

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of May 23, 2021
The Great Escape: The Name and the Flame, Exodus 3:1-15
Pastor Hall- Contemporary Service, Pastor Temple- Traditional Service

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events or faith experiences since you last met?
- Are there joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)
- **Opening Discussion Question-** What does your Monday morning routine look like? When you see, hear or smell something strange going on there, what do you do about it? (question credit, Lyman Coleman)

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the scriptures from this week's sermon message and then discuss the questions which follow as time allows. There are more questions than you will have time for, so it is ok to be selective.

Exodus 3:1-15

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites,

Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." ¹³Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

1. If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
2. The previous chapter ended with the following words that describe what God did while Moses was in the wilderness: heard the cries of the people, remembered the covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, looked upon the people and knew them in a compassionate way. How does this story today follow from the previous chapter? (verses 7-10)
3. Why do you think God appeared to Moses in a burning bush that was not consumed? (verses 1-3)
4. How do you think he felt when he heard his name called out? (verse 4-6)
5. What do you think leads Moses to ask “who am I” to do this divine commission? (verse 11) How did God respond to the question (verse 12)? Did this really answer his question?
6. How does fire and this Mount Sinai (or Mount Horeb) factor into later parts of the story? (verse 12)
7. How does the name Yahweh or “I Am” for God seem a suitable one for God that is given to God’s people? (verses 13-15)
8. Why do you think God’s people stayed in Egypt for so long up to this point? (Genesis 15:16)

Other Related Readings (10 min)

1. Would a volunteer please read aloud Acts 2:1-13
2. Why is fire an appropriate way for God to appear here before God’s people as well?
3. Verse 4 says they were “filled with the Holy Spirit.” What do you think that means?
4. These verses are filled with multisensory descriptions of sights and sounds of the Spirit. Why do you think such spiritual moments with Lord are often difficult to describe with words?
5. What is unique about the Spirit of God moving in Pentecost compared to how the Spirit of God had moved previously as described in the Old Testament and in Jesus’ ministry on earth?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

1. As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
2. As Pastor Michelle pointed out, Moses told the Lord “here am I” and then later found out about the calling or mission before him. How has the Lord been raising the bar lately in your walk of faith higher than when you first “said yes” to God?
3. Have you ever felt like Moses saying to yourself “who am I” to do something special for God? How does pursuing our callings as followers of Christ depend more on who God is than who we are?
4. What spiritual moments when you felt like you were on Holy Ground, would you be willing to share with the group?
5. Was it a one on one experience with God like with Moses at the burning bush or was it a community experience with God as it was at Pentecost? What blessings from it came after?

Witness and Closing (10 minutes)

- As with Moses at the burning bush and the disciples at Pentecost, the moving of the Holy Spirit is not so much to bless the receivers of the Spirit and the calling, but that others may be blessed through them. How has the Holy Spirit been blessing others through us lately?
- A volunteer may conclude by leading the group in prayer about the joys and concerns shared earlier in the meeting