



THE

# 4G

LIFE

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GATHER | GROW | GIVE | GO

**Gather, Grow, Give and Go.** These are Faith's foundational practices and are the pillars of how we mature in our Christian walk. By incorporating the 4Gs into our ordinary days, God can use us in extraordinary ways to accomplish His purpose in our lives at Faith Church and in the world around us.



We gather to worship on weekends both in person and online. Not only is it important for us to engage in church services but also in smaller groups.



As followers of Jesus, we are striving to grow in our relationship with Him daily. Personal Bible reading, times of prayer, sharing our stories with one another, and other spiritual practices provide space for God to transform our lives and equip us to change the world.



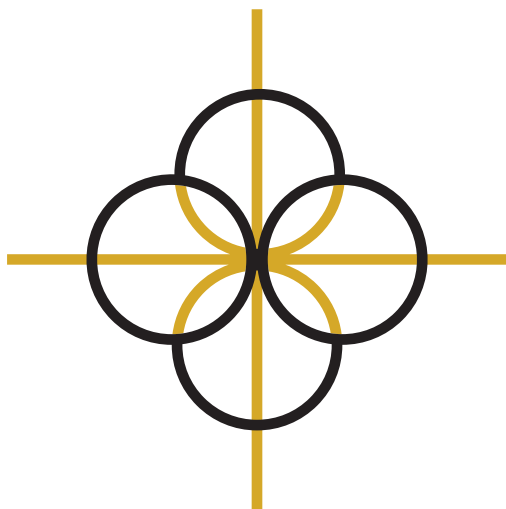
One way to worship our loving God is to give back to Him what he has blessed us with. Not only can this be giving of our financial resources, but also using our time and the gifts God has given each of us to bring His kingdom to earth. By volunteering, mentoring, going on a mission trip or serving your community, we give back to God.



Jesus gave His people a commission to go out and make disciples of all nations. At Faith we believe in the importance of both local and global missions. Serving our communities and our friends around the world is our way of carrying out the mission of transforming the world one relationship at a time.

Let's spend time in the next few weeks viewing the 4G LIFE of Moses. Did he resist? Sure. Did he always get it right? Not at all. So we can relate!

What if Faith Church was made up of 4G Christians - people living life by fully engaging in Gathering, Growing, Giving and Going?



## THE 4G LIFE

Obedience to God's call is rarely our default. We know better. We have a better way. The same was true for Moses. He wanted to stay out with his sheep - he didn't want to GATHER with God's people. He didn't want to GROW and learn to share leadership. When God gave him the assignment to GIVE his life and GO lead His people out of Egypt, Moses made excuses. God calls each of us in specific ways. But unless our values and priorities are in line with Him, we refuse, make excuses and wander. Just like Moses.

WEEK 1

# GATHER





**Scripture Passage:** Exodus 4:28-31

**Bottom Line:** The Israelites spent 400 years in Egypt. Then Moses and Aaron show up, and they **GATHER** the people to remind them of what God had done. They believe and they worship!

## LET'S PAINT THE PICTURE...

Joseph's brothers went to Egypt because there was a famine in their land. They were welcomed by a benevolent Pharaoh.

But things changed. The new Pharaoh was not happy with this growing Israelite population. They entered Egypt as a small family but they had become a huge nation which the new Pharaoh saw as a threat. Life became very hard and the Israelites lived as slaves under harsh Egyptian taskmasters. But God saw their pain. And in His time, He chose Moses to lead them out of Egypt.

In this passage, Moses and Aaron brought the people together to tell them what God had said. They didn't learn God's message on their own. They learned it when they **GATHERED**.

They **GATHERED**, they **HEARD**, they **BELIEVED**, they **WORSHIPPED**. Sounds like a weekend service!

## LET'S STEP BACK...

But we are not beginning at the beginning. Moses' life can be broken into three sections:

- First 40 years - Moses was in Egypt, rescued by a Princess and raised by his birth mother. Then he went to live in the palace where he was treated as royalty - pretty important!

- Second 40 years - After killing an Egyptian who was mistreating a Hebrew slave, Moses was forced to run for his life. He spent the next 40 years caring for sheep. Here, he learned, he really wasn't very important.
- Third 40 years - Yes, at 80 he was called by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. This is when his real purpose began.

In this passage, we find 80-year-old Moses finally understanding God's call for his life.

## REFLECTIONS

We all have "desert times." Fortunately, not all last for 40 years. Think about when you felt you were in a desert - when you felt far from God. What happened to change that?

