



MIND
session page

Invitation to Become

Exodus 3:1-15 | Session 9.36

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

Context

Begin by asking:

- When have you or someone you know experienced an unexpected call from God?
- How did you know it was happening?
- How did you respond at first?
- What came of the incident?

Content

Read [Exodus 3:1-15](#), then watch the Bible Background Video and ask:

- How might Moses' values and desires have changed between the time he was in Egypt and the time this incident occurred?
- Why do you think God chose to speak to Moses through something so seemingly ordinary as a bush?
- Why do you think God asks Moses to take off his sandals – why must he walk on holy ground with bare feet?
- How do you think Moses felt as God described the plight of the Hebrew people in verses 7-9?
- What are Moses' excuses and how does God respond?
- What do you think of the discussion around God's name – about God "becoming" with us?
- In light of this, why do you think God chose to give this particular name to Moses at this time?

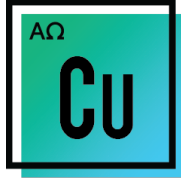
Closure

Continue by asking:

- How would you translate Moses' calling if it were to happen today?
- Through what circumstances might God speak to people in our contemporary world
- What kind of thing might God call people to do today and why?
- In what ways is our understanding of God always "becoming?"
- What might God want us to change and become, and how might we go about it?

Close with prayer.

Writer: Jon Parks



CURRENT

session page

Invitation to Become

Exodus 3:1-15 | Session 8.48

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Thoroughly review the resource referenced in the Closure section to be able to call the group's attention to what you believe to be its key parts.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

Context

Share together the video at the [Remembering the Birmingham Church Bombing site](#) (Note: Since this is a commercial site, the video will stream a brief commercial before beginning. You might want to stream past that before the start of your session.) and ask:

- What most stood out to you about this video and why?
- How does it make you feel when you hear stories about such things happening in the world?
- What does this video suggest about society in the days this event took place and what, if anything, has changed?
- The video suggests that this event caused people to "get off the fence." What do you think the speaker meant by that and to what degree is the "fence" to which he refers still there?
- At what points have some other dramatic events shaped our society?

Content

Read [Exodus 3:1-15](#), then watch the Bible Background Video.

Ask questions like these:

- Why do you think God chose a burning bush to get Moses' attention?
- Why did the narrators feel both a need to point out that the ground was holy, and that removing one's footwear was the appropriate reaction to entering such a place?
- The scripture tells us that God made an appearance in this way as a response to the cries of people who were oppressed. What do you know of this oppression and what do you think God is proposing to change?
- Given the context of the conversation Moses and God were having, why do you think Moses seemed so reluctant?
- How do you feel about the notion that God is a God who is always growing with us, as Nikki seems to suggest, and why?

Closure

Share together the "[Google Wrestles With Aftermath...](#)" video and ask:

- What had you heard of this story before now and what did you think about it?
- Assuming that this event has showcased questions about discrimination, in what way has it done so and what might come of it?
- In what ways could an event like this have the capacity to be a sort of "turning point" in our society?
- What has changed in our society over that could cause modern events to have such a capacity to be "turning points" in a different way from past events?
- Given the number of potential "turning points" people cite these days, how does one discern when God might be intervening versus when people are just getting the attention they seek for their cause?
- What can we do to identify and respond to God's working on behalf of the oppressed?

Close in prayer.



MYSTIC
session page

Invitation to Become

Exodus 3:1-15 | Session 8.48

Before the Session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)
- Materials needed: paper, pens, markers, poster paper.
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

Context

Read aloud [Exodus 3:1-15](#) then share the Bible Background Video

In today's session, the group will share in their experience of the "burning bush" narrative and how it reflects their personal narrative.

Reflection

Distribute paper and pens and tell the group to imagine that this is the ONLY story that they have ever heard about God and invite them to jot write what they learn of God in this text. After a few minutes, or when most of the participants, have completed their work, invite everyone to share what they feel they learned, writing their results on a poster.

Invite everyone to choose one statement about God that catches their attention and comes to the forefront of their thoughts and feelings and use the following prompts with a couple of minutes pause between each , except as indicated:

- What is the one statement about God that most catches your attention?
- Repeat that statement silently in your mind several times.
- Note how the statement makes you feel and what thoughts it spurs.
- What connection does that statement have to your life right now?
- What thoughts and feelings do you want to share with God?
- Listen for God's response, if any.
- Continue your conversation with God until you feel you are finished, then spend a few moments resting in God's presence. (let people take their own time here and look up to indicate when they are done)

Invite volunteers to share their reflections and close with prayer.

Writer: Joy Yee



MEDIA
session page

Invitation to Become

Exodus 3:1-15 | Session 8.48

Before the Session

- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

Context

Play the *Hacksaw Ridge* "I Can't Hear You" clip and ask:

- If you hadn't seen this movie before, what were you thinking as this scene developed and why?
- What was Desmond listening for in this scene and why was it important to him?
- How did you know when he heard what he needed to hear?
- When have you heard of someone responding to God's call in a dramatic way?
- In what way is this scene symbolic of what it means to hear and respond to God's call?

Content

Read [Exodus 3:1-15](#), then watch the Bible Background Video.

