

Ascending The Mountain

Session 4: Yahweh

Intro Questions:

- Reflecting on a previous session, what is the importance of names in Hebrew?

Exercise:

- Watch this Bible Project video "[YHWH / LORD](#)"

As we have mentioned before, one of the goals of this series is to explore methods that will help us encounter God. The method that we are exploring today is called "imaginative reading." The goal of imaginative reading is to place yourself into the story of Scripture, allowing yourself to have the encounter as if you were present. This is something that you can do on your own at any point!

Imaginative Prayer: Have the small group leader read the Scripture slowly while the other student closes their eyes to place themselves in the scene, imagining all senses engaged. Imagine the scene, surroundings, background scenery and noises, smells, the emotional experiences, facial expressions, etc. After reading the Scripture, the small group leader will read the questions as the other student imagines and answers.

Imagine & Contemplate...

- Exodus 2:23-25
 - Imagine you're an Israelite in slavery in Egypt. What does life look like?
 - What do you imagine their cries and prayers were like?
 - What is God's response to the prayers? What are His facial expressions and heart posture?
- Read Exodus 3:1-4
 - What is Moses feeling?
 - What is Moses thinking?
- Read Exodus 3:5-6
 - What is Moses feeling?
 - What is Moses thinking?
 - Why did Moses hide His face?
- Read Exodus 3:7-10
 - What is God feeling?
- Read Exodus 3:11-13
 - Based on the Hebrew culture of names, what is Moses asking for when he asks for God's name?
 - Why did Moses need to know God's name/identity?
 - What insecurities do you think Moses had?

- Read Exodus 3:14-17
 - What is Moses feeling?
 - What is Moses thinking?
 - God's name can be translated as "I am who I am" or "I will be what I will be." What is God revealing about Himself to Moses? (*Answer: "Whatever I am, I will always be. I am unchanging."*)
 - Why do you think it was important for Israel to know God as unchanging as He announced His plan to deliver them from slavery?

God declared "I am who I say I am." God is calling the Israelites to trust in God's character, that if He says He is going to deliver them from slavery, then He will remain true to what He said. God then fulfills the first part of His promise and rescues the Israelites from Egypt. Where we are about to pick up, Moses is currently leading the people in freedom, through the desert, to the Promised Land.

- Read Exodus 33:12-13
 - What emotions do you imagine Moses is experiencing here?
- Read Exodus 33:14-18
 - What do you think Moses is asking for when he says "Show me your glory?"
- Read Exodus 33:19-23
 - What is God's response to Moses?
 - What do you expect to happen next in the story if God is saying He will "proclaim His name?"
- Read Exodus 34:1-8
 - What details stand out to you about this encounter?
 - What else do you imagine in this scenario?

Throughout the rest of the semester, we will be studying who God is in these verses. Today, we are focusing on God's name: Yahweh. "I am who I am" and "I will be who I will be." The unchanging God.

Reflection:

- Write down a list of people in your life who have affected you in a negative way by changing up on you or by being inconsistent. Also, write down what need was not met or was violated by the change/inconsistency (Examples: commitment, desire to be wanted, desire to fit in, etc.).
- THEN, write a prayer to God describing how He is consistent in the areas that you experienced inconsistencies with others (Examples: How He is consistent in commitment, consistent in wanting you, consistent in inviting you into His life, etc.).