

Good morning! First, I want to thank you for welcoming me to your church today. I have done this a couple of times so far at Grace and Czech Pres. Today is my first time sharing the message with Zion and Bethlehem – and I am nervous. Today, with shaky knees and a bit of a tremor in my voice, I stand before you doing something that makes me feel scared, a little vulnerable, and inadequate. When Pastor Kris asked for volunteers to help share the message, I wasn't exactly confident when I signed up. I did feel like it was my "obligation" to lead by example, so I begrudgingly volunteered for one of the open slots. I then realized I have no idea what I am doing and wanted to back out. I am a nurse, a mom, a daughter...but I am not a theological expert or even close to being a Pastor. I am intimidated by the bible – because it is hard to read and confusing...and remembering all of the connections – seems like a complex family tree. I really didn't feel prepared or "ready" for the task at hand. As I reflect now, maybe, in some very minute way, this was comparable to how Moses felt when God came to him and asked him to bring his people out of Egypt. God didn't just make a small request with a sign-up genius as I encountered – he arrived through a glorious burning bush and spoke directly to Moses. He CHOSE Moses for a HUGE task. What an incredible moment this must have been. Moses responds to God by listing out all of his inadequacies –that he has "never been eloquent", he is "slow of speech" and "slow of tongue". Moses even begged God to "send someone else". But, God persisted, reminding Moses that he could lead the Israelites with God giving him the words and strength to do so.

This month I was able to attend our preaching text study and this was so helpful. We discussed one another's readings and it was beneficial to think about the readings through each other's varying lenses. This month we have heard a variety of stories. Beginning on September 7th, we heard the story of creation – God left us in awe as he created the heavens and the earth. The week of September 14th, we learned of God Testing Abraham and Abraham learning that God will provide for him. Finally, on September 21st we heard a story about Esau and Jacob and God "choosing Jacob". These stories share similarities. God calling upon Abraham, Jacob, and now this week, Moses. Abraham, Jacob, and Moses had to trust God even in some very challenging situations. Trusting God must have been so difficult. At one point, Moses has the nerve to ask God, when the Israelites as who sent Moses – what is he even supposed to say. This is when God responds so perfectly. God responds, "I am who I am". Tell them that "I AM" sent you. God further clarifies. Tell the Israelites that I am "The Lord, the god of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, The God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." With this context, God reassures Moses, and the Israelites – I am the same God that Abraham trusted, Isaac trusted, and Jacob trusted. God consistently demonstrated the he was there for them, and he will continue to

be there for Moses too. Each one of these individuals had to Trust in the message from GOD.

As I was preparing for today's message I read a post on Facebook. A very close friend of ours had an extraordinary experience at the Nebraska State Fair this year. If you have shown livestock, you know that winning your County Fair is quite a feat – many may never attain. Above this is the State Fair. To win the State Fair is truly monumental. Our friend, in her 18 year old wisdom wrote this statement with her pictures after she WON the Nebraska State Fair with her sheep this year. The post read like this:

“Trust”

If there was one thing I've learned the past four years of showing sheep, maybe this year more than ever it's TRUST.

Trust in the process. Show up everyday, even when it's hard and you don't want to.

Find the people who believe in you and trust them. None of this would be possible without the team behind me.

I will forever & ever be thankful for [Tyler](#) and [Wayde](#) for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. They are the true meaning of great mentors in the industry. Thanks [Clay](#) and [Kellie](#) for all the help and support this year and every year prior. Thank [Steve Schuelke](#) for raising this sheep and for always supporting me!

Between my mom and sister at home picking up my slack from moving to Maryville this wouldn't have been possible. Moving out a week before state fair was not ideal but they stepped up and knocked it out of the park! Even if it was more than they were expecting 😊 I'm glad that dad will always jump in and help when needed, even if it means touching a sheep!

This sheep was a special one. The one that carried me to a major goal. The one that others passed up and I decided I was going to take a chance on. I couldn't be more thankful I did.

If there is one thing I can tell other youth in the industry it's run the risk, work hard, don't take the easy way out and TRUST the process. Remember your why and where you started.”

Now, I know that this message is very different than God empowering Moses to free the Israelites...but the core message remains. Trust in the process. Show up every day, even when it's hard and you don't want to. Find the people who believe in you and TRUST them. Trust the process. Trust God. Trust the process. When you are scared, shaking in your knees, and trying something new – remember that God calls on us to do hard things. Walk

towards the burning bush, walk towards the task you fear – for God is with you and remember that God will be with you. He will guide you. The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob....the God of Moses.