Maybe you are in the desert right now. Sometimes we just want to give up. But you know God has not deserted you. Are there steps you can take to seek Him in a deeper way? Are you in community with others through a small group, men or women's Bible study, a D3 group, a 321 group, or a Journey group? Often, we are too close to see the answers. Spending time with other believers is a great way to find godly perspective.

Please, don't just sit in the desert!

Sometimes we don't know what God wants from us. But sometimes we do, and (like Moses and Jonah and countless others) we choose our own path. When have you done that in your life? Or are you running from God's best for you right now?

When everything shut down for COVID, some of us got comfortable watching church from our couch. Others of us changed our "church pace." Now once or twice a month is good. Some have adopted this schedule, "I just need to check in occasionally." Is He calling to you to return, to re-engage, to gather, to join in community for worship so you can more clearly hear His voice?

## NOTES

*“Jesus walked through the desert first. He felt its heat. He tasted its loneliness. He accepted its obscurity. He faced down Satan himself while the desert winds howled around Him. And He will never, ever forget or forsake the one who follows Him across the sand.”*

## Chuck Swindoll

WEEK 2

# GROW







**Scripture Passage:** Exodus 18:13-27

**Bottom Line:** Moses grew in his faith and influence because God provided people to help him. God also provided people who needed help from Moses.

## REFLECTIONS

Do you ever get so immersed in a way of thinking that you cannot see objectively? That was Moses' plight. He was trying to rule over this very large group of people when his father-in-law said, "What are you doing?" and "Why are you doing it alone?"

Clearly Jethro cared about his son-in-law. He wasn't jealous of Moses' power but wanted to serve as his mentor. And Jethro's perspective was much clearer than Moses'.

Jethro saw what was happening and offered advice that Moses took. And remember, Jethro was not an Israelite. Advice can come from unexpected places.

Moses was wearing out. Jethro saw this way of life was not sustainable for Moses (verse 23). This encounter moved Moses from being a one-and-only judge to becoming a leader of judges. His effectiveness increased exponentially but only after he gave up some control. Can you think of other examples in Scripture where someone didn't want to give up control?

How close do we let others in? Do we let them see what is really going on? And then if they give advice, how do we respond? Defensively? Welcoming?

Often, our way of doing things is inconsistent with God's way. What have you had to unlearn since you began walking with Jesus?

Are you living close enough with others so they can see the true picture of your life? What is stopping you from letting others in? Then, when your "Jethro" shows up, do you listen?

## JOSEPH HAD HIS PEOPLE, WHO ARE YOURS?

"Who are your 4?" Do you have two people who are pouring into your life and then two people who you are walking with? What a great way to avoid isolation, get perspective from people who care about you and help you to live a sustainable and fruitful life. Moses had people who walked with him, and then he walked with others in life and service.

### Who are your 4?

If you don't have people in your life like this - "your 4" - what specific steps will you take to find them?

Where can you start? Be in community with others (D3 groups, 321 groups, small groups, Men of Faith, MomsNation, Bible studies). Your 4 are waiting for you. Are YOU the missing piece?

How are you growing? Take our **Spiritual Life Survey** to see where we are as a church, **WeAreFaith.org/SLS**.

## NOTES

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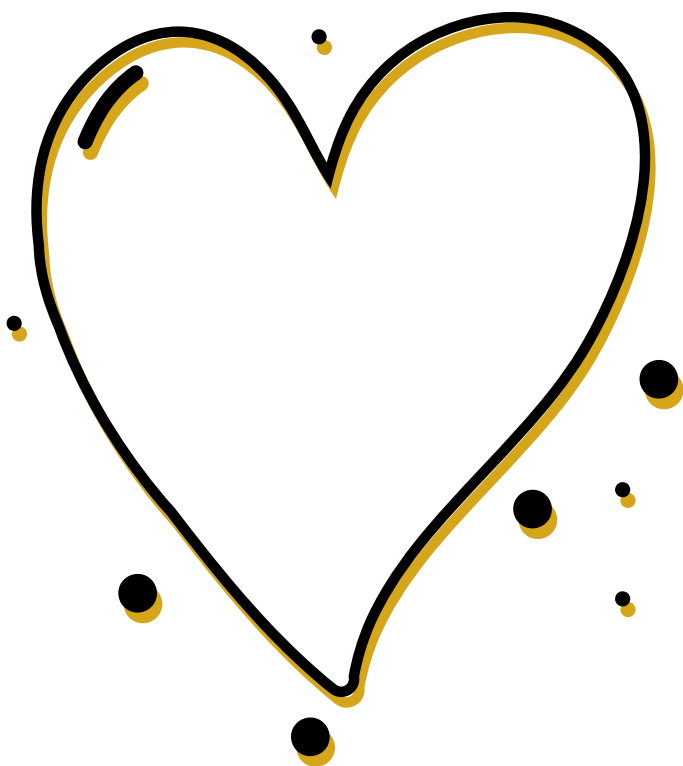
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*“The truth is, people need our with-ness. They don’t need for us to impress them with how spiritual we are. They need to know they are not alone.”*

