

## Trusting God

10 Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

11 The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

13 But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

14 Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. 15 You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him."

Exodus 4:10-16

# F e l i n g   I n s e c u r e

"Some days I would look at my reflection and see garbage. . . . But now I think I have finally reached an age where I have accepted myself for who I am."

—Shakira, singer

"My self-image, it still isn't that all right. No matter how famous I am, no matter how many people go to see my movies, I still have the idea that I'm that pale no-hoper that I used to be. . . . Tomorrow it'll be all over, then I'll have to go back to selling pens again."

—Johnny Depp, actor

"I look at myself as that same scared kid growing up trying to fit in, just trying to make it."

—Mia Hamm, professional soccer player

"When I was younger, my whole sense of self-worth was based on whether or not I was working. When I wasn't the flavor of the week, the month, or day, those were hard times."

—Kiefer Sutherland, actor

"I was 102 pounds, and people at the record label were telling me that I needed to lose weight."

—Jessica Simpson, singer and reality show star

"I know I'm not ugly, but I don't think I'm a pretty girl. I'm very critical of myself, definitely."

—Drew Barrymore, actress

"I didn't have a lot of affection in my childhood, so I don't know how to be affectionate. . . . Growing up, I never heard 'I love you' from my mother, my grandmother, my father. I heard it from my mom the first time two years ago, and it still seems awkward. There's hesitance."

—Terrell Owens, NFL player

"There definitely must be an insecurity that lies beneath someone who wants to be successful and adored by other people."

—Melanie C (formerly Sporty Spice), singer

"I always feel like I'm the butler when I'm with famous people."

—Ashton Kutcher, actor

"Certainly, I was lost at times in my life. I'd like to think I was never a bad person, but I certainly went through times where I was not clear about who I was . . . where I never had a sense of purpose, never felt useful as a person."

—Angelina Jolie, actress

# I Can't!

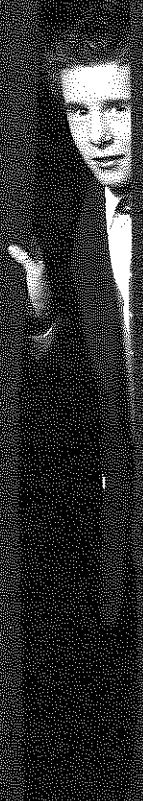
List some reactions of Moses when he was asked to lead Israel out of Egypt.

What seems to be the underlying theme of these excuses?

Look at Exodus 4:11, 12. How does God answer the self-doubts of Moses?

How would you summarize God's response in a single sentence?

Read Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 3:5. Can you paraphrase that verse, making it Moses' words?



# Insecurity

The following two teens have problems with their self-esteem. What's contributing to their lack of self-confidence, and what can they do to feel better about themselves?

## Stage Fright

Brandon has a pure, clear tenor voice. But he's self-conscious and doesn't think he's any good. He never sings out during worship. The song leader has noticed Brandon's voice and encouraged him to lead singing for the congregation some time. The song leader has to be away next Sunday night and has asked Brandon to fill in for him. Just thinking about getting up in front of the congregation and leading singing makes Brandon sick to his stomach. He's not sure he can do as well as the song leader thinks he can and is terrified that he will mess up.

## Fear of the Mirror

All his life, Corey has felt inferior to the people around him. Sure he's a smart guy and an intelligent person, but he's never felt good-looking. So he has no confidence. All he sees when he looks in the mirror is imperfection. He wishes he could change his appearance, and then maybe girls would pay attention to him, or at least he'd have a few more friends. Corey wonders if he should do something drastic like save up enough money to have plastic surgery.