

**@THE MOVIES | Dawn Wall | Week 3 | August 17/18**

Exodus 3-4; Ephesians 2

*These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.*

**Opening:** El Capitan is infamous in the climbing world but there's one portion of the rock wall, right on the nose of the cliff, this slim section that catches the first morning light as the sun comes up over the valley, the so called "Dawn Wall" that had never been climbed. The movie Dawn Wall is a true story that chronicles Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson's historic first ascent of the Dawn wall route on Yosemite's El Capitan.

**Unlikely Conquerors:** As Steve Noble outlines the life history of our two characters in this movie, we learn of a slow to develop young man who found climbing as his first real competence. He later had the experience of being kidnapped while climbing in Kyrgyzstan. Caldwell and a few friends were taken hostage by a terrorist organization, they were held for weeks, and only found freedom after Caldwell himself threw one of their captors off a cliff, opening the door for escape. The guilt from that incident would haunt him for years.

- Journal or share what stirs in you when you hear their stories?
- What are those key formational elements from your own story that have shaped how you live your life now?
- Journal or share about those elements that might "haunt" you? (Yes, big question. It's in the big questions that we confide freedom and take those next steps forward on our faith journey. If anything please take time to journal about this question and share as you are ready.)

**God Uses the Broken:** Read Exodus 3. Pastor Steve comments "Moses was painfully aware of his own brokenness. He was painfully aware of his own unworthiness. He was a murderer. He'd spent the last 40 years of his life fleeing from the consequences of his actions. He'd spent forty years being reminded daily of his own insignificance. This is someone who had once roamed the halls of the palace at the center of the most powerful kingdom on earth, who now spends his days outside with the sheep. He was broken. And so when he hears the call of God to do the extraordinary, his first reflex is not to trust in the might of the God who is calling, instead he focuses on himself in doubt and fear."

- Journal or share where your own story and feelings intersect with this very familiar human response.
- Where have you backed away in a similar way as Moses did? What about the situation you faced caused that?
- Would you do the same or differently now? Why?

- If you could put aside every encumbrance and freely pursue righting a wrong from your life, what would it be? Journal or talk about it with your group.

**Resting to Heal:** Steve asks “When did we start wearing our busyness as a badge of honor? When did we start believing the lie that says those who are over scheduled are somehow more important?”

- Journal or share your honest answers to Steve’s questions about busyness.
- How do you respond to the Dallas Willard quote “Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life”?
- Journal or share your biggest barrier to eliminating hurry.

**Life in Relationship:** Read Ephesians 4:2. Tommy and Kevin were unlikely companions. But they grew to become friends and “co-heros” in the conquest of El Capitan and Tommy decides to wait for his friend. And in his words, “I’ll go into full support mode. For as long as it takes because accomplishments mean a whole lot more when they are completed together.”

- What thoughts or emotions stir in you about this attitude?
- Have you ever experienced this type of community? Journal or tell the story to the group.

Compare this with Steve’s comment, “Because we live in a ladder climbing society. We’ll bear with one another as long as we can, but only to a point. Because climbing the ladder, achieving our dreams, finding our own personal satisfaction really feels more important. It’s become this primary goal we put in front of ourselves”

- Where have you seen ambition and goals supersede relationship and community?
- To which perspective do you typically live your life? Journal or share what demonstrates that. (Again a hard question, but reality can be your friend for transformation.)

**Practice of the Week: Live into the rhythm of Sabbath.** Following Steve’s challenge to fight busyness and rest together, a rhythm of sabbath lives into many of the key challenges we received. As broken people, we need rest to heal, and we can’t do this alone but need a community around us and when we do, by God’s grace, we are capable of so much more than we can imagine! Yes, we realize that thinking of this might seem as daunting as climbing El Cap. Perhaps begin this week, during lunch, by reviewing last summer’s series on Sabbath called Press Pause. This series can be found on Christ Church’s Media Page: [Media.ChristChurch.us](http://Media.ChristChurch.us)

**We’d love to hear from you!**

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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