

4. In what ways can you identify with Moses, especially when God asks you to take on a difficult task?

5. How can the Lord's words to Moses encourage you during those times?

6. Read Exodus 4:13-31. After the Lord has answered all his objections, why do you think Moses continues to refuse (Exodus 4:13)?

7. Do you think Moses' refusal might have been related to his insecurity as a Hebrew? Explain.

8. What role would Aaron play in helping Moses carry out his task (Exodus 4:14-17)?

9. Why do you suppose God was absolutely insistent that Moses' sons be circumcised before returning to Egypt (Exodus 4:24-26)?

10. What does the fact that Moses' sons had not been circumcised indicate about his Jewish identity and his relationship to God?

11. Judging by Zipporah's response (Exodus 4:25), what part may she have had in the sons not being circumcised?

What might this say about her relationship to Moses' Jewishness?

12. What are some ways that you are unable to be used of God in your own culture or another culture because of your inability to relate to that culture?

Who are the Aarons in your life—those who can help you be more effective in that culture?

Leader's Notes:

Leader's Notes
[Study 9.](#)

Cultural Identity.
Exodus 3-4.

Purpose: To understand the cultural dynamic in the life of Moses—how he struggled with his culturally diverse background and yet was used mightily by God.

Reflection: This study deals with identity problems that often face an oppressed minority community. Oppression not only affects the physical well-being of those who are oppressed but also destroys their self-image and identity. People actually begin to believe the negative images of themselves and sometimes start to act them out. The same thing happens when minority people over-identify with the culture that is oppressing them in hopes of winning approval. The effects on a person are obvious. You cannot reject yourself and remain healthy. Have the group list some negative effects of self-hatred, such as crime, minority-on-minority violence, drug use, antisocial behavior and so on.

General Note: This study may be approached slightly differently depending on whether one is from a majority culture or a minority culture. People from a minority culture may want to read the questions in light of identity with their own culture in the midst of the predominant culture around them. People from the majority culture may want to read the questions in light of relationships with other cultures.

Question 1. This approach question will appeal most to those from a heterogeneous background. For those with a homogeneous background, you might ask about their comfort in other cultures as well.

Question 7. Discuss how strong an influence a background can be.

Question 9. In the question we have stated that "God was absolutely insistent" rather than "God sought to kill Moses" because, whatever the meaning and implication of God seeking to kill Moses, it is certain that it was very important that Moses' sons be circumcised.

Question 11. Zipporah's specific response was an expression of disgust at the general bloodiness of the circumcision procedure which she was to perform on her sons. However, it probably represented a general uneasiness which she has with Moses' culture.