

WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?

Exodus 4:1-5

***God can use what you have,
to accomplish what He wants.***

Exodus 4:1-5

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.”

Background

- Exodus 2 – Moses murdered an Egyptian and flees, becoming a fugitive
- Met a priest of Midian with 7 daughters, married one of them, had a son and settled down.
- Fast forward 40 years, Moses tending the flock of his FIL in Exodus 3
- Encounters God in the burning bush
- God tells Moses He has seen the misery of his people and will rescue them and bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey.
- Exo 3:10 – So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.

Moses' Excuse**God's Response**

Who am I? 3:11-12

I will be with you

Moses' Excuse	God's Response
Who am I? 3:11-12	I will be with you
Who is sending me? 3:13-22	I AM has sent you
What shall I say? 3:13-22	God tells Moses what he should say

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What shall I say? 3:13-22	God tells Moses what he should say
What if they don't believe me? 4:1-9	God gives Moses 3 miraculous signs
I am slow of speech and tongue 4:10-12	I will help you speak and will teach you what to say
Please send someone else to do it. 4:13-17	God's anger burned against Moses but provides Aaron to speak for Moses

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What is that in your hand?

To Moses, it was a staff:

- Used to guide, lead and protect the sheep
- Used to support and help the shepherd climb up and down mountainous ranges
- Identified Moses as a shepherd
- Represented all that Moses possessed

What is that in your hand?

- Used to confront the Egyptian soothsayers (Exo 7:12)
- Used to turn the waters of Egypt into blood (7:17-20)
- Used to bring forth the plague of frogs (8:5)
- Used to bring forth the plague of lice (8:16)
- Used to bring forth the plague of thunder and hail (9:23)
- Used to call the east wind that blew in the plague of locusts (10:13)
- Used to part the Red Sea (14:16)
- Used to bring water from a rock in the desert (17:6)
- Used to bring victory over the Amalekites (17:9)

What is that in your hand?

- David only had a sling and 5 stones (1 Sam 17)
- Widow only had enough food for herself and her son (1 Kings 17)
- Little boy only had 5 loaves and 2 fish (Matt 14:13-21)
- Mary of Bethany had a bottle of precious perfume (Jn 12:1-3)
- Poor widow only had and gave 2 copper coins (Lk 21:1-4)

Thank you for the years of love and care you've showered on us since age 15 when we were still naughty kids!! Family, that's what you are. Forever in our hearts.

Thankful for the wisdom, advice, and teachings over those many years. You will be dearly missed as mentor and friend.

Thank you for being that mentor and brother to me. You've defined the meaning of a Life Group Leader through your acts of love and care.

My life is so much richer because of you. You were the bigger brother who I could ask difficult question of.

Over the past 9 years, your dedication to the Life Group has been amazing. Thank you for mentoring us and me all this while.

I will always admire your quiet, well thought advice deeply anchored in God's Word, your kindness and your big, giving heart.

What is that in your hand?

To us, it can be anything we hold in our hands today:

- Our past experiences and upbringing
- Sin, sinful desires
- Hard feelings, bitterness, unforgiveness
- Problems, worries, hurts
- Our pride
- Feeling of failure, poor self-esteem, brokenness

What is that in your hand?

To us, it can be anything we hold in our hands today:

- Studies, jobs, families
- Ambitions, pursuits, desires
- Talents, abilities, & gifts
- Achievements and accomplishments
- Wealth and possessions
- Our earthly comforts

A. W. Tozer

God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity that we plan only things we can do by ourselves.