

# Right person? Right place? Right Time?



**BIBLE  
SOCIETY**

Live light

Often it seems that God has placed us right where he wants us, to do some particular job or task. But we are good at finding excuses. We don't want to do it. Or we don't believe we're right for the job. But God has always tended to pick unlikely candidates to serve his purposes.

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Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible: Holman Christian Standard Bible*.

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
1	But Moses asked God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He answered, "I will certainly be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship God at this mountain."	Exodus 3:11-12	<p>Moses is one of the best-known leaders in the entire Bible. But you may have forgotten that before he became the one to lead God's people out of slavery in Egypt, he hardly believed that in the future he would lead a national revolt. Although he grew up as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, when God first spoke directly with Moses, it was after he had fled a murder charge and was working remotely as a shepherd. Given his circumstances, his initial disbelief at God's call upon him seems warranted. But linger on God's response to Moses and consider how absolutely certain God was that he was talking to the right person.</p> <p><b>Why might you question God's selection of you for a particular task?</b></p>	Dear God, Thank you for choosing people to be part of your plans, in small and big ways. Give me the wisdom to know when you have picked me to do something specific, for you. Amen.
2	On the day the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, He said to him, "I am Yahweh; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I am telling you." But Moses replied in the LORD's presence, "Since I am such a poor speaker, how will Pharaoh listen to me?"	Exodus 6:28-30	<p>Things don't go so well during Moses's initial interactions with Pharaoh in the early chapters of Exodus. Due to Moses' protests, the Egyptian ruler comes down harder upon God's people, the Israelites. While it's tempting to side with Moses as he questions God's strategy, note how it is God Himself who is addressing the leader He hand picked. And the Lord of heaven and earth has steadily promised to be with Moses as he confronts Pharaoh. But this assurance of divine backing still doesn't convince Moses.</p> <p><b>How have doubts about your own abilities caused you to not use them in service of the one who gave them to you?</b></p>	Dear God of great assurances and absolute certainty, you know I can struggle with doubts about the abilities you have given me. Through the power of your spirit, crush my doubts and fill me with strength. Amen.

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3	They said to Moses: “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you took us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Isn’t this what we told you in Egypt: Leave us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”	Exodus 14:11-12	<p>Despite the huge task he is chosen for, Moses eventually accepts he is God’s right person in the right place at the right time. Ultimately, God prevails in Egypt and the movement to liberate Israelite slaves culminates with Pharaoh instructing Moses and the Israelites to leave. Having witnessed the plagues, the Passover and their own plundering of former oppressors, the Israelites still turn on their human leader Moses at the first sign of trouble.</p> <p><b>Have you been challenged or mistreated, despite your track record? How did it affect your trust that God had placed you in that position?</b></p>	Dear heavenly father, you alone know how I have served you and that sometimes other people have judged me unfairly or harshly. Forgive them for how they treated me, and help me not be put off from remaining faithful to you, in whatever I am doing. Amen.
4	Moses went up the mountain to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain: “This is what you must say to the house of Jacob, and explain to the Israelites: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Me. Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine, and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation.’ These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites.” After Moses came back, he summoned the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.	Exodus 19:3-7	<p>Not only was Moses chosen by God for a certain role, so too was the entire Israelite nation. Like their human leader, the Israelites seem to struggle with how to respond to being singled out by God. Physical needs and concerns tended to overshadow any acknowledgment that they were being guided by God to the place he has gifted them. But even after punishing the Israelites with a 40-year detour, thanks to their disobedience, God continues to be faithful to them. His promise at Mount Sinai of continued love and allegiance is a summary of how he wants his chosen people to accept the glorious position he has for them.</p> <p><b>What do you learn about your own response to God when you dwell on the Israelite’s reactions to God’s blessings?</b></p>	Dear God of Israel, your original chosen people, their example to me is one I need to heed, especially as I can be so similar in my reaction to your promised blessings. Grant me the clarity and determination to grasp how incredible it is to be chosen by you, through your Son, Jesus Christ. In his name I pray, Amen.