Ask questions like:

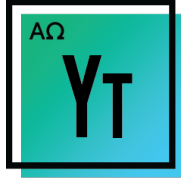
- Why do you think that God only spoke to Moses after the burning bush got his attention?
- What makes that particular patch of ground "holy," and why did such a designation require Moses to be barefoot?
- Why do you think God chose to be identified in this passage through a Midianite name?
- In what ways is Moses' response to God's call typical of other stories you've heard of people responding to such a dramatic event?
- Some would say that Moses' call was a unifying event for various peoples, for which oppression was a catalyst. What in this passage might suggest this?
- What is your answer to the question of whether change and growth and development are simply the nature of things not something that we do because of need or because we lack something?

Closure

Share the ["The Bible: Jim Wallis' Comments on the Burning Bush" video](#) (Stop at 3:52) and ask:

- What do you think of this retelling of the story and why?
- What are - to you - some ways in which people are being oppressed today?
- In what ways have those forms of oppression gotten your attention?
- What do you think God is doing to get our attention these days?
- In what ways might the knowledge that God is with you affect your response to other people's suffering?
- How can our faith empower us to be God's instruments in addressing those things that God wants to change?

Close the session in prayer.



YOUTH
session page

Invitation to Become

Exodus 3:1-15 | Session 8.48

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Listen to the FaithElement podcast for this session.
- Provide at least four good blindfolds (See Context)
- Use the social media prompts on this session's webpage to help youth begin engaging the session ahead of their gathering.
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

Intro

Play the [Averting our Eyes](#) video and ask:

- How do you feel about this video and why?
- Since it was part of one of the more famous comedies of the twentieth century, what are some comedic elements of this video and what makes them funny?
- What are some other stories you heard of where God specifically calls someone to undertake a task?
- At what points have you, or someone you know, felt that God was calling them to do something?

Context

Mark a line on one side of your meeting area and form up to five teams of at least two people, providing each team with a good blindfold. Tell the teams that this is a contest to see which team can get their teammate closest to the opposite wall without touching it. Each team should pick one member to stand, blindfolded, behind the starting line. When you say "go," teams should stay behind the starting line and call out instructions to their blindfolded teammate about each step they take. That person should then take a step. The blindfolded teammates must remain silent, and no one can instruct their teammate while they are taking their steps. The blindfolded person gets to choose when to stop moving, and should raise a hand when they decide to do this, but anyone who touches the opposite wall automatically loses.

After making sure everyone understands the rules, blindfold each team's volunteers and make sure that they cannot see, then begin the activity. Once every blindfolded volunteer has stopped moving, or has been disqualified, stop the game, declare a winner, and ask:

- How did you feel about the way this game played out and why?
- What strategies did your team try and how do you feel about them now that the game is over?
- How does someone know when it's time to stop moving forward?
- In what ways is this game a little like real life?
- What voices do you typically listen to when making up your mind, and how does that work out for you?
- How can you tell when it's time to stop doing what you're doing and do something else?

Content

Read [Exodus 3:1-15](#) and watch the Bible Background Video.

Ask the group:

- Why do you think God chose to approach Moses in this way?
- What's the big deal about not wearing shoes in holy places?
- How do you think God "heard the cries" of these people and why didn't God hear anyone else's cries at that point?
- Why do you think Moses only got cold feet at the end of this story, instead of when he started hearing a voice coming out of a burning bush?
- If, as the video says, God is still becoming something, where do we see evidence of that now?

Closure

Share the [Three Amigos - "Singing Bush" video](#) and ask:

- What is the most funny or unfunny thing about this video and why?
- Since good comedy usually comes from a place where we share something, only to see it turned on its head, what do you see of yourself or someone you know in this clip?
- The scene is set around people working through various signs in order to accomplish a mission, and they seem to address these signs with a variety of attitudes. Looking back, what are some signs you have encountered while seeking to accomplish a mission, and what was your attitude at the time?
- What are some things that you think God wants us to accomplish today, and what signs have you encountered that speak to those things?
- In what ways might our knowledge that God is still working with us help us address the issues we face?
- How might it empower us to help others?

If you have time, listen together to [The Lost Dogs: "Moses in the Desert"](#), then close with a prayer.



MIX
session page

Invitation to Become

Exodus 3:1-15 | Session 8.48

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

Context (From the Mind Session Page)

Begin by asking:

- When have you or someone you know experienced an unexpected call from God?
- How did you know it was happening?
- How did you respond at first?
- What came of the incident?

Content (From the Current Session Page)

Read [Exodus 3:1-15](#), then watch the Bible Background Video.

Ask questions like these:

- Why do you think God chose a burning bush to get Moses' attention?
- Why did the narrators feel both a need to point out that the ground was holy, and that removing one's footwear was the appropriate reaction to entering such a place?
- The scripture tells us that God made an appearance in this way as a response to the cries of people who were oppressed. What do you know of this oppression and what do you think God is proposing to change?
- Given the context of the conversation Moses and God were having, why do you think Moses seemed so reluctant?
- How do you feel about the notion that God is a God who is always growing with us, as Nikki seems to suggest, and why?

Closure (from the Media Session page)

Share the ["The Bible: Jim Wallis' Comments on the Burning Bush" video](#) (Stop at 3:52) and ask:

- What do you think of this retelling of the story and why?
- What are - to you - some ways in which people are being oppressed today?
- In what ways have those forms of oppression gotten your attention?
- What do you think God is doing to get our attention these days?
- In what ways might the knowledge that God is with you affect your response to other people's suffering?
- How can our faith empower us to be God's instruments in addressing those things that God wants to change?

Close the session in prayer.