

Snapshots of Gods Character

Key Scriptures:

Exodus 3:1-14 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." ⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father-- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. . . . ¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Isaiah 6:5 "Woe is me, I am undone."
"It's all over, I'm doomed!" NLT

Key Point: It is only by God's self-sufficiency, holiness, and grace that we can experience the presence of God in our lives.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What were you really into as a kid? (Think "obsessed!")

Steps of faith: Reflect on your recent walk with Christ.

- Share with the group a step of faith you recently took.
- If you don't have a personal example, can you think of someone else's step of faith that has been encouraging or inspiring to you.

Start thinking:

- Read through Exodus 3:1-14 as a group. What are your observations? (see also Acts 7:20-34 for more information)
- How is God using the burning bush to teach Moses about His name and His attributes before he even asks about His name?
- Exodus 3:1-6 & 14 teaches us about the aseity of God. The term aseity is from the Latin a se "from himself." Why is this attribute of God important for us to understand and remember? (see also Acts 17:24-25)
- Alec Motyer said "The holiness of God *is that part of God's nature that is dangerous to sinners like you and me.*" How is God's holiness dangerous to us? (Exod 3:6, 33:3, 20)
- The bush isn't consumed but the greater mystery is why isn't Moses consumed? How does "The Angel of the Lord" provide the answer to this mystery? (see p. 2 for help on this question if needed)
- If the fire that does not burn out (or consume the bush) is a metaphor for the presence of God, what does the bush represent?

Start sharing:

- Looking at Moses' life in v. 1, serving as a shepherd for 40 years, have you ever felt like he may have felt? How have you wondered at God's timing of things in your life?
- God calls Moses into one of the biggest events in history. Yet Moses is hesitant to go, even though God promised to go with him. Are you ever hesitant in obeying God's call for your life? How so? (Matt 28:18, 20)
- A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. How is this statement true?"

Start doing: Without Jesus you can do nothing. Yet if God is with you, and has called you to obey, there is no reason to hesitate.

Prayer Requests: Spend time praying together about what you shared tonight. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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Alec Motyer defines the angel of the Lord: ***“the Angel is revealed as the merciful ‘accommodation’ or ‘condescension’ of God, whereby the Lord can be present among a sinful people when, were he to go with them himself, his presence would consume them. We can put it this way: the Angel suffers no reduction or adjustment of his full deity, yet he is that mode of deity whereby the holy God can keep company with sinners.”***ⁱ

Whenever God wants to bring His presence close to His people to bless them, He does it through the Angel of the Lord. Who is this Angel of the Lord?

“There is only one other in the Bible who is both identical with and yet distinct from the Lord. One who, without abandoning the full essence and prerogatives of deity or diminishing the divine holiness, is able to accommodate himself to the company of sinners and who, while affirming the wrath of God, is yet a supreme display of his outreaching mercy.”ⁱⁱ

The Angel of the Lord is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ.

This is how God can come near to sinners who would normally be annihilated in His presence.

ⁱ Motyer, Alec. [*The Message of Exodus: The Days of Our Pilgrimage*](#). Edited by Alec Motyer and Derek Tidball, Inter-Varsity Press, 2005, p. 51.

ⁱⁱ Ibid