

## What is that in your hand<sup>1</sup>?

### *Exodus 4:1-5*

Moses, child of Hebrew slaves in Egypt, was rescued from certain death and raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. As an adult, he tried to intervene for his people and had to flee into the Sinai desert, where for the next forty years he worked as a shepherd. God met him in a flaming bush and commissioned him to return to Egypt and lead his people out of slavery and into the land of promise. Scan Exodus 3. Note especially God's summons to Moses in Exodus 3:10. Moses raised several objections, which the Lord answered (Exodus 3:11-15). *Read Exodus 4:1-5.*

1. At this point what was uppermost in Moses' mind (v. 1)?
2. How did the Lord unexpectedly change the focus of Moses' attention (v. 2)?
3. What is the logical connection between Moses' objection and God's question?
4. To Moses at that moment, what was the significance of his staff?
5. God ordered Moses to do a simple act of obedience: "Throw it on the ground" (v. 3). How was the result different from anything Moses might have expected to happen?
6. When God told Moses to pick up the snake by the tail, what probably went through Moses' mind?
7. What was the purpose of the demonstration with the staff (v. 5)?
8. When have you seen the Lord use ordinary objects or circumstances to do something remarkable, perhaps even miraculous?
9. Identify some ordinary everyday "stuffs" you have "in your hand." Some possibilities could be: material possessions, financial resources, schedule flexibility, talents and skills, space (home or yard), vehicles, friends or family or church networks, special sensitivities or latent interests.
10. Which one of your "stuffs" would be hardest for you to throw down and release control over?
11. We know now what a significant part Moses' staff played in the exodus and in the wilderness journey, but at this point the Lord did not reveal any of that to Moses. He only promised that the Israelites (not even the Egyptians yet) would believe that the Lord had really appeared to Moses. Moses was still very much in the dark about where all this was going. But he did throw down the staff and pick up the snake by the tail. This week, what will you figuratively throw down and let God take control of? Identify specific steps you will take in order to do that.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on Life Guide Bible Study material. "Questions God Asks" by Dale and Sandy Larsen