Hook: Discuss how Robin and I are so excited to be a part of Foothills. It has been an incredible ride as we have sought God for what was next for our family.

It involved much prayer, along with much counsel many discussions with a number of people. It like any other job change involved brushing up the ol’ resume.

Job-hunting is no easy task! Many with us this morning have been there and many are currently in the throes of searching for a new job.

I will never forget the time I was searching for my very first ministry job. I was eager to get out there and make a difference. I wanted to put into action my new training and make a difference in this world.

Much to my disappointment I quickly learned, what a lot of job hunters are learning right now, that most churches were looking for someone with experience. I remember thinking how will I ever get any experience, if no one will take a chance on me?

I have talked to many others that have faced similar situations. It’s discouraging! This is especially true in today’s difficult job market!

Explain: It doesn’t take long, looking through job postings to see that employers often use words like

SLIDE:
“Extraordinary” or “Proven”, or “Experienced”.

It leads one to think I am just ordinary, not extraordinary.

What I am here to tell you today, is that God sees the exact opposite! God doesn’t just call qualified, proven and extraordinary people. He calls ordinary people like you and I to live an extraordinary life for the Kingdom.
In fact, all throughout scripture we read stories of ordinary men and women called out to live extraordinary lives. Take a look up at the screens!

(Video)

Book: Explain: Unfortunately we don’t have the time (this evening/morning) to look at all these examples, but we are going to take a look at one. We are going to look at an example from the Old Testament of how God called an ordinary person to do something very extraordinary.

The person…MOSES!

Set Up: Moses, an Israelite was born at a time in which the Egyptians were threatened by, and oppressing the Israelite people. In fear of losing her son, Moses’s mother gave him up to be raised by Pharaoh’s daughter.

Moses grew up in the house of the Pharaoh and when older witnessed the beating of a Hebrew slave at the hands of an Egyptian guard. In anger Moses took the life of the Egyptian. As a result Moses fled for his life and now finds himself in the dessert and has just encountered a burning bush.

The thing about this particular burning bush is that it wasn’t going out. As if a burning bush that doesn’t burn up isn’t enough, when he approaches it, it begins to talk to Him, and not only that but it’s God talking to him!

God proceeds to tell him that He has seen the misery of his people who have been held captive for over 400 years, and that He has come to rescue them.

Moses probably was thinking GREAT! God is going to set them free. Then God drops the real bomb…..He wants to send Moses in to do it!!

Let’s pick up there…and discover four important “Truths to Serve By.”
SLIDE: Exodus 3:11-14 (NIV)

11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”
12 And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”
13 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”
14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Explain: Obviously Moses is completely caught by surprise when God asks Him to go for Him.

“Oh, Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

Instantly we find Moses questioning whether or not he is qualified for the job. He’s probably thinking, uh I just murdered some guy and then had to flee with my life, and now you want ME to go back to rescue your people?

God’s answers with 5 incredible words ….. “I will be with you.”

When asked to do something extraordinary for God a

SLIDE:
Truth to Serve By is: God is with us.

SLIDE:
When we are asked to do something big for God, He never sends us out alone!

I love what Jesus said to His disciples in Mathew 28:20 when He sent them out to change the world. “I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Back to Moses…… Moses then launches into what we often tend to do ourselves…..excuses!

Excuse #1

SLIDE: Exodus 4:1-9 (NIV)

1 Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you’?”

2 Then the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?”

“A staff,” he replied.

3 The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.”

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.

4 Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

5 “This,” said the LORD, “is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

6 Then the LORD said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

7 “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

8 Then the LORD said, “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. 9 But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.”

Excuse #1 – “What if they do not believe me or listen to me…”
**Explain:** In response to Moses’ weak excuse God shows him 3 miracles.

Vs. 2-5 – Staff to snake back to staff  
Vs. 6-7 – Hand to leprosy then back to normal  
Vs. 9 – Water from Nile turned to blood

The text doesn’t say this, but I have to believe that the 3 miracles were not only for the people who would need to see them, but also for Moses, so that God could demonstrate to him that He is in control.

