

of God, and Timothy our brother,
Christ at Colossae:

→ WE ARE COHESIVE WITH CHRIST!
PEACE FROM GOD THE FATHER

Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,
and of the love that you have for all the
in heaven. Of this you have heard before
I has come to you, as indeed in the whole
it also does among you, since the day you
ruth, just as you learned it from Epaphras,
minister of Christ on your behalf and has

not ceased to pray for you, asking that you
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
word, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in
knowledge of God. May you be strengthened
right for all endurance and patience with
qualified you to share in the inheritance
from the domain of darkness and trans-
on, in whom we have redemption, the
wise strengthened, fore-empted, and
VERED US, TRANSFERRED US, REDEEMED US,

the firstborn of all creation, through him
birth, visible and invisible, whether thrones
things were created through him and for
n all things hold together. And he is the
ning, the firstborn from the dead, that in
n him all the fullness of God was pleased
himself all things, whether on earth or in
SS.

I hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he
is death, in order to present you holy and
if indeed you continue in the faith, stable
he gospel that you heard, which has been
d of which I, Paul, became a minister.
DEAST HOPE UNBELA PRODUES SELFLESS LOVE

sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what
of his body, that is, the church, of which
ship from God that was given to me for

brothers) refers to siblings in a family. In New Testament
or to both men and women who are siblings (brothers and
e manuscripts our 4 Or patience, with joy giving thanks

7 ICOR 13
FAITH
HOPE
LOVE

PRAY
HOPE
GOD HAS
QUALIFIED
US!

Who is I AM?

Tough Questions. Real Answers.

THROUGH HIM
FOR ALL
ROM 11:35

HEB 10:14-25

2 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have
and for all who have not seen me face to face, to
being knit together in love, to reach all the riches
and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is the
treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in
with plausible arguments. For though I am absent
rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of

Alive in Christ

ROOTED IN JESUS
ESTABLISHED IN FAITH
ABOUNDING IN THANKS

6 Therefore as you received Christ Jesus the Lord,
built up in him and established in the faith, just
thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy
human tradition, according to the elemental spirits
Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells
in him, who is the head of all rule and authority,
with a circumcision made without hands, by putting
circumcision of Christ, having been buried with
also raised with him through faith in the powerful
from the dead. And you, who were dead in your
of your flesh, God made alive together with him, ha-
14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against
set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers
to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Let No One Disqualify You

DON'T TURN A BACK
DON'T PUT UP

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in
regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath, for
come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let
asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail
reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding
whole body, nourished and knit together through
a growth that is from God. Always circle back

20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of
alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—
not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they
precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance
self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the
stopping the indulgence of the flesh. Do NOT SO
SUBMIT TO

Put On the New Self IN CONTRAST TO SELF

3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the
is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind
things that are on earth. For you have died, and you
4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also
Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual
evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Or

↑

Self
denial
FAUSE HUMILITY

“¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, ... ² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ...⁶ And the LORD said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

“⁷ Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey,”

“¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

Exodus 3:1-13

Who is I Am?

Tough Questions. Real Answers.

Life often causes us to ask deep – sometimes troubling – questions. You guys asked some great questions. My guess is that many of them come from your real life. Over the next 7 weeks, we're going to do our best to work through them and see what the God has to say. **God isn't surprised, afraid or embarrassed by any of our questions. We're going to do our best to address your questions about God.**

All through the Bible – especially in the Old Testament and particularly in the book of Exodus – God repeatedly tells us that He does things **“so that you may know that He is God”**. In other words, He doesn't ask, “Who do you think I am?” and then turn Himself into our answer. Instead, **He does things to get our attention then tells us exactly who He is. ... Why? – so that we can know Him as He IS, so we can Love Him for who He IS, so we can trust His character, ability, wisdom, and goodness in our lives. We don't get to define God or change Him to fit our ideas; He defines Himself and changes us...**

So, **how does God get our attention and reveal Himself?** We are going to look at one of God's most famous introductions. **God speaks to Moses from a burning bush, but doesn't burn up the bush, rather, He consumes Moses' life forever.** God introduces Himself by telling Moses **WHO He is, WHERE He is, HOW He is different, and WHAT He's doing.**

WHO HE IS: I AM

- He is the PROMISE KEEPING God (Exodus 3:6)
- He is the ETERNAL God (Exodus 3:14-15)

