

Encountering HaShem (The Name) Exodus 3

1. Share with one another a time when an attribute of God's character came alive to you. What was the impact on your life?

Read Exodus 3

2. (vs. 1-3) What was it about the burning bush that first attracted Moses' attention? How does this reveal the nature of God?
3. (vs. 4-6) How did Moses react when he learned he was in the presence of God? Why do you think he reacted this way?
4. (vs. 7-13) The Lord revealed what He intended to do about the suffering of his people, and the role of Moses in that plan. What 2 objections does Moses raise to this plan? How does God respond to those objections? What is this telling us about our role in God's plans, and what needs to be central to our participation in God's activity?
5. (vs.13-14) In the ancient world someone's name expressed their character, their attributes. God essentially gives Moses the Hebrew verb for being – God is telling his people that he is active presence, that he will be known through his active presence in their midst – that he is a God who is with them and for them. Put yourself in the place of an Israelite in the midst of oppression, what reaction would you have to knowing this about God? How would it change how you feel, think, respond to your circumstances?

6. A large portion of the book of exodus are instructions on how to build the tabernacle – an elaborate “tent” in the middle of the Israelite encampment while they were spending 40 years in the desert living in tents – it was here that the fire of God’s presence dwelt. How did the tabernacle express the truth you just explored in question 5? Again put yourself in the place of an Israelite, what would you be feeling, thinking, doing, in response to this visible revelation of who God is?

7. Read John 8:48-59. What is Jesus saying about himself in this passage? How does your exploration of Exodus 3 fill in more of who Jesus is and what he has come to do?

8. The fire of God’s presence once again comes down upon the earth in Acts 2, not upon a bush, not upon a tabernacle, but upon the disciples of Jesus, the early church. What does your exploration of Exodus 3 tell you about the meaning of this, and the subsequent role of the church as a result?

9. What truths that you have gleaned from this exploration of the story of Exodus so far that are personally significant to you? How would you like this insight to effect you – your character, habits, priorities, attitudes?