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# TEACHING OUTLINE

LIMITLESS | WEEK 3

## BOTTOM LINE

DON'T LET FEAR HOLD YOU BACK  
WHEN GOD CALLS YOU FORWARD.

### SCRIPTURE

*"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11b NIV).*

*"I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue" (Exodus 4:10 NIV).*

*Then the Lord asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say" (Exodus 4:11-12 NLT).*

*"Lord, please! Send anyone else" (Exodus 4:13b NLT).*

*God tells Moses, "Talk to him, and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do" (Exodus 4:15 NLT).*

God isn't in denial about the things we think limit us. He just knows He's capable of working in spite of them. This was true of Moses and his speech impediment, and it's true of us today.

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that even though they're limited by weaknesses, God isn't.

### TEACHING SCRIPT SUMMARY

#### INTRODUCTION

Social media is great for a lot of reasons.

#### TENSION

Sometimes just being a *human* can make us feel inadequate.

Whatever it is, all of us have *this thing*—something about us that keeps us from feeling confident.

#### TRUTH

Moses had that *one thing* he couldn't quite get over about himself.

Moses comes across something a little unusual—a shrub, on fire, but not burning up.

And so God, through this fire, tells Moses that He is sending *him* to deliver the Hebrew people from the Egyptians.

Moses doesn't think he has what it takes to be a speaker.

God is trying to help Moses see the reality. He *made* Him. He knew what he could & couldn't do.

God isn't in denial about the things we think limit us. He just knows He's capable of working in spite of them.

#### APPLICATION

What if the weaknesses in you did not limit God's plan for you?

#### LANDING

Today, I want you to leave here knowing that the thing you think is keeping you from being qualified for the job is the very thing God can use anyway to accomplish what He wants.



# TEACHING SCRIPT

## LIMITLESS | WEEK 3

### BOTTOM LINE

DON'T LET FEAR HOLD YOU BACK  
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### INTRODUCTION

1 Minute

Social media is great for a lot of reasons. One example: the filters. With filters, we can all look awesome, all the time, no matter how bad the lighting is. But, for all social media has going for it, there are clearly some disadvantages. And chances are, you already know them.

The biggest disadvantage? Everyone else's life on social media looks perfect. Flawless. No bad hair days. No boring Friday nights. Everyone's relationships look super close and

fun. It makes it easy to feel like we don't quite measure up. In fact, even if you're the best athlete at your school, the best looking person in your class, or have the best friends in your grade, you can always find someone on social media that is a little better in those areas than you. It can be really frustrating. And I don't know how you handle those moments, but I find myself wondering, *Why can't I be more like that? What's wrong with me that I can't figure this out? Am I ever going to get it together?*

### TENSION

3 Minutes

But it isn't just social media that does this to us. Just being a *human* can make us feel inadequate. If we're around other people at all, it doesn't take long before we find ways that we don't quite measure up. We don't have to work very hard to find the areas in our lives where we're lacking, where our weaknesses show up front and center.

Maybe for you that happens with athletics. You dread being picked last for dodge ball or running a mile or doing the push-up test. Or maybe it's with academics. You have a learning disability, or no matter how hard you try, grades just don't come easily to you. Maybe you have a hard time getting jokes or being funny yourself. Or you have a disease that's rare. Or you have a deathly fear of speaking up in class. Or maybe you struggle with depression or anxiety or anger. Whatever it is, all of us have *this thing*—something about

us that keeps us from feeling confident in who we are—that makes it hard not to compare ourselves to others, that puts pressure on us to be different than who we are. And if we aren't careful, that thing can end up consuming us. It can go from being *something* about us, to being *the most important thing* about us.

A non-athletic build, a challenge with studying, whatever it is, can become something that defines us, something we use to disqualify us from doing certain things in life. We begin to play a message in our minds, saying things like . . .