If history were a movie, God would be the main character in every scene. Think of any movie poster, Hunger Games, Rouge One, Mission Impossible, James Bond. On each of these posters the main character's image covers the entire poster. The same is true of God, His presence stretches across the entire Bible, His creations and all of history; but sometimes we get so close to the picture, that we can't see Him. Its not that He isn't present or active; we just can't see Him because we have become so focused on what is right in

front of us. But God is more than the main character, He's the director, the center of the plot line and more than able to capture our attention, command our worship, and consume our lives. **He covers the poster, the set, every scene, and the whole of history. History is in fact "His – Story," and at the end of time when the credits roll, they will simply read, "I AM has done this."**

God gets Moses' attention and then gives him a reality check. I AM – the Eternal God, the Uncreated Creator, the only One without a birthday, **the fire that will consume you but not destroy you.** Then He re-ups His centuries old promises. I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – and I will do what I have promised. **I AM the PROMISE KEEPING GOD.** I promised a Land – I will deliver. I promised a nation – I will deliver. I promised bless the world – I will deliver. I AM INFINITELY GREATER than you could ever imagine! **I AM ETERNAL. I KEEP ALL MY PROMISES.**

WHERE HE IS: I AM Here

- I SEE your PAIN (Exodus 3:7)
- I HEAR your PRAYERS (Exodus 3:7)
- I KNOW your TROUBLES (Exodus 3:7)
- I have COME DOWN to SAVE my people (Exodus 3:8)

Our most troubling questions come from real relationships, real pain, real sin and real life. They cause us to focus on what's right in front of us and forget the bigger picture. In these moments, we need to step back and get a reality check. **We need to be reminded of God's care and ability.**

So that brings us to Moses – a real guy, with real problems, real sin, real pain, and real questions. When we catch up with him in Exodus 3, he is an 80-year-old shepherd with some crazy stories and a fair bit of emotional and spiritual baggage. He was born a Hebrew slave, adopted as an Egyptian prince, turned murderer/political fugitive, who was living as a Nomadic shepherd. For the last 40 + years he'd been estranged from his family and estranged from his God. Now he was living in the wilderness of modern day Saudi Arabia working for his father-in-law.

We don't know exactly what Moses thought about God – but based on what we know of Moses's life and God's introduction of Himself, we can speculate with a bit of clarity. **Moses likely had some pretty legit questions. Did God**

even exist? If He did exist, did He care about people, or keeping His promises? Or, if He did, was He powerful enough to do anything? I mean, His “chosen people” had been enslaved for 400 years, heir children had been thrown in the Nile River, and they had cried out to God for centuries with no answer! And – when Moses had tried to step up and do something about it – God didn’t show up either! It’s safe to say, that Moses didn’t have high expectations of God anymore. But, though Moses wasn’t seeking God, God was seeking him. So when God showed up, He spoke directly to Moses and to Moses’s questions.

“Moses! Moses! I’ve always been HERE. I’ve SEEN your pain, I’ve HEARD your cries for help, I UNDERSTAND you suffering, I’ve COME DOWN to do something about it, because I always KEEP my promises. But understand this Moses; I am ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT than you could’ve ever imagined. I will USE your SUFFERING to for my Glory and your joy – and I will USE YOU – in spite of your sin – to rescue my people so that you will KNOW me, so that my people will KNOW me, so that the Egyptians will KNOW me, and so the world will KNOW me. I AM and I have come down.”

This is important. Because we are real people with real problems, real pain, and real questions. Why do bad things happen if God is for us and wants the best for us? If God is love – is He mad at us? Does He care? Does He understand? Does He even exist? We are so much like Moses, and we need to hear God say, “I see you. I hear your prayers. I understand your pain. And I’m doing something about it.”

HOW HE IS DIFFERENT: I AM Different

- I AM not to be taken LIGHTLY (Exodus 3:2-5)
- I MAKE the RULES (Exodus 3:2-5)

It’s no accident that God showed up in a burning bush. God wanted Moses to be absolutely sure that He was altogether DIFFERENT. The bush was ablaze, but not consumed. God was in total control of what appeared to be totally out of control. And from the fire – God spoke. He said, “Moses, Here I AM – I will totally engulf you – but you will not be consumed. You may look at your life and the life of your people and think it is a raging fire, out of control – but I have preserved your life, and the life of my people to get the world to look

and see who I AM and what I AM about to do. Moses – like the bush – I will speak through you to my people, and through you, the world will know Me. Here I AM. I AM altogether DIFFERENT than you ever could have imagined.

