



LIMITLESS

WONDER
DISCOVERY
PASSION

Many of us feel like who we are and who can become have limits. In this four-week series we'll take a look at the life of Moses. As we do, we'll discover that when we allow God to direct our story, the possibilities are limitless.

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TEACHING OUTLINE

LIMITLESS | WEEK 1



SCRIPTURE

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said (Exodus 2:5–6 NIV).

God had a plan for Moses to change history, and in this passage we see that Moses' label as a Hebrew didn't matter; God used him despite his label. The same thing is true for us today—God is not limited by our labels.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that God's power is bigger than any label they've been given.

TEACHING SCRIPT SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever seen one of those scenes from a movie that depicts what high school is supposed to be like?

TENSION

The reality is, no matter where we are or what group of people we're with, we are going to get labeled as something.

If we aren't careful, labels will keep us from doing things, going places, or being friends with people that we would have otherwise.

TRUTH

Moses, a Hebrew, was born when there was a lot of tension between the Egyptian and the Hebrew people. At that moment in history, "Hebrew" was the worst label you could have.

Pharaoh's daughter sees Moses in the basket, and she thinks, "Look, a cute little baby! I think I'll keep him."

Moses went from having the worst possible label to having the best label anyone could have in his culture—He became royalty.

Moses may have been limited by his label, but God wasn't.

APPLICATION

Some of you feel like Moses, like you're limited by a label.

You are not limited by your label. With God, the possibilities for your life are limitless.

LANDING

So as you head out, I want you to ask yourself, "If God's power is unlimited, what could He do with my life?"



TEACHING SCRIPT

LIMITLESS | WEEK 1



BOTTOM LINE

YOU ARE NOT LIMITED BY YOUR LABEL.

INTRODUCTION

1 Minute

Have you ever seen one of those scenes from a movie that depicts what high school is supposed to be like? You know the ones. It has the jocks on one side of the room. The nerds on the other. The cheerleaders, always in Friday night uniform, are in one category and the band people in another?

Now, we all know that's not how high school works. There's no official rule saying athletes can't be smart or cheerleaders can't be nice. There aren't really any show tune-style dance battles that happen between the geeks and the popular people. That's just in the movies.

TENSION

3 Minutes

But at the same time, I think most of us would admit that some categories still exist, right? Even if people can hang out together or be nice to each other, there are still some things we're all known for, some groups we all fall into. And because of that, we all—from time to time—get labeled.

And these labels aren't just for school; they happen in almost every area of our lives. Maybe your labels come from . . .

What you do. Whether you love school or hate it, that kind of puts you in a category, doesn't it? Whether you're good at it or not so good at it, you get a label for that too. Then, what you do after school earns you a few labels, too. Maybe you're a basketball player or a singer or you're in the robotics club. Or maybe you're an I-don't-really-do-things-after-school person. Even that can make you feel like you fit in a category.

Your family. Maybe at home, you're known as the smart one. Or maybe that's your brother and so, by default, you feel like the not-so-smart one. Maybe you're known for being the good one or the artistic one or the loud one. And because we spend so much time in our families, we almost always have some kind of label there.

Who you hang out with. Even though you all dress sort of the same and like mostly the same things, usually someone in the friend group emerges as the leader. And someone is the funny one. And someone is the loud one. And someone else is the quiet one. Even with our best friends we find ourselves in a category.

The reality is, no matter where we are or what group of people we're with, we are going to get labeled as something. And that isn't necessarily a bad thing. I mean, it's nice to be



known as “the smart one” or “the well-dressed one” or “the nice one.” But at the same time, labels can also make us feel a little stuck.

Maybe you’ve gotten a label for hanging out with a certain group of people. And while that’s fine, now you might feel like you can’t hang out with other people. Like you’re stuck with that group.

Or maybe you’ve wanted to join a club or try out for something, but your label made you feel like that wasn’t for you. Or maybe you’ve thought about college, but your label or your family’s label has made you feel like you’re not “college material.” Or maybe you’ve just had people make some negative assumptions about you—assumptions that aren’t fair or aren’t even true—because of a label.

And that’s the problem with labels. If we aren’t careful, how people label us—or how we label ourselves—will keep us from doing things, going places, or being friends with people that we would have otherwise. We begin to think things or hear things like . . .

I’m just a _____. So I can’t _____.

Or someone else says:

He’s a _____. So it’s not like he could be a _____.

In other words, even if these assumptions aren’t true or aren’t fair, labels can create limits on our lives, our future, and our potential.

And that’s a problem.

TRUTH

4 Minutes

But this isn’t a new problem. The idea of labels creating limits for people has been around since . . . well, since people have been around. From the very beginning of history, people have put each other in categories and tried to limit who someone could be or what they could become based on their labels. And for the next few weeks we’re going to talk about a guy who faced more labels and more limits than most of us could imagine. His name was Moses.

