

BIBLE RUNAWAYS

There were at least 11 Bible characters who "ran away" when things got tough. They are: Adam, Jonah, Elijah, Mark, Onesimus, Moses, Gideon, Prodigal Son, David, Judas Iscariot, and Peter.

Runaway #6 - Moses

The name "Moses" = "to be drawn out" (of the river). This man Moses was "drawn out" of an evil society that held them as slaves, and he was selected to lead the deliverance (exodus).

Our lives have "ups and downs". We are blessed at the beginning; we do the right things; then, we do the wrong things. While we are drowning in the "wrong things", God is planning more good things.

1. Moses life started out well. Match the columns.
 - a. Exodus 2:2-4 ___ He knew that he was a Hebrew as well as an Egyptian.
 - b. Exodus 2:6 ___ He had a loving, caring, and protective mother.
 - c. Exodus 2:9 ___ He was very alert to the hard times of others.
 - d. Exodus 2:10 ___ His mother maintained a close relationship with him.
 - e. Exodus 2:11 ___ Even the enemy (an Egyptian) had compassion in him.
 - f. Exodus 2:11 ___ He grew up in Egyptian power & luxury.
 - g. Exodus 2:11 ___ He was adopted by the daughter of the Pharaoh.

2. Moses' life as a "runaway" (Part 1) begins. Match the columns.
 - a. Exodus 2:12 ___ Moses was consumed by fear after his evil deed.
 - b. Exodus 2:12 ___ Moses lost control of himself and killed a man.
 - c. Exodus 2:12 ___ Moses knew planning the murder was wrong.
 - d. Exodus 2:14 ___ Moses was content to hide from his past actions.
 - e. Exodus 2:15 ___ Moses fled (ran) from his home & friends.
 - f. Exodus 2:21 ___ Moses hid his sinful action in the dirt (try to forget it)

3. ___Yes ___No Do you think Moses was an irresponsible loser from the start?
4. ___Yes ___No Do you think you have been an irresponsible loser from the start?
5. ___Yes ___No Does Moses deserve a second chance to live a useful life?
6. ___Yes ___No Do you deserve a second chance to live a useful life in the future?

Here comes Moses' second time around the track; he got off to a good start first time around but he failed to make it all the way.

7. God sent Moses around for a second lap. Match the columns.
 - a. Exodus 2:21 ___ He actually heard the will of God from God Himself.
 - b. Exodus 2:22 ___ He actually came into the very presence of God.
 - c. Exodus 3:1 ___ He actually was asked by God to serve Him again back in Egypt.
 - d. Exodus 3:5 ___ He got married.
 - e. Exodus 3:6 ___ He knew how to respect the holiness of God.
 - f. Exodus 3:8 ___ He had a child.
 - g. Exodus 3:10 ___ He enjoyed earning a living from his father-in-law, Jethro.

8. We are just like Moses.
- Yes No We can hear the will of God for us through His Word. Right?
 - Yes No We can come into God's presence every time we pray to Him. Right?
 - Yes No We might have enjoyed work & been a good employee. Right?
 - Yes No We could or were blessed with a wife & children. Right?
 - Yes No We may have been taught to honor & obey God. Right?
 - Yes No **We can be asked by God to help those in our past? Right?**
9. Just like Moses, we may not run again, **BUT WE WANT TO RUN**. Match the columns.
- Exodus 3:11 LORD, send someone else.
 - Exodus 3:13 LORD, I am insignificant; "Who am I"?
 - Exodus 4:1 LORD, I cannot talk.
 - Exodus 4:10 LORD, I guess I will need a spokesman to speak for me.
 - Exodus 4:13 LORD, there is no way that they will believe me.
 - Exodus 4:16 LORD, how do I explain who You are.

This was a pathetic conversation on Moses' part. However, he did not run.

10. What did Moses do in Exodus 4:20?
- "Moses took his wife and sons and he _____ to the land of _____."
 - "And Moses _____ the _____ of God in his hand."

Some thoughts:

- Moses returned to the place where he had failed and run away from. (Egypt)***
- Moses took the tools that he already had & used them to serve the LORD. (Rod)***

11. Did this "runaway" accomplish anything in his life after Exodus 4? Check the items.
- He went to the mountain & brought down the 10 commandments.
 - He started a sheep-shearing business in Palestine.
 - He led the people of Israel out from the dictatorship in Egypt.
 - He told the people of Israel when the stock market was up.
 - He told the people of Israel what God wanted to say to them.
 - He stood by a raging Red Sea, and led them across to freedom.
 - He screwed up some, but he got the people to the door of Israel.
 - When no one else trusted God, Moses stood in front of all & obeyed God.

12. What have you done for God since you last failed during a "runaway"?

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- Since you ran away last, did God point a condemning finger in your face? Yes No
 - Has God ever called you a loser during your times of failure & sin? Yes No
 - Has anyone else ever called you a loser during your times of failure? Yes No

You and I have run, primarily from God; but, we have run from the family, the church.

God also gave me another chance. When I failed, God was still moving me forward.