

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**I AM**

EXODUS 3

OVERVIEW

God's chosen people are in Egypt. Not only that, they are enslaved. Against the backdrop of God's promises in Genesis—that God's people would be in God's place—the current situation seems dire. Has the Lord forgotten his promises? The story of Exodus reveals God's faithfulness in redeeming his people from bondage into his presence. The way out? Not by human might. By faith in God's promise to deliver through a blood sacrifice. The Lord does all of this so that all people might know he is the Lord and his people might rightly fear him, worshipping him in all things. The Greek title for the book (or shall we say, this chapter of the Pentateuch) is *Exodus*, a word meaning "exit, departure or going out."

APPLY // EXODUS 1-2

Main Idea: God is faithful—he has made promises to multiply his people and he will—he will save them from slavery. It all begins with a child and an instrument meant for death to bring life.

1. Read Exodus 1-2.
2. What are some ways you are tempted to shrink and fear man more than God? How are the midwives instructive to you?
3. How do you see the hand of God working amidst the oppression/darkness in this passage? How is that instructive to you?
4. Re-read 2:23-25.
5. Looking over the truth that God hears, remembers, sees, knows of the pain of His people, how does this direct you to the Gospel? How, then does it inform your own bouts of darkness? How can this passage be used to strength you/church in those times?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // EXODUS 3

Main Idea: The self-defining Lord—who is both above us (transcendence) and among us (immanence)—is faithful to his covenant promises.

1. Read Exodus 3.
2. Notice chapter 3 begins with Moses keeping/shepherding the flock. What do the Egyptians think of shepherds (cf. Gn. 46:34)? What do we learn about God's ways knowing Moses is a shepherd?
3. What strange sight catches Moses' attention? What's the significance of that the bush "was not consumed"?
4. In verse 5, why does God warn Moses to keep his distance and remove his sandals? What does this teach us about the Lord? What does it mean the God is holy?

5. How does God identify himself in verse 6 (see also verse 15, 16)? Why does God identify himself this way? What does he want Moses to understand?
6. How does Moses respond?
7. Notice all the personal pronouns the Lord uses in verses 7-10. What does this tell us about the Lord?
 - a. What is God's motive? (He hears the cries of his people—though he is holy, transcendent, he's also near to his people)
 - b. What is God's plan? (To deliver them from slavery)
 - c. What is God's purpose? (To deliver them to worship, 3:8)
8. After hearing God's plan, what objection does Moses raise in 3:11?
9. How does God answer Moses's objection? Notice that when Moses asks "Who am I?" the Lord doesn't answer directly—he promises his presence. What does this tell us about who the Lord is and who we are?
10. In verse 13, Moses raises another objection. What is Moses' next point of concern with God's plan?
11. How does God respond to Moses' concern?
12. God reveals his name as "I AM WHO I AM." Literally, "I be who I be." What does this mean? What do you think this name is intended to reveal about the character of God?
13. In addition to giving his name, what specific instructions does God give to Moses?
14. Notice pronouns and verbs of 3:19-20. Whose hand is the subject of these verses? What will that hand accomplish? For what purpose are these things done?
15. How does the character of the Lord and actions of the Lord, as revealed in Exodus 3, point us to the person and work of Jesus Christ? What threads from this chapter do you see fulfilled in Jesus?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: God sees, hears, remembers, and knows. Help each other draw near to him.