



A few weeks ago, we began our study of the Book of Exodus, which gives us an up-close look at the glory of God. So far, we've seen the intense burden the people of Israel experienced from Pharaoh, and we've learned of Moses' birth and upbringing. In addition to observing his early years, we saw Moses kill an Egyptian and flee to Midian. In Midian, Moses married Zipporah. Chapter 2 ended with God's people groaning and crying out to Him for help. Thankfully, God heard, remembered His covenant, saw, and made Himself known to His people. How did God make Himself known to Israel? We're about to find out.

**Key Passage:** Exodus 3

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Elisabeth Elliott once wrote of Amy Carmichael, "Amy Carmichael's great longing was to have a 'single eye' for the glory of God. Whatever might blur the vision God had given her of His work, whatever could distract or deceive or tempt others to seek anything other than the Lord Jesus Himself, she tried to eliminate."
  - a. What does it mean to live with a "single eye" for the glory of God?
  - b. What would this look like in your life?
  - c. How are we tempted to be distracted from living with this singular focus?
2. Scholars point out that the place where Moses is tending his father-in-law's flock, near Mount Horeb, is most likely pretty far from Midian. Moses, on the lookout for good grass for the flock, was going about his usual day in this place far from home.
  - a. What do these details say about how God sometimes works in our lives?
  - b. Why do you think God chose to show up in Moses' life through a burning bush?
  - c. Why, at times, does God take us to an unfamiliar situation or place to get our attention?

There is often a monotony to ordinary days, so God often gets our attention by bringing us to/through something new: a new job, a change of location, a trial, something different. That's why 21 Days of Prayer is significant. This season causes us to do something different intentionally. If God has you in a new place, whatever that is, listen up. Is God trying to get your attention?

3. According to Acts 7:30, it had been forty years since Moses fled Egypt and landed in Midian. At this point, Moses finds himself figuratively and literally far from home.
  - a. When you consider Moses' upbringing and how his life story evolved to this point, what do you think he might have thought about the trajectory of his life?
  - b. What does the timing of God's activity in Moses' life teach us about God's provenience in ours?
  - c. Have you ever had a time of waiting that felt like 40 years? How could the timeline of God's activity in Moses' life encourage us as we wait for God to work in ours?

After being raised and educated in the luxury of Pharaoh's household, at the age of 40, Moses found himself running for his life. In Midian, Moses is isolated from his past and his people. Midian must have felt like a long way from Egypt – a long way from what Moses might have expected the trajectory of his life to go, too. Now, he's working for his father-in-law. He's tending the flock in the middle of the wilderness just as he had been doing for forty years. It seems God needed to get Egypt out of Moses before He had Moses return to Egypt. The bottom line: God had Moses right where He wanted him. God was at work in Moses during this period in the wilderness, even if Moses wasn't aware of it. Perhaps God is operating on a different timeline than you expected or hoped. The bottom line: God has you right where He wants you. Rest assured, God sees you, and He's got a plan for you – even when the trajectory of your life hasn't gone as you planned, it doesn't mean it hasn't gone as He intended. In the meantime, trust Him. When in doubt do the righteous thing while you wait.

4. What stands out to you about the burning bush encounter? How did Moses respond to this "glory" moment? What parallels do you see between this moment and Isaiah 6:1-8? God is always at work around you. How can slowing down to recognize glimpses of God's glory encourage your faith?

Do you notice the glimpses of the glory of God on display around you? When we talk about the glory of God, we're talking about something that only God can do, whether that's a beautiful sunset that overwhelms us or the vastness of the ocean observed from the beach. These "glory moments" lead us to experience God's glory in our lives by pointing us toward something only He could do. In this passage, Moses is experiencing something small yet glorious. A typical bush in the wilderness, yes, but something glorious is happening – it's on fire but not consumed. Here you are in the desert as a shepherd who would have been familiar with building fires at night, and Moses sees a bush that is not fire but is not being burned up. That's enough to get one's attention – it got Moses' and Isaiah's. The bottom line: Will we respond to God's glory as Moses and Isaiah did: "Here I am."