

During this study of God's Word, we will look at Moses and the "edges" of his life as he led the people of Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land at God's command. We will study what it means to live **Each Day as God's Emissary.**



Living on the EDGE: Each Day as God's Emissary By Shari Miller

Leader notes and Bible passages available at www.lwml.org

Describe a time in your life when you metaphorically found yourself on the "edge" of an important decision. Where did you go for advice? In hindsight, was the decision the best one? Share with a partner or your small group.

Opening Prayer

Dear Awesome God, we humbly ask You to be present in our study of Your Word. We rejoice and thank You for sending Jesus to be the Light in a very dark and sinful world. We look forward to eternal life in heaven with You through faith in Him. Empower us through the Holy Spirit and with the gifts and abilities You give us to be Your emissaries daily, so we can recognize opportunities to share the message of salvation in Jesus with people we meet every day. Bless our study of Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Moses is an important Old Testament patriarch who lived his life **Each Day as God's Emissary.** He was God's representative to the people of Israel. Read about his birth and rescue from death as a baby in Egypt in **Exodus 2:1-10.** What miracles (not coincidences!) do you see occurring in these verses?

Edge of Darkness

The life of Moses as God's leader of the Israelites out of Egypt into the Promised Land was colored with various "edges" or decisions that did not always give all honor or glory to God. In short, Moses, like all people, was a sinner who often fell short of God's expectations.

Identify the sin and the consequence in **Exodus 2:11-15b.** _____

Read **Numbers 20:2-12.** What is God's instruction to Moses in **verse 8?** _____

What did Moses do in **verses 10-11?** _____

According to **verse 12,** what was his sin? _____

Read **Deuteronomy 32:48-52** and **34:1-6.** What was the consequence of this sin to both Moses and Aaron? _____

Sin is every thought, desire, word, and deed which is contrary to God's Law (**Exodus 20**). [*Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*; Question 78.]

See **1 John 1:8** and **1 John 2:11.** Is sin connected to darkness or to light? _____

Romans 3:23 reminds us that *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* "All" means all and includes Moses and each one of us.

Read **2 Corinthians 4:6** and **Colossians 1:13-14.** What is the opposite of sin and darkness? _____

Thanks be to God for His work, even in the edges of our darkness, to give us the light of salvation through Jesus Christ!

If Time Permits

Find other names for sin in the following passages.

Exodus 34:7 _____

Matthew 6:12 _____

Matthew 18:15 _____

Romans 5:17 _____

Romans 5:19 _____

Romans 6:13 _____

Colossians 3:25 _____

Faith Talk

Identify a time in your life when you might have felt on the edge of darkness. How did the dark-dispelling light of the Gospel help you during that time? Share with a partner or in a small group.

God's Edge

Read **Exodus 3:1–10** to learn of God's plan for Moses to be His emissary, His representative.

God spoke to Moses in a burning bush. According to the following Scripture passages, how does He speak to and work in us today?

Romans 15:13

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Titus 3:5

Matthew 26:27–28

Moses had five excuses not to do as God had requested. Identify each excuse in the passages below and how God promised to give to him the "edge" he would need to be God's emissary.

Exodus 3:11–12

Exodus 3:13–14

Exodus 4:1–9

Exodus 4:10–12

Exodus 4:13–16

What gifts – what "edge" – does God daily give to His people through the Holy Spirit to enable them to be His emissaries? *As time permits*, see the following Bible passages for specific encouragement.

Psalm 51:10

John 15:5

Romans 6:23

1 Corinthians 10:31

2 Corinthians 5:17

Galatians 5:13

Galatians 5:22–23

Ephesians 2:8–10

Ephesians 6:10–20

Faith Talk

Have you ever experienced an opportunity to serve the Lord but did not do so with gladness? What excuses did you have? Share with a partner or in a small group.

With God's edge and despite his faults, Moses became a great leader. He spearheaded the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt; he communed with God on Mount Sinai and received God's Ten Commandments; he sustained the wandering people of Israel through trials in the wilderness; he defeated enemies with the "edge" of God's sword (**Numbers 21:24**); he governed the people in God's name; and he remained faithful to God and His promises. In short, Moses lived Each Day as God's Emissary. Read **Exodus 24:15–18; 33:17–23; 34:29**; and **Mark 9:4**. What do these verses remind us about Moses' unique relationship with God?

Because Jesus has redeemed you, what is your relationship with God? See **Isaiah 43:1; Psalm 141:1–2**; and **Matthew 6:9–13**.

Faith Talk

What gifts or qualities has the Lord given to you? How do you use these gifts to daily further the Lord's kingdom? Give specific examples. Share with a partner or in a small group.

Faith Walk

1. Consider your intimate relationship with your Savior. Be God's emissary and confidently share with a friend today what it is you believe and why you believe in Jesus as your Savior.
2. Be alert to and rejoice in the opportunities that God provides to serve Him.
3. Thank Jesus for His saving work in your life.
4. Thank the Holy Spirit for giving you faith in Jesus, the Light of the World.
5. Summer Challenge: Read the entire books of **Exodus** and **Numbers** from two different translations. Learn more about Moses and his life as a leader.

Closing

Pray together the following prayer based in part on the words of **Psalm 103**.

Dear Heavenly Father, We bless Your holy name. We thank and praise You for forgiveness of sins, relief from pain, healing of sicknesses, and salvation through Your beloved Son. We rejoice that because Jesus lives, we too will live with You in eternity. Thank You for Moses as an example of a faithful leader. Help us to be Your emissaries each day as we tell the Good News of Your truth and grace in Christ throughout the world, beginning right where we are. We boldly ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sing together "O Bless the Lord, My Soul" (*LSB* #814; *LW* #457; *TLH* #27).