**BCM Bible Study: September 9/10, 2020**

**Exodus 3: A Calling and a Revelation**

In these chapters, Israel will begin to learn what God is like. How would you describe God? What is he like?

God Appears: **Read Exodus 3:1-6**

* In what way does the burning bush foreshadow the plagues in Egypt? What does this communicate about God?
* Why is Moses afraid to look at God and told to take off his sandals? What makes the place of the burning bush holy?
	+ Do you feel like you have a healthy view of God’s holiness?
	+ Jesus tells us that he/God is with us by means of the Holy Spirit living in us. In what way should this reality shape the way we live?
* Why does God identify himself the way he does in v.6?

**Read Exodus 3:7-10**

* How does God respond to the suffering of his people?
	+ In the same way that God “comes down” (v.7) to deliver the Israelites, God came down to deliver us. In what way does this show you God’s compassion?
* Notice the people groups listed in v.8. Why does God mention these people? What hurdle do they represent to what God is promising?
	+ What are some hurdles that feel too difficult for God to overcome?
* Take another look at verses 8 and 10. Who is doing the delivering in each of those verses?
	+ What does this tell us about what God is inviting Moses to do?

Moses’ Doubts: **Read Exodus 3:11-12**

* What doubt does Moses present in v.11?
* How does God respond? How does this illuminate what we discovered in verses 8-10?
	+ What self-doubts hold you back from serving the Lord as he has called you?
	+ We too have the presence of God with us. How does this give us confidence to go and act when God calls us?

**Read Exodus 3:13-15**

* What is Moses’ concern in v.13?
* A Hebrew name is meant to communicate something about the nature of a person. What is your initial thought about the meaning of God’s name in v.14?
* What is God communicating to Moses and the Israelites in these verses? What do we learn about who God is?
* The rest of this chapter seems to explain what we have just learned – God is the One who will bring them out of slavery, the Deliverer, Redeemer. When he is present with us, his plans will be accomplished. **Read Exodus 3:16-22.**
	+ How do you see God’s character playing out in these verses?
	+ **Read Romans 6:1-4.** In what life circumstances/sin patterns are you hoping for deliverance?
	+ Do you ever get discouraged, thinking that God will not heal or deliver? Why?
* It would be incorrect to say that we fully understand the meaning of “I am who I am.” It is purposely ambiguous, as if to say – “you will find out what I’m like.” In Exodus, we find out what God is like by how he delivers his people, but it is a process of pain and waiting.
	+ How does the story of Exodus (or the stories we are sharing at 633) bring hope into your frustration and unmet expectations of God?

Challenge

A significant theme of this chapter that will continue in the next chapter is Moses’ anxiety over being able to do what God is asking him to do. The task and Moses’ fears seem too big. But over and over again, God assures Moses that **he** is the Savior – Moses is his mouthpiece. God will give him all he needs and will Himself be all that Moses needs. We would do well to remember that God is the Savior and all we need is Him. In an effort to acknowledge this, here are two suggestions for this week:

1. Practice the Sabbath. Intentionally stop working for a day (or part of a day) to acknowledge that it is not you, but God who makes the world go round.
2. Unplug. Leave your phone behind and go outside to a quiet place to pray and be with God. Bring a journal if that helps keep your mind from wandering.