**Series Road Map**

**Series Overview:** In this series, Supporting Cast, we are looking at the lesser known yet vitally important characters in the Bible. We believe that every single person has a specific role to play in the story of God and it is only when we all follow God’s call that He can accomplish His work in the world.

**Week Overview:** This week leads students through the story of Aaron and Hur. While we initially see Moses as the hero in this story, it is only through the intervention of Aaron and Hur that they win the battle. This is a challenge for us to not just seek out the “Moses moments” but the “Aaron and Hur moments” as well.

***Outline:***

**Grab the Room (Intro):**

* “Picture this” scenario

**Tension (what’s the struggle):**

* What makes you unique? What does it look like to play the role, or live the life that God has created you specifically to live? What does it look like to **embrace your kingdom calling?**

**Text:** Exodus 17:8-13

**THP**: Embrace your Kingdom Calling

**Supporting Points:**

* God calls us to specific moments, big or small, and qualifies us to do specific tasks.

**Application (call to action)**:

* Moment for students to list their gifts and callings.
* Time of prayer to surrender those to God

\*\*Insert your own story or scenario to fit your personality and context. Should be an imaginary story of crisis or critical decision making.\*\*

Picture this….

It’s a beautiful Wednesday afternoon, the sun is shining, not a cloud in the sky, the exact right temperature. There are only two weeks left before summer officially begins and you are free to do whatever you want all day long. The school bell rings, another day down and you leave the building, walking towards home. You’ve got your airpods in, backpack over your shoulder, dreaming of an afternoon snack and a nap. It’s a beautiful, perfect sight.

You round the final corner and can see your house in the distance. Just a few more minutes to go. Then, you hear something...was that a bark? No...a growl? Out of the corner of your eye you see a dog. Not just any dog, a MASSIVE dog. Teeth out, barking, growling, terrifying. And he is running right towards you…

So, what do you do? What do you think would be your natural instinct at this moment?

\*\*Ask for answers from the group if it fits your context\*\*

How many of you would run? You don’t know where just instantly...I’m out of there. I’m going to try to make it home without dying.

How many of you would hide? I need to find a place that this dog cannot reach and cannot get me. I need a house, a car, a trash can to jump in.

How many of you would freeze? Instant tears, I have NO CLUE what I am going to do next. This just sucks.

The answer, obviously, is different for everyone. We all have a natural instinct in a crisis. While fight or flight might characterize our general instinct, we would all have our own set of emotions and thought processes surrounding something like this. While this scenario of crisis is a good example, I think our uniqueness is more than just our reactions to big and scary dogs.

When it comes to the clothes you wear, the food you eat, the things you participate in, the people you hang out with, the decisions you make, the way you choose to worship God...we all have different ways of approaching life. Good news is, that was God’s plan all along.Whether you believe it or not, every single one of us is completely unique. That includes the small things like the clothes you wear and the food you eat but it also includes the big things like your purpose in life and who God created you to be.

So let’s talk about it. What makes you unique? What does it look like to play the role, or live the life that God has created you specifically to live? What does it look like to **embrace your kingdom calling?**

If you have your Bible, go ahead and turn to Exodus 17.

The book of Exodus is in the Old Testament and it outlines the journey of God’s people, the Israelites, as they discover what it means to truly worship and follow God. In this particular passage, Israel had just been freed from slavery. For 400 years they were living under Egyptian rule as slaves, the bottom of the societal food chain. Not the prettiest picture of God’s chosen nation. However, Moses has just led the people out of slavery and into freedom.

The nation of Israel begins the long journey from Egypt to the land that God has promised them, cleverly named The Promised Land. A land flowing with milk and honey...and freedom. So they begin this journey. Their fearless leader Moses has no clue where he is going and he is trusting that God will lead them there safe and sound.

Then this happens in the first leg of their journey…

Exodus 17:8-9

**8** The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. **9** Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.”

As you can imagine, the worst has happened. On their journey they come across the Amalekites who decide to attack the Israelites. However, they don’t even see it coming. Deuteronomy tells us that the Amalekites waited until the Israelites had passed almost all the way through and they attacked their rear ranks (Deut. 25:17-18) . So at the back of this massive group of people was all the luggage and possession of the Israelite people. However, the back of the pack is where you would also find a number of women, children, elderly, and sick who couldn’t easily keep up. This is where the Amalekites attacked them. As you can imagine, this is not a pretty picture and shows just how earth-shattering this attack was to the recently freed Israelite people.

As a result the leader of God’s people, Moses, devises a plan. Joshua, a young and brave man, is going to assemble an army of people to fight the Amalekites and Moses is going to the top of the hill to plead with God that He will save them. Here’s what happens as a result…

Exodus 17:9-11

**10** So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. **11** As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.

This visual is incredible. Two amazing men of God, Joshua and Moses, men we hear about all the time and fighting this battle with God at the center of it all. Joshua is on the ground, leading the people to fight for their right to be free. Moses is standing on a hilltop, hands lifted high praying to God who is hearing their prayers. This is the Kingdom of God! This is the power of God! This is a highlight reel moment in the Bible! Right??

