

Word of The Year & The Life of Moses

2022-01-02 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass at The Well via Zoom on Exodus 3

Welcome to Tallgrass at The Well! Welcome to our PJ Party on Zoom!

- Welcome to our friends on Facebook Live and welcome to our Zoomers!
- Zoom is great for engagement with one another. There will be times you have an opportunity to share by unmuting yourself and you can always share on the Chat.
- You can also Private Chat.
- We are recording and we are on Facebook Live.
- If you're on Zoom please stick around afterwards for our After Party!
- We've initiated our Tallgrass at The Well Directory and want to talk about it at our Zoom After Party.
- This is our first official gathering as a fully merged church. Unmute and let's celebrate!
- We're so thankful to all of the friends and neighbors and extended family of the Tallgrass at The Well family who are with us today!

Mingle Time

- Get to know us... Zoom Poll

Announcements – Josh

- Does everyone have their coffee, tea, or hot chocolate in hand? Take a moment and show everyone the mug from. Sometimes you can learn a lot about a person by their coffee mug.
- Who has the best pajamas on? Take a look around and vote for your favorite PJs in the Zoom Chat or Facebook Comments!
- This or That... Zoom poll

Neverending Dumpster Fire

- 2021 = Dumpster fire floating down the street gif.
- Truck mirror story
- Such an admixture of emotion... joy, hope, lament, sorrow, enthusiasm, despair.
- New births, miscarriages, victories over cancer, losing battles, etc.
- Maybe this dumpster fire is headed somewhere.
- God led His people by a pillar of fire, right? And He led them through the Red Sea to the Promised Land, right?
- Maybe that's what all this is?!

WOTY Worksheet

<https://tallgrass.church/sites/default/files/uploads/2020/12/WotY%20Worksheet%20-%20half%20sheet%20-%20TG-ver.pdf>

WOTY Worksheet

My 2022 grace-based growth word is _____.

What's a key Scripture?

Why this Word?

Who's cheering me on?

What's my plan for growth?

Knowledge—What do you need to know? Book or resource.

Character—How does your heart need to change?

Skills—What do you need to learn how to do?

Vision—What will growth look like in this area?

Grab a journal or something else to write in.

Grab a Bible if you want to follow along in the story of Moses.

I want to invite you to take a look at Moses' life as you consider your Word of the Year. As we go we'll consider four Cs together. The first is CURIOSITY.

1. Curiosity

- Acts 7:23-24 ²³ When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian.
- Exodus 2:23-25 ²³ During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.
- Acts 7:30 Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush.
- Talk about a long, slow process of spiritual formation.
- Invitation into my own journey as a forty year old man...
- Exodus 3:1-6 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
- ² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.
- ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ^{4a} When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"
 - Exodus 3:3-4a (My paraphrase) And Moses said, "I am so curious why this bush isn't burning up." When the LORD saw how curious Moses was he called to him, "Moses, Moses!"
 - God calls out to Moses in the midst of his curiosity.
- ^{4b} And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
- That could've seemed like a neverending dumpster fire to Moses.
- How long did he stand there, looking at this thing burn and burn and burn but not burn up?
- Who knows what Moses' life was like as a fugitive, on the run for those forty years?

- The Matrix – red or blue pill
- They say curiosity killed the cat but I say curiosity saved the world.
- Growth and Calling
- God is calling you to greatness if you'll just be curious and pay attention, just like He called Moses from that burning bush.
- What am I learning? vs. Why is this happening?
- Be curious with me for a moment.

Curiosity Questions:

1. What do you sense God wanting to do in your life right now?
 2. Where do you see God's Presence in your life circumstances?
 3. Where are you struggling to see God's Presence in your life circumstances?
- Use your Sabbath time to bring curiosity to finding a Word of the Year for 2022.

2. Cooperation

- It took Moses a lot of back and forth engagement with God for him to eventually cooperate with what God wanted to do in and through him.
- I find this very encouraging. Listen to this banter between God and Moses before Moses cooperates.
- Exodus 3:7-22
- Exodus 4:1-23
- Jacob wrestling with God and walking away with a limp and a new identity.
- Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane sweating drops of blood, working through his emotional challenges with cooperating with the Spirit and Father.
- Cooperation = Submission
- Cruciform Cooperation / Christ-Centered Cooperation
- Teaching Maddox how to play basketball – "Please cooperate with me when I'm teaching you how to lay this foundation."
- In the gym – Cooperate with the coaches.

Cooperation Questions:

1. Where is God asking you to cooperate with Him?
2. Where are you eager to cooperate with God in your life?
3. Where are you hesitant or resistant to cooperate with God?

