



**...going deeper**

**a guide for your own study during the week**

**Excuses, Excuses (Ex 3:1-15; 4:1-17)**

*"I would be unstoppable, if only I could get started" (Anon.)*

*"It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one" (George Washington)*

*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." (Mother Teresa)*

*"I attribute my success to this—I never gave or took any excuse" (Florence Nightingale)*

**to think about**

The Bible is full of stories of **real people**, with **real lives, real ideas and desires for the world to be a better place and real hang-ups**. Moses is known as the man who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, a man who walked closely with God and whom God used to perform miracles on a scale that is legendary. But was he always like that?

*A bit of background... (Exodus 1,2)*

The Israelites had come to Egypt at the invitation of Pharaoh, when God used Joseph to warn the Egyptians about coming famine...

...over time, the Egyptians became less favourable towards the Israelites

...as the Israelites grew in number, they were enslaved and a terrible campaign of killing males babies began

...one baby boy who got away was Moses, and he grew up in the court of Pharaoh

...but as a man, Moses became incensed at the mistreatment of his people

...one day, Moses killed an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite

...feeling very guilty, Moses fled for his life into the desert - far from Egypt

**Read Ex 3:1-15; 4:1-17**

Why did Moses turn aside from his daily routine? (3:1-3)

What did God say to Moses? (3:4-10) Was this something that Moses cared about?

How did God respond to Moses' excuses? (3:11-15; 4:1-17)

### **taking it further**

In discontent about the plight of his people, Moses had previously tried to do it his own way. Though his previous actions were not good, Moses' discontent had a good basis and God can use discontent which is committed to him ...when it becomes 'Holy Discontent'. This was true for Moses, and it has been true for many others:

*"These firestorms of frustration reflect a person's clearest, most unadulterated vision for how the world should be... ...what wrecks the heart of someone who loves God is often the very thing God wants to use to fire them up to do something that, under normal circumstances, they would never attempt to do." A leader's effectiveness, then, is directly related to how close they stay to what wrecks them—their holy discontent.* [Bill Hybels, *Holy Discontent: Fueling the Firestorm that Births Personal Vision* (Zondervan 2007)]

Can you think of people whose discontent has motivated them to change the world for good?

What about you? Is there something you would love to see change in the world?