

This is our story. Part 2—The Call

Text: Exodus 3:1-15

Questions:

1. *What is something that you have never done that you would like to try?*
2. *What call, if any, have you experienced God placing on your life?*

Digging In

Read **Exodus 3:1-6**.

In some rabbinic teaching, the bush that Moses sees is on fire had been on fire for a long time. The idea was that God was waiting for Moses to pay attention long enough to notice. In fact, Moses *had* to pay attention a long time to notice that the bush that was on fire *wasn't* diminishing or being destroyed. As Moses pays attention, God slowly reveals Himself to him: first as fire, then as the voice of God, then as the personal Name Yhwh, or "I am" (later in verse 14).

Questions:

1. *Why do you think God may have waited for Moses to pay closer attention before revealing Himself to him?*
2. *What might have Moses been distracted by, that he wasn't hearing or seeing God?*
3. *Do you think it is more theologically accurate to pray for God to be present with us, or us to be present with God? Why?*
4. *What do you think might be distracting you from the presence of God in your life and world?*

Read **Exodus 3:7-10**.

Remember that the people of God had been in slavery for 430 years, under the foot of the most powerful civilization in the history of the world at that time. Moses is in exile, having fled for his life after killing an abusive Egyptian. It is under these circumstances that God calls Moses to lead his people out.

Questions:

1. *What emotions do you think Moses was feeling as God spoke these words to him?*
2. *What real fears do you think Moses had in going back to Egypt to face Pharaoh?*

Read **Exodus 3:11-15**.

Some have suggested that when God calls us to do something it is beyond our individual ability to accomplish it. In other words, God's call requires our dependency on God.

Questions:

1. *Why do you think Moses' question—"Who am I?"—is a good question to ask when seeking to follow God's call?*
2. *Why do you think it is at this point in the Scriptures that God reveals His personal name—Yhwh—to Moses?*
3. *Tell us about a moment in your life when God's words to Moses—"I will be with you"—have been a great comfort and encouragement to you.*

Sending Out

The original name for the Book of Exodus was "These are the names." It is how the book opens. It was a reminder to the people of God that these names were also their names, that these stories were also their stories. This wasn't just about Moses and the people of God *back then*. These stories were seen as about our relationship with God and others in the world we find ourselves in today. Jesus and the first Christians co-opt the language of the Exodus to explain what Jesus was accomplishing for us. In other words, the Exodus is now about *our* names. This is *our* story.

Questions:

1. *In what impossible situation do you long to hear that God has heard your cry, is concerned, and wants to intervene?*
2. *In what ways might God be calling you to "go" in answer to that cry and concern?*
3. *In what ways or places or relationships do you long for God to reveal that He "will be with you"?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, "What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?"

Close with prayer.