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5	Esther did not reveal her ethnic background or her birthplace, because Mordecai had ordered her not to. Every day Mordecai took a walk in front of the harem's courtyard to learn how Esther was doing and to see what was happening to her.	Esther 2:10-11	Amid the exile of Jewish people from their homelands, and during the reign of King Xerxes (486-465 BC), the events of the book of Esther take place. After the King scours his kingdom for a new wife, Jewish woman Esther emerges as front-runner. But her uncle Mordecai tells her to say nothing of her background. Why would he do that? Does Mordecai fear Esther will be persecuted? Or does he suspect God has something "special" planned for Esther?  <b>Has anyone ever suggested you should hide your Christian faith? What reasons did they give?</b>	Dear God, thank you for placing people in my life who offer me counsel, support and love that flows from their relationship with you and your son. Give me the humility and wisdom to listen to them, particularly when it comes to how I share my faith with others. Amen.
6	Mordecai told the messenger to reply to Esther, "Don't think that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king's palace. If you keep silent at this time, liberation and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father's house will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this."	Esther 4:13-14	Mordecai's suggestion to his niece that "perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this" remains a striking testimony to perceiving how God can work through his people. Please note, though, Mordecai was instructing a princess to risk her own life by boldly speaking up for God's people.  <b>Perhaps you have been placed where you have been placed, for this exact time and reason. So, what are you going to do?</b>	Almighty God, lord of heaven and earth. I am amazed that even though you are over and above all things, for all time, you still know me intimately. You have placed me where I am; you allow me the insight and diligence to understand what you would have me do. Right here. Right now. Amen.

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7	Then Esther addressed the king again. She fell at his feet, wept, and begged him to revoke the evil of Haman the Agagite, and his plot he had devised against the Jews. The king extended the gold scepter toward Esther, so she got up and stood before the king. She said, “If it pleases the king, and I have found approval before him, if the matter seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his sight, let a royal edict be written. Let it revoke the documents the scheming Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king’s provinces. For how could I bear to see the disaster that would come on my people? How could I bear to see the destruction of my relatives?”	Esther 8:3-6	<p>While God is not directly mentioned in the Book of Esther, his ways and will permeate as an intense plot to kill off his people is unspooled. Military leader Haman’s scheme to wipe out Mordecai and his fellow Jews ramps up to the level of official edict. But Esther approaches King Xerxes without being invited – a crime punishable by death – and she humbly beseeches him for the sake of God’s people. Her manner and plea are well received, sparking an incredible retraction of the anti-Jew law – and potently indicating the power of God’s purposes through his chosen servants.</p> <p><b>What would you do if God positioned you to speak out for Him – to the point of death?</b></p>	Dear God, father of the selfless servant Jesus, who loved your broken world so much that he died for it, you know how much I want to avoid suffering and conflict but, when it comes to speaking out for you, charge me with the spirit of Christ – to be able to stay faithful to you, even to the point of death. Amen.
8	All the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and the royal civil administrators aided the Jews because they were afraid of Mordecai. For Mordecai exercised great power in the palace, and his fame spread throughout the provinces as he became more and more powerful.	Esther 9:3-4	<p>It can be easy to overlook Mordecai, or even think he’s just using Esther to do all the hard stuff. But his faith and strength of character is resolute, and his dedication to God’s people involves real danger and selflessness. Not only does his eventual “power” and “fame” speak well of Mordecai, it can prompt us to pay attention to his demonstration of being a right person in the right place in the right time.</p> <p><b>Are there servants of God near you who are being overlooked? How can you encourage them?</b></p>	Heavenly father, we thank you for the example of Esther and Mordecai. In the case of Mordecai, give us the intent and care to notice those in Your kingdom who might be overlooked in their efforts. Grant us opportunities to humbly celebrate them, for all they do for You. Amen