Not exactly. You see, this was a long battle. Long enough that Moses hands began to grow weak. Lifting up your arms, praying for your people is hard and strenuous work. The work of supporting a nation in prayer takes a lot of dedication and faithfulness to God. The weight of the battle was beginning to wear on Moses. And as his hands began to fall...the Amalekites began to win.

Here’s how the story ends...

Verse 12…

**12** When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. **13** So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Then we see two men...Aaron and Hur. Who? Wait, who are these guys? Aaron, the brother of Moses and some guy named Hur. These are not the heroes we have been talking about in our story...yet here they are. They see Moses in his weakness and they intervene. They placed a rock underneath him and with one on each side, they joined Moses in the effort to pray for God to save His people.

In fact, I would argue that Aaron and Hur’s willingness to play a role in the battle meant just as much as Moses praying in the first place. Because of this moment in Scripture, the Israelites win their first battle as a nation and are able to continue on their journey to the life of fullness that God has promised to them.

When we look at the Bible we see the names of the great men and women who played a role in God’s story. We see the Joshuas, the Moses’, the Peters, the Pauls, and everyone else. But what about the Aaron and Hur stories that are scattered all throughout the Bible? The people that don’t have their names written in the hall of fame for Christianity but still played a role in God’s story? The people that **embraced their kingdom** calling even when it didn’t lead to a shiny stage with their name on display for the world to see. What about the Aaron and Hur moments in life?

The truth is...Aaron and Hur were not commanded by Moses to hold up his arms so that Moses would get the glory for being an amazing leader. Aaron and Hur volunteered. They were willing to do whatever means necessary to secure a victory for God’s people and God’s glory. They may not seem like the mighty men of God in this story, however, God chose to use them to accomplish great things simply because they were willing.

God qualifies his people for specific purposes. You are not born qualified to accomplish everything that God has for you in this life. He will equip you in the right time and the right place to do exactly what he has planned for you. In this moment, God had a calling on both Aaron and Hur to be exactly what Moses needed to secure glory for God. He called them at the perfect moment.

For Aaron and Hur, their calling in God’s Kingdom was not to be the hero of the story but just to be one small piece that made the biggest difference in the long run. God called them because they were willing. They understood and **embraced their kingdom calling**. Not for their glory. Not for Moses’ glory. For the glory of God.

What about you? I’m sure if God called any one of you to be a Moses, knowing all the clout he gets for being a hero in the Bible, a lot of us would probably say yes. Thanks for choosing me to be the hero God. I’ll go wherever you want me to go. Yes and amen. But what about when he calls you to be an Aaron? What about when he calls you to be a Hur? What if God calls you to hold an arm, not the staff of God that saves a nation? Would you still be willing?

You see, I have no doubt in my mind that you will have Moses moments in your life. Those moments that change everything. Where God uses you in such a spectacular and unbelievable way that it is evident to every single person around you that God was doing something incredible. That you were called for that moment. I have no doubt God has those plans for every person in this room, no matter what that looks like. But I also know that your life will be full of Aaron and Hur moments too. Moments when you're not the hero of the story but God uses you to play a role because you were willing. **You embraced your kingdom calling.**

Big or small, I believe that God is calling us to divine appointments every single day that are going to be significant moments in God’s story. When we all sit in heaven together at the end of eternity we will look back and celebrate with God how He was in every single moment. The catch is, you have to be willing.

Aaron and Hur knew that they weren’t the heroes of the story. They knew that they weren’t likely going to be the names that everyone remembered from this story. However, they didn’t sit around and wait for their Moses moment. They saw a need. They saw the weight of prayer on Moses' shoulder and they rose to the occasion.

Every single person in this room is completely unique. God has something special and specific for each and everyone one of you on this earth. He created you and called you beautifully and wonderfully made. There is no secret that you were designed specifically by God. With that comes a calling that nobody else on this earth has.

My question for you today is...are you going to sit around and wait for your Moses moment? Or will you choose to **embrace the kingdom calling** God has on your life, even when it leads to an Aaron and Hur moment? Are you faithful to your calling in both the big and the small?

Today I want to give you a chance to have a conversation with God. To get really honest about who He has created you to be and the call that He has placed on your life.

I’m going to pass out these notecards and as the next song plays I want you to write out some of the things that you believe that God has called you to. Maybe it’s something broad or maybe it’s very specific. Maybe God has called you to be a trailblazer, and bridge builder, a teacher, a leader, an incredible friend. Whatever you feel like characterizes who God has created you to be and your purpose on earth..write it on this card.

\*\*\*Write out your own card and read/explain it to your students to help with understanding\*\*\*

For example I believe God has called me to be a good husband so I wrote husband on my card...etc.

As this next song plays I want you to continue to write out these words, reflect on them, pray over them, but most importantly surrender them to God. Ask God to use these callings, the way He has created you in both the big and the small moments.

\*\*\*After the song instruct the students to take their cards home as a reminder to be all that God has called them to be in both their Moses moments and their Aaron and Hur moments in life.