

GOD IS PERSONAL

PASSAGES: Exodus 3, Exodus 33-34

INTRO//

What's up Faith Students! Welcome to the best night of the week!

Tonight we are starting a new series called "Name Drop"

OPENING ILLUSTRATION// APPLE NAMEDROP

- **A year ago apple came up with this feature called "namedrop"**
 - **When you hold your phone next to another person's iphone it will exchange your contact!**
- **You get their name + number, but so much more**
 - **Birthday, email, address, whatever they choose to share!**

- **When we know the names of God, they tells us so much more**
 - NOT JUST A NAME!
 - Tells us Who He is
 - Tells us His character
 - Helps us know Him better/deeper

- **So what is God's name?**
 - **It's not just God**
 - **There are lots of gods, but there is only 1 we worship**
 - **There are lots of gods but only 1 WORTHY of worship**
 - **Early in the Bible we see that the Christian God, the true God, has a name!**
- **God is calling Moses to lead Israel out of slavery/captivity in Egypt (burning bush)**
 - **Moses is afraid and wants to know how to tell them who sent him**

PASSAGE//

- "Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you." God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations."
 - **Exodus 3:13-15 NLT**

-Here we see God give His name:

- **YHWH: I AM WHO I AM or I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE**
 - **What does this mean??**
 - self-sufficient, self-existent, all encompassing, and without limitations, the one being in the universe who is not dependent on something else for his existence.
 - **It means He is consistent! God is who He is, He will be what He will be, He doesn't change!**
 - **Never has, never will!**
 - **His actions always align with His character**
 - **His will always aligns with His nature**

CONNECTION//

- ***TELL A STORY OF STRUGGLING WITH CHANGE***
- **WHO LIKES/DISLIKES CHANGE?**
- **There's so many things in this world change, progress, look different, and things change quick!**
- **Let me tell you and encourage you that God never changes! God always has and will be the same. There's no surprises or guessing!**
- **But what is he consistent in? God (YHWH) is consistently WHAT?**

Well we get an answer to this later in Exodus:

-In Exodus 33, Moses asked to see the glory of God- "Show me your glory"

"Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses **face to face, as one speaks to a friend.**"

Exodus 33:11

1// IT'S IMPORTANT WE KNOW THAT GOD HAS A NAME BECAUSE GOD IS A PERSON, AND HE IS PERSONAL

ILLUSTRATION//

-What you call someone says a lot about your relationship

-Teacher: professional, