

How To Drop The Ball

MARCH 14, 2021 // EXODUS 32-34



Introduction

- On average, how many of us watch a lot of YouTube videos? How many hours a week?
- What tutorials have you found on YouTube that you were surprised to find?
- What is something you would have never accomplished without a tutorial video?

We often use resources like YouTube to guide us on how to do something, but do we ever use those same resources to figure out how to not do something? Let's look at the story of Moses through Exodus chapters 32-34



Deeper Dive

Read Exodus Chapters 32-34 to understand the full context of the situation unfolding. Here we see a real-life example of how to drop the ball, how to pick the ball back up, and how our own situations compare to the story of Moses and Aaron.

• Making demands with impatience and ignorance

Exodus 32:1 is a great example of how, when given time, we can find ourselves in a place we didn't even want to be.

- What are some decisions or demands you have made in impatience or ignorance?
(Example: Relationships/purity, college choices, job/move, finances)
- What led you to make those choices?
- What has led you to steer clear of making those same decisions?
- How did God's grace come through in the midst of those decisions?

• Assuming God is unaware

Read Exodus 32:7. God sees and knows our situation. The people assumed that no one knew their situation other than the people present at the time. Moses was out of sight and they quickly forgot all that God had done for them.

- How has assumption let you down before?
- Has there ever been a time where you assumed God didn't understand your situation?
How did God come through in the end?

• Taking matters into your own hands

Read Exodus 20:22-24. How does this compare to what is happening in 32:2-6?

- What does it look like when we take matters into our own hands? What characteristics do we see come forth?
(Example: Control freak, Rant and Rave, Pout/Silent, Withdrawal)
- Give a real-life example of how this has played out in your life. Was it worth it? What would you do differently?

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- **Not taking personal responsibility**

Read Exodus 32:21. Does Aaron take responsibility for how the people of Israel acted in Moses' absence?

- What makes us not take full responsibility when real life happens?
(Example: Fear, anxiety, let down, dishonor)
- Is there a time in your life when your reaction was similar to Aarons?
- How could Aaron have responded to avoid this situation altogether?
(Example: Control freak, Rant and Rave, Pout/Silent, Withdrawal)

► **Reflection - Picking The Ball Back Up**

There is hope! Read Exodus 34:1. God's grace is sufficient in any situation. God gives us a chance to pick up the ball!

- **Fight Impatience and Ignorance by**

Letting the Word shape your perspective, not the world (2 Peter 3:9)

- **Fight Assumption by**

Remembering that God knows and sees (Jeremiah 23:24)

- **Fight taking matters into your own hands by**

Praying before you problem-solve (Psalms 94:19, Philippians 4:6)

- **Fight lack of responsibility by**

Owning it and Repenting (Proverbs 28:13)

► **Closing**

As your group has shared times when you have dropped the ball in the past, does anyone have the ball dropped right now? Pray as a group and help each other pick the ball back up! Here are three things to be praying as a group:

1. To hold each other accountable by taking responsibility
2. To grow in patience toward God's timing and not our own
3. To grow in awareness when we take matters into our own hands and redirecting ourselves to the truth found in scripture.