

STUCK IN MIDIAN

Discussion Notes

Most of us are aware of how huge some of the challenges of injustice and inequality are in our world. Sam shared that sometimes this can seem daunting to the point where we feel like we can't really make a difference.

- Does this resonate with you?
- Are there specific problems you see in the world that leave you feeling discouraged about whether we can make a difference?

Moses tried to make a difference when he saw a problem, but instead ended up killing a man, running for his life and then sitting down by the well in Midian. It's here that Moses' life slips from good intentions, and trying to change things, to a life of comfort and mundanity. For 40 years he stays in Midian where life is easy but he isn't doing anything to help the Israelites.

- Have you ever found yourself like Moses; you used to care passionately about something but now you've slipped to a comfortable life?
- What does Midian look like today? Is it your job? Does your experience of church keep you too comfortable?

Encounter God's Heart

Sam shared that the thing that took Moses from 'just good intentions' to actually making a difference was when he met God in the burning bush. There he encountered God and his heart for the poor and the oppressed.

- Read through Exodus 3:1-10
- What does it look like to 'encounter God's heart'? What does that phrase mean to you?
- Have you had an experience where you think you've met God like Moses did? Did it change the way you think about injustice and poverty?
- God tells Moses that he hears the cry (*sa'aq*) of the oppressed. What does that look like today? Is there a 'cry' that you've heard in the past, a people group or situation that God has put on your heart?

Obey the Call

Next God tells Moses, 'so now, go'. He says to Moses that the Israelites are crying out, so Moses must obey the call and go to them.

- What does it actually look like in day-to-day life to 'go'?
- What stops us from obeying that call? Do we feel inadequate or unqualified? Do we feel too comfortable?

Counting the Cost

Moses knew that really making a difference would involve huge sacrifice. He would have to leave his life in Midian and face down Egypt, trading in his status as a prince to stand up for the Israelites.

- What might the cost be in our lives to obey God's call to stand with the oppressed?
- Do you have experiences you can share of when it has been costly for you?

In order to help Moses, God sent Aaron to go with him.

- Do you have people around you that can spur you on to living a life where we actually make a difference?
- How can we as a Hub group support each other in this?

Spend the end of your time together praying for one another. You could pray for those who feel a specific call from God, or you could spend time listening to God and ask to encounter his heart for our world. Finally, you could pray for those going to do the Noise or Love Running this weekend.

And if you want to give then go to www.loverunning.info/donate