*"I could never do \_\_\_\_\_, because of this."*

*"I could never be \_\_\_\_\_, because of this."*

*"That's impossible for me because I'm \_\_\_\_\_."*





Now, what we're talking about is more than just being realistic about what we're good at and what we're not. We're talking about letting our weaknesses decide who we are and what we can be. They become the final word. Where we become so consumed with what we're not that we don't have a perspective on what we are.

This may not be something we broadcast for everyone to see, but that doesn't mean it's not a very real thing for a lot

of us. The people around us may not know the insecurity we feel over whatever this thing is. They may see us make fun of ourselves over it, or overcompensate for it, or have so much confidence in other areas they would never guess we struggle with this weakness. But the truth is, we never forget it. It's always there reminding us that we are not as good, that we don't measure up, that we're not what we could be, compared to other people around us.

## TRUTH

7 Minutes

If that's you, I've got good news. All of us can relate. And so could a guy named Moses. The past few weeks we've been talking about Moses' story and all the moments that could have put limits on him. But today we're going to talk about a part of Moses' story that doesn't always get noticed. We hear about how Moses was rescued from the Nile River as a baby and raised as Egyptian royalty. We talk about how Moses confronted Pharaoh. We learn about how he led the Hebrew people through the Red Sea and then through a desert for 40 years. We hear about these big accomplishments and we think he was a natural born leader. But Moses was just a regular guy. And like all of us, he had that one thing he couldn't quite get over about himself. There was *one thing* he saw as a disqualifier, limiting who he thought he could be. But God saw it differently.

We're going to pick up his story after he had murdered someone and then ran away from Egypt. One week he's an Egyptian prince, the next he's got a job taking care of sheep. Basically, he's living a far different life than the one he used to have. And one day, while he's watching the sheep, Moses comes across something a little unusual—a shrub, on fire, but not burning up.

Which is a little weird, right? And as Moses makes his way over, this burning shrub starts to talk to him. That's right, *talking*. This isn't just a normal shrub on the lawn. And to make it even better, it's God's voice doing the talking.

Now, while the whole idea of this seems crazy, God wasn't just doing something cool to get Moses' attention (although I'm sure He had it). God had a message for Moses, that He had been paying attention to the prayers from His people, the Hebrew people who were stuck in slavery in Egypt.

And so God, through this fire, tells Moses that He is sending *him* to deliver the Hebrew people from the Egyptians. But Moses isn't exactly sold on this idea. He left Egypt on purpose,

and for a good reason—he killed someone important. So he was on the run. He had created a new identity and a new life, and now God wanted him to go back. But Moses doesn't say that. At first he tries to sound humble.

*"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11b NIV)* he asks.

But God isn't hearing it. Again He tells Moses, the job falls on him, that God will be with him, and this is what he should say when he makes his way back to the land he fled from.

Moses is still hesitant.

He responds, *"I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue" (Exodus 4:10 NIV).*

I love this. Moses is basically saying, *"Um. You've got the wrong guy. I don't sound good when I speak, and I'm not just talking about right now when you scared me to death by talking to me from a piece of shrubbery. I've never sounded good."*

This isn't Moses trying to sound humble. This is Moses getting real about how he doesn't think he has what it takes to be a speaker. And he makes a good point. For a guy who's supposed to be a national spokesperson to have a speech impediment? Well, that *is* sort of a big deal.

But God doesn't back down so easily.

*Then the Lord asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say" (Exodus 4:11-12 NLT).*



Now, I don't think God is angry when He says this. I think God is trying to help Moses see the reality. God *made* Him. God knew what He could and couldn't do. In other words, I think God is telling Moses, "You can be braver than you think you are, because of Me. You aren't alone. I am *with* you and I *made* you. You don't have to figure this out all by yourself."

In the movies, this would be a great time to cue the sentimental music and watch Moses leave the mountain with confidence and a mission. But this is real life. And after that inspiring speech, Moses responds saying,

*"Lord, please! Send anyone else" (Exodus 4:13b NLT).*

The pep talk didn't work. And now God is mad. He's inviting Moses to do something awesome and Moses is begging to get out of it. So God suggests that Moses' brother, Aaron, come along as a speaker. But that doesn't mean Moses is off the hook.