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9	The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because their wickedness has confronted Me.” However, Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the LORD’s presence. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish, from the LORD’s presence.	Jonah 1:1-3	<p>God instructs Jonah to immediately inform an entire city that God will judge their evil ways. Jonah apparently wants nothing to do with such a thankless task, and actually attempts to flee “from the Lord’s presence”. The idea of someone trying to hide from God is funny (remember Adam and Eve?), until we register how similar we are to Jonah. Admit it: we all struggle to obey God’s word, particularly when it means confronting someone else’s sinful action.</p> <p><b>What are practical steps we can take to not flee from God whenever he calls us to challenge sinful behaviour?</b></p>	<p>Dear God, we know there is nowhere to run and hide from you, but we can often try to do that in our thoughts or actions. Prompt us constantly to run towards you and your plans for us, even when they involve us having to confront other people. Amen.</p>
10	So they called out to the LORD: “Please, Yahweh, don’t let us perish because of this man’s life, and don’t charge us with innocent blood! For You, Yahweh, have done just as You pleased.” Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. The men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.	Jonah 1:14-16	<p>Jonah ran as fast as possible away from the task God was calling him to. But God whipped up a storm and the entire crew on his boat was threatened by the deadly conditions. The sailors eventually realised the one true God is the cause of the storm, and as they were confronted by Jonah’s blatant disobedience, the crew take reverent action.</p> <p><b>How should we respond to people we know who are not living their lives the way God has called them to?</b></p>	<p>Merciful father and lord of all the elements, the world around us sings praises to who you are and your awesome power. Use everything around us as a reminder of that, and provide us with opportunities to lovingly guide our friends and family back to what you call them to. Amen.</p>

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11	<p>... but as for me, I will sacrifice to You with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfil what I have vowed. Salvation is from the LORD!</p> <p>Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach the message that I tell you.” So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the LORD’s command. Now Nineveh was an extremely large city, a three-day walk.</p>	Jonah 2:9-3:3	<p>After a near-death experience involving a violent storm and being swallowed by a large fish, Jonah stops rejecting God and the plans he has for him. His turnaround involves a promise to do what God has picked him for; the same task he evidently had believed he was not right for. But after God reiterates what Jonah is to do, he immediately sets out to do it.</p> <p><b>When have you made it harder for yourself, by initially rejecting a task or role God has set before you?</b></p>	<p>Dear God of infinite patience, Jonah’s example is one of how disobedient we can be, and how gracious You are in welcoming us back to You and Your ways. Renew our minds and heart, so we don’t repeat patterns of defiance or being stubborn. Amen.</p>
12	<p>Then God saw their actions—that they had turned from their evil ways—so God relented from the disaster He had threatened to do to them. And He did not do it. But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious. He prayed to the LORD: “Please, LORD, isn’t this what I said while I was still in my own country? That’s why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place. I knew that You are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to become angry, rich in faithful love, and One who relents from sending disaster. And now, LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”</p>	Jonah 3:10-4:3	<p>The repentant reaction of Nineveh’s king and people shows that Jonah was the right person in the right place at the right time for that city’s desperate needs. But Jonah is enraged by God’s act of forgiveness. What’s more, Jonah knew that the Lord’s characteristics of mercy, compassion and patience could mean that Nineveh would not be destroyed. His frustration at God’s relenting reveals something uncomfortable about our own response to grace. While we know God can forgive any sinner, do we actually want him to do that?</p> <p><b>When have you wished you weren’t the right person for a job? How could you turn that reluctance into prayer?</b></p>	<p>Almighty God, provider of abundant grace through Jesus Christ, we praise you for the incredible offer Jesus makes to all, that anyone can receive salvation through him if they genuinely believe. Help us to not judge, criticise or complain about those to whom you give your saving grace. Amen.</p>

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13	For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.	Ephesians 2:8-10	<p>All of God's people – all those who follow his son Jesus Christ – are saved for purposes he has already prepared. While that might sound like a burden of responsibility, it's the opposite. Relax. God's got it sorted already. Through you. All you have to do is walk in the "good works" prepared for you.</p> <p><b>How does God's pre-preparing empower you to walk purposefully in the good works He has for you?</b></p>	Dear heavenly father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, every day, please be sure to provide us with deeper appreciation and knowledge of the wonder it is to be eternally saved through grace – not by any effort or deed we do. Turn our attention to embracing the good works you have prepared for us. Amen.
14	For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.	Matthew 25:29	<p>While it should be a relief to know that in God's grace we are picked for certain things which God already has prepared, that's not a round-about encouragement for us to be lazy or neglectful. To be the right person in the right place at the right time requires us to be mindful, heartfelt and dedicated to how God has equipped and enabled us.</p> <p><b>Ask others to help you register what God has called you to, in the place you are in, and pray for opportunities to be that "right" person.</b></p>	Dear God of cosmic precision, Humble and inspire us in the truth that we can be the right person in the right place at the right time. Strengthen us through your spirit, so we don't deny the "talents" you give to us. May we always use them well and potently, to the glory of your kingdom. Amen.