

# STUDY GUIDE

## Three Little Words: Here I am - Acts 9:10-19a

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### READ

Pick one of the six the biblical characters who responded to God with three simple words “Here I am”:

- Genesis 22:1-19 – Abraham and Isaac
- Genesis 31:1-21 – Jacob leaves Laban and begins Israel
- Exodus 3:1-16 – Moses and the burning bush
- 1 Samuel 3:1-21 – Samuel commissioned as a prophet
- Isaiah 6:1-10 – Isaiah commissioned as a prophet
- Acts 9:10-19a – Ananias sent to pray for Saul to heal his blindness and baptise him as God’s chosen instrument

Each time these words were prayed in scripture extraordinary things happened to them or to others.

### QUESTION

What did you learn from the character you choose about becoming more responsive to God?

Notice Adam isn’t on this list. In Genesis 3 God called to Adam with the question, “Where are you?” God knew where he was. Adam was being given a chance. But having just sinned, he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” Adam and Eve hide in fear and shame when they hear God calling to them.

### QUESTIONS

What causes people to hide or retreat from God?

What has caused you to hide or retreat from God in your life?

What is clear is when people say “here I am” to God, that it is a form of surrender and submission. We need to re-learn this discipline and freedom of a willingly surrendered heart because when we do, we will find our souls reshaped to become more like Christ.

### QUOTE - from the Hare and the Tortoise

“In most of us, something recoils at the thought of submission, and sometimes for good reason – few ideas have been as abused in church and culture as much as submission to authority. But in rightly fleeing from unhealthy expressions, many of us have become uncomfortable with what is in fact a key dynamic of the Christian faith – submission to God...It is the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way, the obsessions to demand that things go the way we want them to go is one of the greatest bondages in human society today.”

Partnering with God is not for the faint hearted. Being called to do something that takes us out of our comfort zones and requires bold faith. Sometimes we respond to a call without knowing exactly what we are walking into or what the consequences of our call will be, but we just know we must go.

It can be easy for us to become passive in our pursuit of God. God is always looking for those who will continue to lay down their plans and purposes for His. But God in his grace, never forces anyone to follow. His desire is for people to choose to follow. That's why "here I am" is so important.

## QUESTION

How might God be inviting me to partner with Him today?

## PRACTICE - Finding a mentor

Taken from *The Hare & The Tortoise*

Too often we try and navigate the Christians life independently. We might be open to hearing advice occasionally, but there is a real temptation to just seek out those who will tell us what we want to hear. Wisdom here would encourage and challenge us to not try and guide ourselves through the maze that is the spiritual journey. There is so benefit in giving older, wiser people permission to speak into our lives with words of encouragement and correction. Have you given someone you trust permission to speak into your life? If yes, book a time to catch up with them. If no, spend some time in prayerful reflection asking God who could become a mentor for you.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

—St. Francis of Assisi