

SERMON NOTES
“Hitching Your Life to God’s Star”

Matthew 2:1-10
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THE WISE MEN:

Gazed at God’s work . . .
 And then they . . . hitched ‘their wagon’ to his star . . .

Every organization needs a plan.

Failing to plan is planning to _____ . . .

But, in the coming year, will GOD’S PLAN BE OUR PLANS?
 And WILL GOD BLESS THEM?

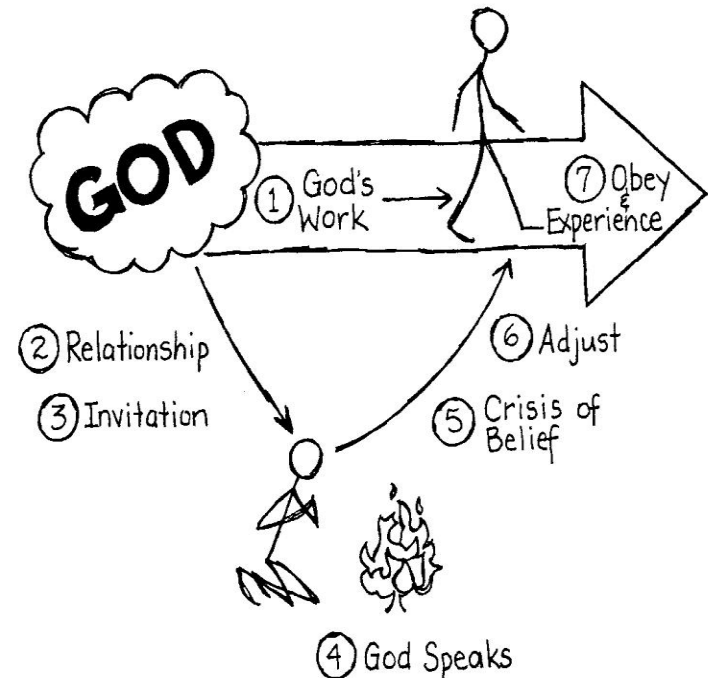
One prominent Scriptural pattern of God’s work in and through his servants is described by Henry Blackerby in his book, “Experiencing God”:

1. The pattern shows that God is at work in the world in many ways: Already! Before us! Despite us!
2. And God asks us not just to think up plans out of the blue, but to discern where God is at work, and to join him in his plans

MOSES:

This pattern is clearly seen, for example, in the call of Moses to join God in God’s plan to deliver the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt – see Exodus 3-4

1. God’s work	Exodus 3:7-9	God at work before Moses
2. Relationship	Exodus 3:4	God calls Moses by name
3. Invitation	Exodus 3:10	Join with me in MY work
4. God speaks	Exodus 3:4-10	Describes the issue, invitation, Provides assurance
5. Crisis of Belief	Exodus 3:13-4:13	Excuses from Moses
6. Adjust	Exodus 4:18-27	Making peace with the new task
7. Obey & Experience	Exodus 4:28	Challenges Pharaoh, leaves Egypt



*Experiencing God Leader Kit. Item 005096105.
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EXODUS 2:11-15

11One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsfolk. 12He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting; and he said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?" 14He answered, "Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "Surely the thing is known." 15When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

EXODUS 3:1-12

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." 4When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "**Moses, Moses!**" And he said, "Here I am." 5Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6He said further, "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.

7Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings,

8and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them.

10So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

11But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

EXODUS 4:1,10-14,18

4Then Moses answered, "But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'"

10But Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

11Then the Lord said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak."

13But he said, "O my Lord, please send someone else."

14Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "What of your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad.

18Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him, "**Please let me go back to my kindred in Egypt and see whether they are still living.**"

And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."