

EXODUS 3

I HAVE SEEN THEIR SUFFERING

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

Do you know what your name means? Why did your parents choose your name or why did you choose your children's names?

Names are very significant in many cultures, and the Bible lays huge importance on names.

Moses' own name means 'drawn out' (the Princess called him this as she pulled him out of the river), but also is significant for how he would help to lead his people out of Egypt.

In today's study, he hears a name of God that reveals who he is and what he is like.

Read Exodus chapter 3

- Spend a few moments looking back over verses 1-15. What words or pictures could summarize these verses?
- Because of God's Holy Spirit living in us, we are always in God's presence/always on 'holy ground'. What difference would it make to our life this week if we thought of every place where we went as 'holy ground'?
- Share any reflections you've had on how that's made a difference to your week so far

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We've been thinking about God's promises as we look at Exodus. Look at the following verses to discover what God promises Moses in this chapter:

Verses 7-10
(also v 17)

Verse 12

Verse 18

Verses 19-22

Look at the following verses and talk about what we might learn about what God is like, and his character, from what we read.

Verse 2

Verse 5

Verse 7

Verse 12

Verse 15



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Now look at **verses 14 and 15**. The name that God gives to Moses in **verse 15** is Yahweh.

In our Bibles, this name (Yahweh) is written 'the LORD'. The Hebrew for LORD/Yahweh sounds like and is related to the Hebrew for I AM in verse 14. Therefore this name 'LORD'/Yahweh is essentially interchangeable with what God has just said about himself in verse 14 - 'I AM WHO I AM' / 'I AM')

- This name is one that deserves some time in discussion. His name reveals his character, reputation, and attributes. In Hebrew, the verb 'I am' can be used for past, present, and future. What might this teach us?



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Moses' question 'What is your name' was a way to try to understand God in terms of categories he already understood. But by saying 'I AM WHO I AM' God is effectively saying to him: 'There is nothing outside of me to define me. I am the very essence of being'.

- In what ways do we sometimes try to limit who God is in our minds? In what ways does it challenge and encourage us that we can't fit God into our limits of understanding?

I AM
WHO
I AM

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- How does God promise that his character as the LORD/Yahweh will be revealed by his actions? See **v 12**, and also look at **verses 16-22**.
- **Look at verses 11-12.** What is Moses' concern and how does God answer this concern? What do you think of God's response?
 - What do you think we can learn from God's response about how we might pray when we are feeling inadequate?

God effectively answers Moses' objection in verse 11 - 'who am I?' with the response 'what matters is who I am!' Focusing on him will help us not to focus on our own inadequacy, but on his adequacy - another way that the name 'I am who I am' can bring us comfort.



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- In **John 8:58**, Jesus says “Very truly I tell you...before Abraham was born, I am!” In this way Jesus is saying that he is God.
- **Look back over your answers to the question of “What God is like”.** Those things are all true of Jesus as God. How does that compare to how you tend to think of Jesus? How should that encourage us to praise Jesus all the more for who he is?

*What is
JESUS like?*

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REFLECT & PRAY

- How might we allow our identity to become too influential - gaining confidence from how we feel and what we do?
- What have we learned about our God today that we can take away into the coming week?
- Do you feel as if there is something you are struggling with that you could share with a trusted friend and ask them to pray with you about?