God tells Moses, *"Talk to him [Aaron], and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do" (Exodus 4:15 NLT).*

Moses needed some convincing. Even after God Himself

explains that a speech problem couldn't limit him, Moses still needed a shot of confidence. And when Aaron was brought in to be the front man, God made sure Moses knew just how certain He still was that Moses was the right choice. He tells Moses to give Aaron the words to say. God was still calling Moses to lead the people of Israel, even though Moses had a speech problem. God was still planning to use Moses, even though he had a confidence problem because. Because **even though Moses was limited by his weakness, God wasn't.**

And that's just as true for you and me. God isn't in denial about the things we think limit us. He just knows He's capable of working in spite of them. To make us braver. To make us confident. To allow us to be part of His plan, even when we feel unqualified to do it. And here's what I think we can take away from this exchange between God and Moses:

**Don't let fear hold you back  
when God calls you forward.**

We may not be delivering an entire group of people from slavery, but we can still be brave in facing things that seem impossible, because God is with us. God hasn't abandoned us, and **He will use us in spite of us.**

## APPLICATION

2 Minutes

See, it's always going to be tempting to look at people from the Bible and think they had their act together way more than we ever could. It will always be easy to disqualify ourselves because we look at the people in Scripture and we see the whole story, and we see ourselves today and our limitations. But Moses is the perfect example of someone who had looked around and decided his life had limited possibilities, only to find out that God had something else in mind.

And it's possible that God has something else in mind for you, too. So I want you to ask yourself this question: **What if the weaknesses in you did not limit God's plan for you?**

What would you do if you didn't have to constantly worry whether you are . . .

- Smart enough?
- Talented enough?
- Confident enough?

- Good looking enough?
- Athletic enough?
- Popular enough?
- Good enough?

What would you do if you were sure that God wants to and can use you just as you are, right now? Would you serve somewhere in your church? Go on a mission trip? Be more public about your faith? Invite someone to church? Pray out loud in small group?

And what would you do in your future if you were sure God could use you, weaknesses and all? What opportunity, in your mind, has been off limits that you should start to consider again? It doesn't mean you have to go into full-time ministry, but God has created and called you to do *something*. And like Moses, He can accomplish His purposes through your life regardless of what you think holds you back.



### LANDING

1 Minute

As you head out today, I want you to think of one area where you feel limited. What is the thing that holds you back? Would you be willing to ask God to use you anyway and trust Him to do it?

Today, I want you to leave here knowing that the thing you think is keeping you from being qualified for the job is the

very thing God can use anyway to accomplish what He wants. **That your fear is what is holding you back, not your weakness.** And even though moving forward in spite of our fear doesn't mean we'll always have success, we can learn more about ourselves and more about God in the process. And that can lead to a limitless life.



### TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

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### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that even though they're limited by weaknesses, God isn't.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders — Part of the high school phase is students learning what they're good at. It may be helpful to remind your students that when they move forward in spite of their fears, it doesn't mean they'll always have success. But they'll learn more about themselves and more about God in the process.

### SAY THIS

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name two things you do well and two things you don't do as well.
2. Why do we shy away from the things we're not very good at?
3. In what ways is it easier to have courage and confidence when you have someone with you?
4. God was not limited by Moses' weaknesses. He isn't limited by ours, either. Do you find that easy or difficult to believe for your own life? Why?
5. How does having confidence that God is with us help us move forward, even when we're afraid we'll fail?
6. What is one area of your life where you're tempted to think God can't use you?
7. What would you do right now (or in your future) if you were sure that God could use you, weaknesses and all?

### TRY THIS

Leaders — Close group by challenging your students to do one good thing that makes them nervous this week. Follow up with your students sometime during the week to see if they did it.