Today we need this also. Our world is ablaze in so many different ways – but God would grab our attention with the flames, speak to us from the midst of the fire, and sustain us in it. Why would God let bad things happen? – So that we would know Him, so those around us would know Him, and so that the world would know Him. He is not to be taken lightly. He makes the rules. HE IS ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT. HE WILL ENGULF YOUR LIFE – BUT WILL SUSTAIN YOU IN THE FIRE.

WHAT HE IS DOING: I AM Sending You

- I will be WITH YOU (Exodus 3:12)
- I will EQUIP YOU (Exodus 4:1-17)
- I will DO IT (8 X's in Ex. 3-4 God says "I will _____")

Perhaps the most unexpected turn of the story, is that God sends Moses – the 80 year old shepherd with lots of questions and baggage to command Pharaoh, to unite a few million slaves, and to lead God's people out of Egypt, across the desert, to the land God promised them. Nothing could have prepared Moses for that job assignment and God new it. God didn't pick Moses because he had all the skills – He chose Moses precisely because He didn't. He called Moses to do this impossible task and then gave him 3 promises; I will be with you. I will equip you. I will do it. Why would God do that!? – So that Moses, His people, the Egyptians, and the world would know that He is God!

So you might be thinking "That's great for Moses...but what about me?" A few centuries later God has sent someone whom the author of Hebrews says is greater than Moses. God HIMSELF has come down to rescue us. He didn't just speak God's words to us – He was and is the very Word of God! He didn't just promise to be with Him – He was and is God with us! But unlike Moses or the bush, HE was consumed by the fury of God's holiness so that we wouldn't be. Unlike Moses, HE was eternally qualified for the job. Unlike Moses, HE was totally equipped to do it. Unlike Moses – HE did it. Moses points us directly to HIM – who suffered – not so we wouldn't suffer, but so

that we wouldn't be consumed by our suffering! His name is Jesus. It is Jesus who entered in to our chaos so that He could feel our deepest pains! Why!? Why do bad things happen? Why does God use sinners to do His work? – **SO THAT YOU WOULD KNOW GOD, SO THAT THOSE AROUND YOU WOULD KNOW GOD, AND SO THAT THE WORLD WOULD KNOW GOD.** What does God think of you? – He loves you enough to see, hear, understand, and come down into your life.

Who is this "I AM?" He is ETERNAL. HE IS HERE. HE IS DIFFERENT. HE IS SENDING YOU. He is the God who SEES our misery, HEARS our cry, KNOWS our sufferings and has COME DOWN to LIVE THE LIFE YOU COULDN'T LIVE, DIE THE DEATH YOU DESERVED TO DIE, RISE FROM THE DEAD – SOMETHING YOU CANNOT DO, AND IS COMING BACK TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW. WHY?! – SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW HIM – AND SO THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW HIM.

"At the acceptable time I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. 'Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.'"

2Corinthians 6:2-3

CORE QUESTIONS:

- Who is God?
- Where did God come from?
- Who made God?
- Does God have a belly button?
- Why do bad things happen if God is protecting us and wants the best for us?
- Why does God put up with us when we do all these bad things?
- Does suffering mean that God is mad at us?
- What does God think of me?
- Why should I care?
- What part of your life seems to be burning out of control?

SCHEDULE

1.11.2017

G2 SCHEDULE

- 5:30 Leader Meal Together with LODG
- 6:15 Set up and ready to go
- **6:30 Welcome/Announcements:** Brad
 - Video
 - Welcome
 - Announcements
 - Join us on Sunday Mornings!
 - Question of the week: What is our only hope in life and death?
- **6:35 Music:** Piper & Caleb
- **6:50 Who is I AM: Taylor Huber**
- **7:15 Core Group:** Refer to "CORE Questions" at the end of the message notes
- **7:30 Games:** Melissa
 - Gym
- **8-8:30 Hangout**

LODG SCHEDULE

- 5:30 Leader Meal together with G2
- 6:15 Set up and ready to go
- **6:30 Welcome/Announcements:** Josh
 - Video
 - Welcome
 - Announcements
 - Question of the Week: What is our only hope in life and death?
 - CORE starts up again this Sunday night!
 - Ice Camp Registration closes January 15th!
 - Ski Day February 20. Cost \$20 More info coming soon ☺
 - Baptism Class is this Saturday at 10:30 A.M. Tell your CORE leader if you're interested.
- **6:35 Krazee Gamez:** Shana
- **7:00 Core Group:** What part of your life seems to be out of control?
- **7:10 Music:** The LODG Collaborative
- **7:25 Who Is I AM? Caleb**
- **7:50 Core Group:** Refer to "CORE Questions" at the end of the message notes
- **8-8:30 Hangout**