

Exodus
I am, because of I AM- Week #4
Small Group Notes
August 27 and 30

Main Point: When God calls us to serve Him, He does not send us in our own strength. He goes with us, empowers us, and brings about the completion of His plan and we know it's because we carry His name with us!

Introduction:

What has been the hardest thing that a boss has asked you to do? How did you respond?

What are common reasons that people resist attempting new things outside their comfort zone?

Can you recall a time that God got your attention to get you to do something? What did you learn from those experiences?

Discuss:

1. Read Exodus 3:1-3

- I needed to realize that I am, because of I AM.
- Don't rush out the desert, there is something to be learned.

Explain: As Exodus 3 opens, Moses was tending to his daily routine of shepherding his father-in-law's flocks. Shepherding would've been an unimaginable occupation for an Egyptian. Moses' identification as a shepherd solidified his identity as an Israelite, despite the fact that he was raised in Pharaoh's daughter's home. When Moses returned to Egypt, he would not struggle with mixed allegiances—Moses was an Israelite.

Ask:

Moses' identification as an Israelite meant that he no longer identified with the oppressive enslaver, but with those who needed to be freed.

What are ways that we sometimes identify people in our culture? How is Moses' change in identification related to salvation? How does it resonate with your change of identity in Christ?

What are ways that you have seen God interrupt your routine? How did you respond? How is Moses' response an example of listening to God and not rejecting His voice?

2. Read Exodus 3: 4-12

Sermon Points:

- God knows your name
- God knows us. Read Luke 12:7
- God has a plan. Hebrews 12:1-2.

Explain: When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, God warned him not to approach the bush. In the Bible, fire is widely used to indicate the presence of God. God's warning drew a boundary line between man and the holy God. God reaffirmed His covenant with Israel by introducing Himself as the "God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." God placed Himself within the generations of human history so that Moses could understand that God's faithfulness to the covenant was not dependent on a person, but on His character.

Ask:

This is a passage that emphasizes the holiness of God. What experiences have led you to sense the magnitude of God's holiness? How did you respond in those moments?

We also see the nearness and grace of God in that Moses was allowed to converse with our Holy God. What does this tell you about the nature of God? How does this impact how you pray and read God's Word?

3. Read Exodus 3: 13-22

- The I AM, is.
- I AM has invited you to be a part of what He is doing.

- Jesus is the I AM.

Explain: God gave Moses His covenant name, "Yahweh." The authority of His name, based on the Hebrew verb for "to be," connotes that God is the Creator and Sustainer of everything that exists. His sovereignty over all things and all history is without question or rival. God then placed His covenant name in the context He made with the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This was not some new god Moses was introducing; He was the God who had been with Israel for centuries.

Ask:

What does it mean for us that God is the I AM? How should that impact our lives? Are there some areas in our lives that we try to "be" God instead of letting God "be"?

God warned Moses that Pharaoh would refuse his request. Why is it important to understand that obeying God does not always lead to easy or enjoyable circumstances?

Do:

When you think of God calling you to serve Him, how do you respond? Do you feel like He couldn't use you because of your past? Or, do you focus your thoughts on God's ability to work through even the weakest vessels? Is there a ministry that needs to hear your story?

God's will is for every Christian to be involved in His redemptive purposes. What is your involvement right now in our church? Is there something that God is prompting you to do, or a new way that He is leading you to serve Him in our church or community?

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