failures, feel that God has rejected them. They quit trying to please him, and they launch into various kinds of destructive attitudes and behaviors.

It is important to study rejection from a biblical perspective. We need to find healthier and more appropriate ways to accept rejection and move beyond it, so that our lives are not destroyed.

Many of history's most successful leaders overcame rejection. Moses was one of them. This study will show how God used the pain of rejection to prepare Moses for leadership.

1. Describe the emotions you feel when you are rejected.

READ EXODUS 2:11-15.

2. What do you think motivated Moses to intervene in the Egyptians' abusive treatment of the Hebrews?

in the fight between the two Hebrews?

3. What was the Hebrews' response to Moses? How would you feel if you had tried to right an injustice and your efforts were rejected?

Note: For forty years, Moses is isolated from his people and works as a shepherd in Midian, east of the Sinai Desert and the Red Sea. God appears to Moses and calls him to deliver the Hebrews from their slavery in Egypt. When Moses asks God his name, God replies, "I Am," or "The Lord." When Moses protests that he doesn't speak well enough to lead the people, God assigns his brother Aaron to help him.

READ EXODUS 4:27-5:21.

4. What would Aaron's coming to meet Moses mean to each of them because of their new assignments (4:27-28)?

5. How do you account for the people's response to Moses and Aaron (4:29-31)?

How would their response begin to heal the pain of rejection Moses had faced forty years before?

6. Describe how the Hebrews' situation gets worse after Moses and Aaron tell Pharaoh to let the people go.

Why would this new rejection by the Hebrews (5:19-21) be harder for Moses to deal with? (See also 4:29-31.)

READ EXODUS 5:22-6:8.

7. How did Moses respond to this new repudiation by the people he came to help (5:22-23)?
8. What do you learn from Moses about how to deal with rejection and other kinds of opposition?

9. In answer to Moses' accusations against him, how does God identify himself?

his past actions?

his future actions?

10. What did God say about who is really in charge in this situation: Pharaoh, Moses, or God?
11. What new perspective did God's statement in 6:6-8 give to Moses?

12. When you face rejection, what difference would it make to you to know that God hears, remembers, and is in charge? Why?

Pray the Bible into Life

- Thank God that you can honestly confess to him your fears of being rejected as well as your experience of rejection.
- Ask God to give you his perspective on your situation, to help you learn what you need to learn, and to help you trust him in the pain.
- Thank God that he is in charge of your past, present, and future.
- If you are in a group, pray for anyone who is currently facing the pain of rejection.