3. Consistency

- This is key. Consistency!!!
- Do better. Be better. Get it right. No mistakes. No days off. Follow the plan. Execute your intentions flawlessly.
- Do you feel the pressure rising? Do you sense the impending shame of failure when you don't follow through?
- The third C isn't Consistency.

3. Consistency

- I want to have the perfect plan laid out and then to execute it flawlessly. I want everyone else to do the same. Then...inevitably when I make mistakes. When I miss a day. I beat myself up like crazy.
- The inner critic screaming at me. "Do better. You're a failure."
- I've learned that this is especially a challenge for us Enneagram 1s.
- Unfinished journals, Bible reading plans...
- Unmet and discarded goals...
- Failures and disappointments...
- In the midst of all that, Jesus says, "Chill out. Relax. Follow me, the 3 mph God. We will get where we need to go but it may not look like you hoped it would and it may take longer than you wanted it to."
- Replace the demand for consistency or perfection with compassion...towards yourself.

3. Compassion

- My 2021 WOTY - CALM
 - Mark 4:35-39 ³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.
- 8 weeks in the Gospel of Mark looking at the practices of Jesus so we can help one another walk in the way of Jesus.
- Moses' need for compassion with himself...
- Deuteronomy 32:48-52
 - I began imagining Moses meeting with a therapist and trying to work through his family of origin issues and his anger and life failures. That was strangely comforting. Even Moses, the so called humblest man on earth, had nagging characters issues until his death.
- Numbers 20:20-12
- Exodus 33:11a Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.
 - God wants to befriend you too...even with your ongoing need to change.
- Exodus 34:5-7
- Hebrews 11:23-27
 - You can be a person of faith who will spend eternity with God and yet experience deep disappointment this side of life...and it's your own fault. That's sobering but also strangely hopeful to me.
 - Even Moses, who is highlighted in Hebrews 11 as a man of faith, had significant challenges in life but still experienced the friendship of God and is experiencing the friendship of God even now.
- Growth is slow going, and that's ok.

10 Yrs of Ben's WOTYs

2011—sensitivity
 2012—prayerfulness
 2013—joy
 2014—cultivate
 2015—self-control
 2016—run
 2017—meek
 2018—compassion (splaighnon)
 2019—kindness (hesed)
 2020—temperance
 2020.5—rooted
 2021—calm

- I need to keep growing in each and every one of these words.
- We could probably do Word of the Decade and still have work to do!
- This is a century worth of spiritual formation intention.

Compassion Questions:

1. Where do you need to have compassion on yourself?
2. What is your inner critic saying as you reflect on 2021?
3. How do/can you show compassion to yourself?

A few ideas:

- *Be Kind to Yourself* (song by Andrew Peterson) <https://youtu.be/sYiM-sOC6nE>
- *God Loves You as You Are, Not as You Should Be* (sermon by Brennan Manning) <https://youtu.be/-8vEGGLn-Dw>
- *Jacob's Dream* (song by Jason Upton) <https://youtu.be/Pv0m7kt4l4E>

4. Contagious

- The Word of the Year idea can catch on with anyone and everyone that has a growth mindset, no matter their religious or faith background.
- Conversation with one another about where we're curious in our own lives can cross all sorts of social boundaries.
- Share your word with me and I'll write it down....somewhere...and eventually we'll figure out how to get all our names and faces and words somewhere so we can pray for one another and engage with one another and remember one another's names.
- We want to discern a Word of the Year for our church. We'll be doing 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting in January and can use that time to bring our corporate curiosity to what God is doing in and through us.

Contagious Questions:

1. What WOTY are you considering for 2022? Why?
2. What key Scripture will you memorize?
3. What resource might you engage with?
4. What WOTYs that others have had have impacted you?
5. Who can you share your WOTY with?
6. Who can you invite into the WOTY practice? Friends? Family? Kids? Neighbors? Utilize social media?

My 2022 WOTY—presence

- Hurry and Distraction have prevented me from being PRESENT.
- Exodus 33:14 The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Goodbye!

- Thanks for Zooming in and for tuning in on Facebook Live.
- Good things are ahead for our church and for you in 2022.
- On my heart for our church family is that we would...
 - Learn Names
 - Love Your One
 - Grow in Your Word
 - Follow The Way of Jesus
- We'll see you next Sunday morning IN PERSON in PJ's again...right? For our Sunday morning brunch and start to a new series on the practices of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark.
- Am I missing anything?
- Goodbye to our Facebook Friends!
- Please stick around for our Zoom After Party if you're able.