**Emily P. Freeman**

WEEK 3  
**GIVE**





**Scripture Passage:** Exodus 3:9-4:20

**Bottom Line:** Moses, though reluctantly, served God by leaving his life as a shepherd to follow God's call.

## REFLECTIONS

Moses began his life as someone important - a palace resident. Then he was banished to sheep herding, not a sought after position by cultured Egyptian society. Perhaps he thought God would use him because of his royal position. Instead, God taught him how to herd sheep. Had he missed God's call?

But after years of wilderness living, God called. Was Moses ready? No. He had a long list of excuses. But God persisted and Moses has been known through the ages as the one who God chose to lead the huge nation of Israel out of Egypt.

Moses seemed to be a reluctant "GIVER" of his time and talents. God is calling you into something. Maybe He wants you to prepare by studying and joining a small group - connecting with other believers in a new way. Maybe it is that nudge to serve in Faith Kids or to greet people as they walk into the doors at Faith Church. Are you like Moses, giving God your list of excuses? Are you ignoring God or at least suppressing His voice? How are you responding to God's call on you today?

If you are part of Faith Church, what are you doing to help the vision you have committed to? If everyone served as much as you, would this church be buzzing with servers...or silent?

Do you see serving as a spiritual discipline?

Unsure of where to serve, take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment [WeAreFaith.org/spiritual-gifts-survey](https://www.WeAreFaith.org/spiritual-gifts-survey) and see how God has uniquely gifted you.

If you have learned a few things along your path, why aren't you walking with younger people, showing them how to be a more faithful follower of Jesus? Of "your 4," who are two people you are walking with?

Maybe your response is you don't have time or you don't have the tools. If not you, then who?

## NOTES

*“The Church doesn’t need more ‘seniors,’ it needs more elders – men and women who are willing to pour into the next generation”*

## James Houston

WEEK 4

GO







## Scripture Passage: Exodus 12

**Bottom Line:** Just as God used the Passover meal to prepare his people to leave Egypt, we are nourished at the Lord's Table in preparation to GO and share the Good News!

## REFLECTIONS

We conclude this series as we began - with obedience. Just like us, Moses needed to obey God to fulfill his calling. No thinking. No discussion. And through obedience, Moses realized God could use him - just like God can use you.

The Passover instructions were clear. Were they logical? No, but God said to do it. There was nothing logical about putting the lamb's blood on the doorposts. It made no sense. But God didn't call them to understand, just to obey.

Throughout Scripture God asks His people to do illogical things. There was no apparent logic in Noah's plans (Genesis 6). Naaman's instruction to dip in the river seven times seemed crazy (2 Kings 5:10). Mary and Joseph's predicament did not seem logical (Luke 1 & 2). What other biblical characters were asked to do something illogical?

Is God asking you to do something that may seem illogical, too? What is His illogical request of you? It may not make sense professionally, or fit into your time management or 10-year goals. Are you making excuses? Or are you willing to follow the God of the universe who has a specific task for you to complete?

# PASSOVER TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

And why do we observe the Lord's Supper? "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26 ESV) The Lord's Table is a gift to us, an opportunity to take time to stop, to remember God's goodness and to once again personally experience God's grace.

When people joined God's covenant community, they were welcomed to the Passover table - including servants and foreigners. Passover proclaimed to the next generation what God has done and is a visible symbol of His deliverance, and so is the Lord's Table.

**God calls us to do difficult and illogical things - from the Passover to being "on mission" in our lives, in our church and in our world.**

Sometimes simple is best, remembering the words you may have sung as a child:

*"Trust and obey,  
For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey."*

**John H. Sammis (1887)**

## NOTES

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*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

### Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All Scripture quotations are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

## References

*Great Lives: Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication*, Charles R. Swindoll



# Faith

CHURCH

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[WeAreFaith.org](http://WeAreFaith.org)