

2. Burning Bush Encounters with God - Exodus 3

04/19/26

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when something unusual or unexpected got your attention and changed the direction of your day. What happened?

Key Takeaways:

- We're not just called from a sinful life; we're called to a holy life with Jesus.
- God has an eternal plan—our lives are not wasted; God is preparing us for His purposes
- God's holiness matters—God removed the distance between us, not the difference between us
- We live in God's presence constantly—as believers, the Holy Spirit dwells in us, making us holy ground
- We must 'take off our sandals'—we have a responsibility to remove the sin from our lives and 'put on' the character of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Exodus 3:1-6. What details in this passage stand out to you?
 - a) What do they reveal about God's character?
2. Read Exodus 3:4. Have you been hiding from God? If so, do you hear Him calling your name?
3. Read Exodus 3:7-10, Romans 8:28 and Joel 2:25. Moses had spent 40 years as a shepherd thinking his life was wasted. How does God's timing in this story challenge our assumptions about 'wasted' seasons in our lives?
 - a) How might God be using your past experiences—even the painful ones—to prepare you for His purposes?
4. Read Isaiah 6:1-5 and Revelation 4:2-11. How do these visions of God's throne room shape your understanding of God's holiness?
 - a) How does this compare to how you typically think about God?

5. The sermon mentioned that God removed 'the distance between us, not the difference between us.' What does this mean?

a) Why is this distinction important?

6. 'When we come to faith and discover the unconditional love of God, we can be so excited about the grace of God we fail to recognize the glory of God.' Have you experienced this? How can we hold both God's grace and His glory in proper balance?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What does it mean practically that 'your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit'?

a) How should this truth affect our daily lives—how might knowing you carry God's presence change your perspective on today's activities?

8. Read Exodus 3:5 and Ephesians 4:17-32. Moses was told to 'take off your sandals' as an act of reverence and humility. Why do you think God commanded Moses to stop and remove his sandals before revealing His plan, rather than immediately sharing the mission He had for Moses?

a) What 'sandals' (sins, habits, attitudes) is God asking you to remove from your life right now?

9. Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and 12:28-29. The gospel brings a paradox: we can approach God's throne with confidence, yet we must worship Him with reverence and awe. Jesus removed the distance between us and God, but not the difference. We can become so comfortable with God's grace that we lose sight of His glory. But proximity doesn't mean liberty—accessibility doesn't mean equality. Intimacy doesn't eliminate identity. Greater access actually requires greater reverence. How can you cultivate both confidence and reverence in your relationship with God?

a) How seriously do you take worship and gathering with other believers? Are there ways you've become casual or flippant about being in God's presence?

For Further Study:

- How does the Old Testament tabernacle/temple system help us understand God's holiness? (Read Exodus 25-27, Hebrews 9-10)
- What does it mean to be "set apart" (sanctified) for God's purposes?
- How does understanding God's holiness affect our view of sin?
- Recommended Reading: The Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer / The Holiness of God by R.C. Sproul

Personal Reflection:

- In what area of your life are you most tempted to find your identity in something other than Christ?
- What current challenge or hardship is God inviting you to view through the lens of "living hope"?
- How can you remind yourself this week that your citizenship is in Heaven, not here?

Action Steps:

- Memorize 1 Peter 1:3-5 - Write it on a card and review it daily
- Identity Check - Each morning this week, remind yourself: "I am chosen by God, an exile here, and made holy by Him"
- Reframe Suffering - When facing a difficulty this week, pause and ask: "How might God be using this to strengthen my faith or show His power?"
- Eternal Perspective - Identify one area where you're living too much for "now" and take one step toward living for eternity
- Presence Practice - Set three daily reminders on your phone to pause and acknowledge God's presence with you

Prayer:

- Thank God for choosing us and giving us a living hope through Jesus
- Pray for those in the group facing specific trials or suffering
- Ask God to help us live as exiles in this world