Unfortunately that didn’t seem to be enough to convince Moses.

A valuable truth that Moses was not getting is our next

**SLIDE:**  
Truth to Serve By: God desires to turn our excuses into miracles.

We just have to let Him!

**Ask:** Is God going to work similar miracles as He did with Moses? Not necessarily.

The miracle just might be the outcome of the very thing He is asking you to do. It might be a transformed/changed life in somebody, or even yourself. etc.

**SLIDE:**  
God delights in surprising us with outcomes that are bigger than we expect!

**Quote:**
“We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.” -Chuck Swindoll

God wants to take our impossible situations and turn them into great opportunities that will produce the miraculous.

We now head into **Excuse #2**

**SLIDE:** Exodus 4:10-12 (NIV)

10 Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

11 The LORD said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

Excuse #2 – “I have never been eloquent….I am slow of speech and tongue.”

**Explain:** God reminds him, again, who is in control. He reminds him that He is the one who gave Moses his mouth! He also tells him that He will help him speak and teach him what to say.

**Explain:** I love that God wants to take our weaknesses and uses them for His purposes!

**Illus:** I never cease to be amazed at the times in which God has used me to speak into someone’s life.

Listen to this message at foothillsonline.com
In my years of ministry, often times people will come to me for counsel, sometimes for issues I may not feel prepared to deal with. What comes out of my mouth almost always SURPRISES me!

It is in those times that I am reminded of our next Truth to Serve By:

**SLIDE:**
Truth to Serve By:
God turns our weakness into strength.

As God did for Moses, so He will do for us! He will give us what we need to serve Him!

**SLIDE:**
God delights in showing Himself.

After all it is He who deserves the glory, not us.

If we were able to serve using our own strengths, who would it be that receives the glory? Us!

Moses tries one more time! ....

**SLIDE:** Exodus 4:13-17 (NIV)

13 But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”

14 Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. 15 You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you
What we really need to remember is that Jesus believes in us.  

In desperation, Moses just asks God to send someone else.  God still doesn’t let him off the hook.

He provides help; his brother Aaron.

**SLIDE:**
Truth to Serve By is: God will provide.

**Explain:** Despite all of Moses’ excuses as to why he couldn’t do what God asked of him, God still provided all that he needed to pull off what God had for him.

**SLIDE:**
God delights in giving us everything we need.

Look: **Explain:** Moses was an ordinary guy, in fact a pretty flawed guy. He was nothing extraordinary; he couldn’t even speak well, yet God had a plan for him…an extraordinary plan!

Moses was no one special.  I am no one special.  God wants to use us all!

Even in The New Testament we read of Jesus calling 12 rag tag messy guys, who truly were no one special.  He called them to follow Him, and they did.

They not only followed Him but they changed the world!

**Explain:** Sometimes we may have a hard time believing Jesus, maybe even believing in Jesus.

What we really need to remember is that Jesus believes in us.
SLIDE:
God has faith in us, even when we don’t have faith in Him.

Why did the disciples just up and follow? They knew that Jesus believed in them.

It was Peter, the one that denied Christ 3 times, the one with the quick tempter, that Jesus said, “On you I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Explain: God wants to use each of us to be world changers and it doesn’t matter if we feel we are unqualified or ill-equipped.

Explain: May we remember…

SLIDE: God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called!

Took: Ask: What is God calling you to?

Is there a lonely neighbor that needs someone to talk to, and you feel like you have nothing to offer them? - God has faith in you!

Is there a dear friend or family member in your life that does not enjoy the kind of relationship with Jesus that you do, and you feel like you don’t know what to say? – God has faith in you!

Has God tugged on your heart to meet Him in a foreign country to share His love there, but you don’t know where the money will come from? – God has faith in you! He will provide.

Is there a ministry here at Foothills that needs your help, but you don’t feel like you have the time or the gifting? – God has faith in you! He needs you.

What is it that God wants you to do?
In faith open yourself up to whatever it is God is calling you to.

Will you let God surprise you?

He wants to do more with and through you than you can possible imagine!

**SLIDE:**

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Pray.