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**Exodus 3**  
**5/22/24**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How can we “burn brightly” to help others see the Lord? (Leader tip: When we are “consumed” with His love and/or truth.)
  2. One way God is revealed is as personal and present. How does this compare to “idols”? (Leader tip: Idols cannot be present because they are inanimate objects.)
  3. When God came down to deliver His people, did He do it Himself? When God desires to bring freedom to people today, who does He use? Why? (Leader tip: God used Moses, and He still uses people like us today. One reason He uses us is it builds relationships.)
  4. How does the I AM statement teach us about who God is? (Leader tip: God is eternal and ever present. He is not defined by anything outside of Himself.)
  5. What is something that really impacted you from this chapter?
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**Teaching Notes:**

**3 major themes of exodus are freedom, redemption, discipline.**

Freedom is not free and requires redemption.

But maintaining freedom is not easy and requires discipline.

Today we find Moses just a regular guy married with a kid, working a regular job in the family business.

3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Horeb most believe is also Mount Sinai.

2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

The Angel of the Lord is often referred to as a Christophony.  
The pre-incarnate Christ.

**The Lord your God is a consuming fire.**

The presence of the Lord will guide them with a pillar of fire.

The Lord consumes the sacrifices of Solomon's temple.

John the Baptist promised a baptism of fire.

The Holy Spirit first came upon the believers with tongues of fire.

The fire of God doesn't destroy...

...it inhabits the bush.

**3** Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." **4** So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

### **The Lord is there in the fire.**

It is when Moses turns aside to see that God calls.  
Then God calls him by name.

**5** Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground."

God declares the ground is holy.

### **There is something about being barefoot.**

It is a sign of reverence, respect, humility, even intimacy.

Shoes can be symbolic of someone's life.

### **God reveals Himself as unique, holy, personal, & present.**

And then even more specifically...

**6** Moreover He said, "I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

This is how the Israelites will also respond, hiding in fear from God.

**But in 33:11** So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. God says to Moses, He speaks face to face like a man talks to a friend.

Jesus referenced this Himself saying God is the God of the living.

**7** And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

God knows their suffering...and He waited.  
He waited for the timing, the leadership, the opportunity.

### **He says, seen, heard, and know.**

This is still true for us today.

**8** So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Sometimes we see the need, like Nehemiah.  
Sometimes we see God, Who sees the need, like Moses.  
...But when God sends us...  
...He sends us for His people and His glory.

11 But Moses said to God, “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

**This is the kind of answer that shows the desert did its work.**

**When we think we are a somebody, we easily think the people are for us, the purpose is ours and the glory is ours.**

12 So He said, “I will certainly be with you. And this *shall be* a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

The key to being sent by God is going with God.

We cannot & will not do anything that brings Him glory...  
...w/o Him.

God will give us enough to know....burning bush.  
...But there will always be steps of faith because...  
...that’s when we learn to trust Him.

13 Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

14 And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

This is the all becoming, self evident God who is eternal.  
He is not defined by anything outside Himself because every definition has a limitation.

**Jesus picked up this same title...**

John 8:56 Jesus, in response to the Pharisees’ question “Who do you think you are?” said, “Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.’ ‘You are not yet fifty years old,’ the Jews said to him, ‘and you have seen

Abraham!' 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!' At this, they picked up stones to stone him,

I am and seven statements.

Bread of life, light of the world, resurrection, door, good shepherd, way truth and life, the vine.

And I am and knocked over those who came to arrest Him.

But God gives Moses more...

**15** Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.'

Jehovah, YHWH, the LORD

"The name is clearly an equivalent of the "I AM" in the preceding versa The exact mode of its formation from the old **root hava**, "to be," is still disputed among the best Hebraists."

**16** Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and *seen* what is done to you in Egypt; **17** and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'" ' **18** Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.'

**19** But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. **20** So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go. **21** And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. **22** But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put *them* on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

There is a price of redemption and there is process to the redemption that will require discipline.

They will be free, but it won't be easy.