



WALKING BY  
**FAITH**

## Stepping Into Messy Situations

EXODUS 32:7-35

### I. Walking by faith steps in to \_\_\_\_\_ with people who haven't seen God.

*And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves." ... And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people." vv. 7, 9*

Do you have a \_\_\_\_\_ heart that can identify with others?

### II. Walking by faith steps in to \_\_\_\_\_ for people who need God.

*But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?" ... And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people. vv. 11, 14*

Do you have a \_\_\_\_\_ life that regularly intercedes for others?

### III. Walking by faith steps in to \_\_\_\_\_ to speak into the people who haven't heard God.

*And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies), then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the Lord's side?" vv. 25-26a*

Do you have a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship that can intervene for others' sake?

### JESUS STEPPED INTO OUR MESS

*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ... 1 Timothy 2:5*

#### Jesus identified with us.

*... who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:6-7*

#### Jesus interceded for us.

*"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20-21*

#### Jesus intervened for us.

*"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45*



## HOME GROUP STUDY & DEVOTIONAL

As you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Exodus 32:7-35. Why did God call Israel "your people" and "these people" instead of "my people"?
2. In Genesis 12:2, 15:13-21 God promised Abraham that He would destroy the wicked Canaanites and make Abraham into a great nation. What do you think were His motives in making a similar offer to Moses (v. 10)?
3. What reasons did Moses give for turning down this offer (vv. 11-13)? What does this tell you about Moses, especially compared to his past concerns when God first called him to lead the people?
4. Why was it appropriate that Moses broke the tablets of the Law? What did this action symbolize? For more insight see Exodus 24:3-8.
5. Why do you think Moses ground up the idol and made Israel drink it (v. 20)? What was he teaching?
6. What "mess" has God rescued you from in your life?
7. Do you share Moses' hatred of sin? But do you also share his passionate concern for those in sin's grip? Ask the Lord to instill these in you, and to uproot any tendency to be tolerant of sin or judgmental toward sinners.
8. Are you able to so identify and empathize with sinners that you are willing to beg His forgiveness on their behalf? Set aside time this week to intercede in prayer for people you know who are offending against the Lord.

### FOR DEEPER STUDY

**VERSES 11, 31.** Moses intercedes on behalf of the people. *Intercede* means literally "to stand between." Psalm 106:23 describes Moses' actions here as standing "in the breach." The imagery is of standing in a hole in a wall to prevent enemies from entering, or standing astride a chasm, bridging the gap between God and man. What do you learn about intercession from Exodus 32:11-14, 31-32?

**VERSE 14.** *Relented* does not mean God changed His mind but that He embarked on another course of action. The Hebrew word means "to grieve, to be sorry" (Gen 6:6; 1 Sam 15:29) and describes God's change of approach in dealing with His people (Jer 18:1-12; 19; 26). How does this description encourage your prayer life?

### A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

*"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."*

Ephesians 1:11 says that God causes everything to work out the way He wants it to (cf. Rom 8:28). He foreordains what comes to pass, but Scripture doesn't say that He foreordains *how* everything will come to pass, or *when* it will come to pass, or *by whom* it will come to pass. Prayer and evangelism are two of the means that God has ordained, that is, human activity, whereby what He has foreordained comes to pass. In these activities, people become partners with God in bringing His will to happen in the world. Occasionally my wife has called me at work and asked me to pick up a gallon of milk on my way home. When this happened, I took a different route than I would normally take, but I ended up at home nonetheless. Perhaps this is similar to how our praying affects God as He accomplishes His will.

TOM CONSTABLE

No matter where you are, what you have done, or who you've hurt—whatever the mistake—when you acknowledge that you were wrong, you repent of your sins, and you submit yourself to God, He sets in motion a plan for you to get back on track. This does not necessarily mean that you get back on the path of His original will for you. If God calls you to preach when you are nine years old, but you ignore Him until you are ninety, naturally you will not be able to experience or accomplish all He initially intended for you. However, it doesn't matter if you are nine, nineteen or ninety-nine—your heavenly Father always has a circumstantial plan for you—assignments for you to fulfill on your particular place on the path. He picks up the broken pieces of your life, and with the glue of His love and forgiveness He puts you back together and gives you a wonderful purpose. So you're telling me that the Father can restore and work through anyone? That He can bring joy and meaning back to my life? That He can heal me of all these regrets? Absolutely He can.

CHARLES STANLEY

## COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit [ccbcfamily.org/events](http://ccbcfamily.org/events).



**WE'D LOVE TO GET TO KNOW YOU** Scan the QR code to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions, learn more about your story, and help you take your next best step. Along the way, you can also learn more about who we are and our vision for ministry!

**COMMISSIONING NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS** Today is a significant day in the life of our church family as we commission new elders and deacons. These men are stepping into a biblical calling to shepherd, guide, and serve Christ Chapel with humility and faithfulness. Their leadership marks the beginning of a new year of ministry, and we want to cover them in prayer — asking God to strengthen, protect, and equip them as they serve His people. Join us in celebrating the gift of godly leadership and in committing to walk alongside them as together we seek to be disciples who make disciples.

**LEADERSHIP RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN** Did you know Christ Chapel has a Leadership Residency program? For one year, you'll explore God's call on your life through hands-on ministry experience and theological training from Dallas Theological Seminary. Along the way, you'll discover how your unique gifts can be used to make an eternal impact and advance his Kingdom. Apply today at [ccbcfamily.org/residency](http://ccbcfamily.org/residency).

**SERVE OPPORTUNITIES** As a church family, we have the incredible privilege and joy of serving one another. One way we'd love to see more people step in this fall is by serving in our Kids Ministry. You'll be equipped with teaching materials, supported by our amazing Kids Ministry staff, and get to experience the joy of watching a younger generation fall in love with Jesus. Learn more about Kids Ministry and other serving opportunities at [ccbcfamily.org/serve](http://ccbcfamily.org/serve).

**YOUR NEXT STEP IN BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS** An important part of following Jesus is doing life in community — running after Him alongside one another! This fall, join other men and women as they study God's Word, serve our church and cities, and grow through mentorship while pouring into others. Get connected to our Men's and Women's Ministries at [ccbcfamily.org](http://ccbcfamily.org).

**REACH + THE 5 P.M.** Did you know we offer a 5 p.m. service? It's the perfect opportunity to reach others — whether that's inviting someone who might not come to a larger Sunday morning gathering or making room for new visitors earlier in the day. The 5 p.m. service allows us to continue worshipping together while living out our calling to be, make, and reach in a new way!



**IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE** The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.