Now, even if you’re not a church person, you may have heard of Moses or seen a movie about him. He’s one of the most famous people in the Bible. We first meet Moses in the book of Exodus, one of the first books in the Bible. And he’s just a baby.

Moses, a Hebrew, was born when there was a lot of tension between the Egyptian and the Hebrew people. Here’s a quick history lesson in case you missed the movie: Egyptians are the big bad guys. Hebrews are the little good guys. Egypt was a huge empire in the world. And like most empires of that time, they created a lot of growth and progress through slave labor. And that’s where the Hebrews come in: They were slaves to the Egyptian empire.

But as the Hebrews grew larger in numbers, Egypt’s leader—Pharaoh—saw their growing population as a threat. He thought if there were too many of them, then they were sure to rebel against the Egyptians. So, with a snap of his fingers, he made a law: Every baby born to a Hebrew family must be put to death.

In other words, at that moment in history, “Hebrew” was the worst label you could have. If you were an adult, it meant you were a slave. If you were a baby, it meant you were so worthless you could be killed and thrown away.

And this is where the story gets interesting. A Hebrew mom had a baby boy, and she desperately wanted to keep him alive. So in an attempt to hide him from Pharaoh’s death patrol, she put him in a sturdy, floating basket and hid him on the river. Of course, I always wonder: Wasn’t she worried that a hippopotamus would see him as an easy morning snack? But I guess that was literally her only option in the moment. A hippo was a better option than to willingly give up your son’s life. And her risk paid off.

Crazily enough, baby Moses wasn’t eaten by a crocodile, or a piranha, or a hippo. Instead, he ends up floating safely downstream in his little basket and was spotted by someone on the riverbank. And not just any someone: Pharaoh’s daughter. Check it out:

Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said (Exodus 2:5–6 NIV).

So Pharaoh’s daughter sees Moses in the basket, and she thinks, “Look, a cute little baby! I think I’ll keep him.” True



story. Not exactly how things might unfold today. But she takes the baby from the riverbank and decides to raise him, which immediately makes him part of Pharaoh's family.

In other words, in about ten seconds, Moses went from having the worst possible label to having the best label anyone could have in his culture—He became royalty.

Even crazier, Pharaoh's daughter needed some help raising Moses. So, who did she hire to help with the baby? Moses' real mom! You can't make this stuff up. Not only did Moses' life change forever, so did his family's life.

Now, over the next few weeks we'll talk about what happened after Moses grew up in Pharaoh's house, but as a preview let's just say this: He became one of the most influential people in the world. And not just in the religious world, but in all of history. And here's what's wild about that:

Nobody could have seen it coming.

Moses was born into a label that said he wasn't even worth keeping alive. His label didn't just limit his ability to join a certain team or go to certain places. The label "Hebrew" literally limited his ability to live. But here's what I don't want you to miss: **Moses may have been limited by his label, but God wasn't.**

God had a great big plan for Moses to change history. And because of that plan? Moses' category—his label—didn't matter.

Sure, being a Hebrew said something about him, but it didn't say everything. It didn't get to have the loudest voice in Moses' life. And we should all be glad for that. Because Moses' ability to live beyond the label changed everything for his future. And this same truth can impact our future, too.

APPLICATION

2 Minutes

Now, for some of you, this is a nice story. But for others of you, this is a powerful message. The kind of message you need to take to heart. Some of you feel like Moses, like you're limited by a label you were born into. Your life, your potential, who you could become feels like it has limits because of . . .

- The kind of family you're in.
- The amount of intelligence you have.
- Where you live.
- The amount of money your family has.
- Your age.
- Your friend group.
- The set of skills or talents you feel like you were born without.

And maybe today, for the first time, you've realized this:

You are not limited by your label.

You may not be able to change that label or your situation, but God can. He can do things you can't even imagine right now because His power is limitless. And because of that, the potential for your life is limitless.

Unlike Moses, maybe you weren't born into a label, but it's just something that developed over time. Maybe your label developed because of something you did or someone you chose to hang out with. And you used to feel fine about the label, but now you feel like it's holding you back.

But here's the thing: **God isn't limited by your label**, and He doesn't want you to be either. And because He isn't limited, you're free to do something different. You're free to make different choices, to hang out with different people, and to dream about a future that no one would expect from you. Why? Because *it's possible*. With God, the possibilities for your life are limitless.

LANDING

1 Minute

Today, even if you can't imagine a life beyond the limits of your label, I wonder if you *could* start believing in this idea: With God, bigger is possible. Just begin to imagine there might be something more. It doesn't have to be a big

something. It just has to be bigger than what you think right now. It just has to be something God is capable of, even if you aren't.



So as you head out, I want you to ask yourself, *"If God's power is unlimited, what could He do with my life?"* And I want you to give yourself permission to dream big, to go right past the

limits of what you have always thought is possible. Because, like Moses, God has a great big plan for your life. And his power to make that plan happen has no limits.



TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS