

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"BURNING BUSH AND SIMMERING GOD" | EXODUS 3 | PASTOR BRIAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What's your favorite story or experience that takes place in a desert?

"Meeting With God" - (Exodus 3: 1-9)

God lights a bush on fire without burning it to a crisp to grab Moses' attention while he is watching sheep. How does God get people's attention today while they go about their lives?

"Moses' Excuses" - (Exodus 3: 10-15)

Moses made many excuses of why he wasn't qualified to serve God as a leader of Israel. What excuses do people make about not serving God today?

"God's Promises" - (Exodus 3: 16-22)

God promises to not only to free the people, but that they take with them riches from Egypt and inherit a good land, showing He is restoring what had been lost during slavery. How has God restored tough times and brought you or someone you know blessings?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

God powerfully grabs Moses' attention and patiently explains Moses' purpose, despite Moses' excuses. What had God been trying to show you lately? How have you been responding to Him?

Exodus 3

5-2-21

Burning Bush. Simmering God

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 AP: CG. Red Ribbon.
- B. Slide5 Pray at the pole: 12-12:30 *National Day of Prayer* this Thursday.
- C. Prayer: *merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.*

II. Slide6 Intro: *Burning Bush and Simmering God* [simmer = stay just below the boiling point]

- A. Good news for you and I this morning, *God uses imperfect people!*
 1. He's able to take *weak, common, broken, imperfect people* and by his *grace* and for His people, use them.

III. Slide7a MEETING WITH GOD (1-9)

- A. **SERVING FAITHFULLY** (1)
- B. Moses is now a *shepherd*. What did Egyptians think of shepherds? Gen.46:34 *for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians*. (why they stuck them way up north)
 1. God will use **Moses** as a *shepherd*, then as a **Savior**. Then he will with **David**. Then he will with **Jesus**, as *The Good Shepherd*.
 2. Shepherds are **tender**, but they are **tough**. [eg. David, with lion and bear]
- C. **Slide7b ATTENTION GRABBING** (2)
- D. **The angel of the Lord** (lit. *messenger of YHWH*) - not just an angel, this is a **theophany** (to show/ God). **Because each time later**: He is spoken about as the **LORD** (YHWH), **God** (Elohim).
- E. **The burning bush theophany** ranks right up there as one of the **greatest attention-grabbers** of all time.
 1. No surprise that Moses stepped out of his *ordinary daily activities* to pay special attention to **God's call** that would determine **his role in redemptive history**.

- F. **Slide7c CURIOSITY CALLING** (3) (curious to what he sees, hears, where he's standing)

G. *Curiosity killed the cat* implies that *being curious* can sometimes lead to danger or misfortune.

1. *Curiosity* might have killed the cat, but here it brought life to Moses.
2. *Curiosity* drew him into the very presence of a very personal God.
3. God made us all curious. How did God use curiosity in your life to bring you to Himself? [I was curious, *There must be more to life than this/parties*]

H. Slide7d **MOSES DOUBLING** (4) *Moses Moses* - God's 1st words to Him. [He knows him-personally. *Dble for emphasis*. Generally indicates a message of special importance] Other names doubled:

1. *Abraham Abraham. Samuel ". Jerusalem ". Martha ". Simon ". Saul "*.

I. Slide7e **SANDAL REMOVING** (5) *Remove your sandals* - that showed appropriate humility.

1 Pastor had his congregation do that. We got new *lighting* not new ventilation, ha!

1. It was *not* that the actual ground on which Moses stood was holy; rather, it was **the presence of the holy God** that made it holy. [don't seek a *place* to find Him, instead just seek His **presence**]

- a) Throughout Asia you take off your shoes before going in someone's house. It was as if God was saying, *you're in My House, My Presence*.

J. Slide7f **COMPASSION FOR CRYING** (6-9)

K. Vs.6 ends w/God is awful and terrible (old meaning), he evokes **awe** and **terror**.

1. You don't treat him lightly. God is not your lil buddy. Indeed, if you were to meet God, your instinct would be to hide your face. God is above us. The theological term is "*transcendence*".

2. Then He immediately moves to reveal his compassion!

L. God's commitment to *deliver* (vs.10-22), flows out of His *compassion for bondage*.

1. And what compassion it is. He sees and knows **all your** heart-aches.

M. Yes, it was a *land of milk and honey*, but these 6 nations serve as a warning that it is also a land of *idolatry and immorality*, both of which would eventually ensnare

many of the sons of Israel. [prosperity or immorality]

IV. Slide8a **MOSES' EXCUSES (10-15)**

A. God uses *weak* vessels. We need to learn the same 2 lessons as Moses:

We Must Stop making Excuses. We Must Start trusting His Promises.

1. God waited until there was **no more self-confidence** in Moses [like he had when he was **40**] **Now** at **80** he's going learn *phase II*, **God Confidence**.

B. Slide8b **LACK OF CREDENTIALS (10-12)** making excuses. *who am I?*

1. Moses' 1st Excuse (11): I know, I was once the *Prince of Egypt*. And that *DreamWorks Animation* even made a movie of me, using *CGI computer animation*. *But now I'm an 80 year old Shepard, who doesn't even own his own flock* (Father-in-law Jethro's) **so who am I** to tell Pharaoh what to do?

2. God's 2 responses: (12) [God *needs no one* but will use anyone]

a) God already has him up on the mountain, *you shall serve God on this mountain*.

b) I didn't choose you Moses for your résumé, **but** only for the simple fact that *I will be with you*, **thus I** will be doing it.

C. Slide8c **LACK OF CONTENT (13-15)** *what am I supposed to say?*

1. Moses' 2nd Excuse (13): They will probably ask *what your name is*. As the **Egyptian pantheon** has over 2,000 deities like: *Isis, Osiris, Horus, Amun, Ra, Hapi, Hathor, Bastet, Thoth, Anubis, and Ptah* to name a few.

a) Slide8d **Do you have a card?**

b) I'm glad Moses **asked God's name**. Because he would have tried to explain the *invisible God* by what he saw. *Well Pharaoh, I think He's, **The One Who Dwells in a Bush, or the God of the brushfire? or The Hot-Bush God?***

(1) Our God **is** an all consuming fire. Fire, is **amazing** and **draws you in** (fire in Whittier). **But** you're also taught at a very young age to **respect it**, because it will **burn**. Just like God.

2. God's response: (14)

- a) Tell people *My Name & My Word*. The content is mine *you're just a reporter*.
- b) Slide8e *I AM WHO I AM* (hi-yah äšer hi-yah) [prob. shortened *YHWH*]. I do not improve. I do not decrease in glory. *I AM always the same in character yesterday, today, and forever*.
- c) God's name is not only an *announcement* but an *introduction*.
 - (1) Normally, in patriarchal days, any new revelation of *the ancestral God* will be summed up in a new title for Him (Gen.16:13 Hagar after mtg the Lord, *el ROee, God that sees*)
 - (2) In the future it both *records and recounts* a deeper knowledge of *God's saving activity*. We may therefore assume that, in asking this question, they would be expecting a new title for the patriarchal God. [El Elyon, God Most High. El Shaddai, God Almighty. El Bethel, God of Bethel. Jacob wrestlin *Peniel*-Face of God] *Specificity was desirable*
 - (3) The assumption in that culture that to call on a god - that is, to pray to and worship him - involved *calling on his name*, specifically naming him in prayer and worship (1 Kgs 18 *Elijah*, you call on the name of your god, I will mine, we'll ask for fire)
- d) Remember in John 8:58,59 *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.* [they caught the linkage]

V. Slide9 **GOD'S PROMISES (16-22)** *trusting His promises*

A. *For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him.* 2 Cor.1:20

1. Israel *will be brought out* of Egypt and into Canaan (16-17).
2. Israel's leaders *will believe* Moses (18).
3. Pharaoh *will oppose* Moses (19).
4. Egypt *will suffer* God's **judgment** (20).
5. Israel *will receive riches* from Egypt (21-22).

B. Slide 10 (21) So you shall plunder the Egyptians - tell the women to go shopping!

1. They do not have to *take or steal it*, just *asked for* their *clothes & bling*.
 - a) A reminder *God will fight our battles for us*.
2. Why this pointing to the plunder? God is setting up a *pattern*, as He does throughout Exodus. *Conquering enemies and taking the spoil*.
 - a) We see it in Eph.4:8 *When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men*. [after conquering sin & death]
 - b) Also, this *jewelry* will be used to *melt down* to make *instruments* they will need for His *Tabernacle*.
3. I also think this was *remuneration* for their years of slavery? (\$ paid for work or service).
 - a) Will God pay back the **days** of *hard labor*, that were stolen from someone labor trafficked? Will God pay back the **nights** and the *dignity* that was stolen from someone sexually exploited? Will God pay back the **years** the locust have stolen?
 - (1) Joel 2:25 *I will restore/pay back to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you*.
 - (2) Joel could be describing a locust swarm, or an invasion by Assyria or Babylon, or the coming day of the Lord. Maybe, all 3!
 - (3) You can't have your time back but there is a strange & wonderful way in which God can bring to you *His blessings*.
 - (4) Phillips Brooks said, "*the only way to get rid of your past is to make a future out of it. God will waste nothing.*" [private movie showing, Reaksmeys fight for Justice, Cambo/AIM, May16th, True Story]
 - (5) Hos.6:1 *Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up*.

C. Tell people *Who God Is & What His Word Says*.

D. **Communion:** Bread. Cup.

E. **Keywords:** Burning bush, shepherd, curiosity, sandals, compassion, cries, excuses, I AM, YHWH, promises, plunder.