

*IMPORTANT NOTE: The divine name Yahweh is usually translated “LORD” (all caps) in English versions of the Bible because it became a practice in late Old Testament Judaism not to pronounce the sacred name of YHWH but to say instead “my Lord / sovereign master” (Adonai) – a practice still used today. When the vowels of Adonai were attached to the consonants YHWH in the medieval period, the word *Jehovah* resulted. Today many Christians use the word Yahweh, the more original pronunciation, not hesitating to name the divine name since Jesus taught believers to speak in a familiar way to God. So every time we see all caps LORD in our Bibles think “I AM” think “He Who Is” – God absolutely IS. Every time we hear the name Yahweh (even the short form Yah which is found in Hallelu-jah, meaning *praise Yahweh*) lets remember what that name communicates = God’s active presence!

The God of the Insecure

Exodus 3

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Questions for discussion and application

- What observations can you make about the story found in Exodus 3? What did you enjoy? What did you learn? Anything seem unusual?
- God calls out to Moses from a burning bush but then in verse 5 he tells him “*Do not come any closer.*” Why does he do that? What does God tell him next?
- When you read in verses 7-8 that God SEES, HEARS, is CONCERNED and has COME DOWN what does that tell you about God? How would those words have felt to a slave? How do they feel to you?
- Can you recall some of Moses’ insecurities and questions found throughout chapters 3 and 4?
- How does God answer Moses’ insecurities and questions?
- Describe the meaning of the divine name YHWH. What does this name reveal about the God?
- How does that meaning impact us when we are _____? You fill in the blank. Whatever the circumstance! Sick, scared, depressed, anxious, etc.
- If God is small and uninspiring, if he doesn’t cause us to stand in awe, something or someone else will. What do you find awe-inspiring about the revelation of God here in Exodus 3?
- What do you typically look for from God to give you assurance other than his presence?

1. God’s concern and choice

(Exodus 2:23-3:9)



There’s a particular way to approach him.
This is one of the first places in Scripture we see the word *holy*.

God breaks through the tension with great concern, a personal mission statement and an unexpected choice.

Exodus 3:7 *"I have seen...heard...I am concerned...so I have come down to rescue them."*

Psalm 139:1-4; Hebrews 4:13

2. Moses' insecurities and God's answer (Exodus 3:10-15)

He answers Moses' insecurities with the promises of his presence.

- Who am I? (Exodus 3:11)
- What will I tell them? (Exodus 3:13)
- What if they don't believe me? (Exodus 4:1)
- I've never been eloquent. (Exodus 4:10)
- Please use someone else! (Exodus 4:13)

Exodus 3:14 *"I will be what I will be" "He who is" = Yahweh*
Communicates independence, self-existence and most of all active presence. In other words, *"I am the actively present One; when and how I choose to be! I am He Who Is"*

*Check out the back of this handout for some important info regarding our English translations

Verse 15 GO and SPEAK

- **Matthew 28:19-20**
- **John 8:58**

Bring God your insecurities. They're no match for him.

Hebrews 13:5