

TAKEAWAY



SUNDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2024

An Encounter With God

In line with our goal to be a church of disciples who make disciples, this session is focussed on action, so that we are 'doers of the word' and not just hearers/people who enjoy a good discussion! It encourages focussed practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in the group so that our discipleship as followers of Jesus is deliberately pursued.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

You don't necessarily need to discuss these, but be aware as you facilitate discussion.

- To reflect on our purpose and calling
- To consider how God and community equips us to do more than we could alone
- To be reminded that God is both the Great I am but also knows us intimately

SHARE

Share any experiences from last time's try-outs.

Encourage each participant (if comfortable) to share: What parts of the Christian life a) come easily to you? b) are hard for you? For example, speaking to new people, sharing your faith, remaining hopeful when things are hard, hearing from God, prayer, reading the bible, generosity, hospitality...

Describe a time you received direction from God. What did you do and what did you learn? This could be a big or a small thing. *(Leave time for longer responses – however, not everyone may feel like they have something to contribute).*

What does it look like for you to have a conversation with God? What does it look like to hear from God? *(Everyone might have a different answer).*

READ

Exodus 3:1-14 & Exodus 4:10-17

DISCUSS

God reveals himself to Moses declaring: "I am who I am" (from which the name Yahweh is derived). This phrase seems intentionally undefinable. What does it tell you about God's nature?

Moses learnt more about God's nature and character as he started following his calling. How has your view of God grown over the years?

Consider the religious context of the time of Moses (thousands of Egyptian deities, different nations having their own idols). What is distinct about Yahweh?

Consider the religious context of today (we are all religious in a way, even if the object of our worship is not a "god"). How does Yahweh and Jesus speak uniquely into this context?

Having a "conversation with God" can be controversial in some Christian circles. Why do you think that is? What are the dangers and how might we avoid them?

Is there anything you are feeling prompted to do at the moment but have questions or reservations about? Discuss your fears and hesitations. What might it look like to overcome these and take the next step with God?

Moses needed Aaron because he was a better speaker, yet God still chose to use Moses. How is that comforting for us as we seek to follow God's call on our lives?

Share some ways you have worked alongside others with different gifts.
Do you feel God is challenging you around this area? Are there people you can seek out, who have different gifts than yours, to help you as you look to follow God's call?

TRY OUT

Moses' real revelation and transformation came through the doing. If you have felt a "calling" awakened in you through this discussion, what specific thing can you do this week to move it forward? Note that "calling" could be as small and simple as reaching out and having a conversation with someone who seems lonely. God prompts us in the small and the big.

PRAY

Pray for one another according to anything that came up in the discussion/Takeaway.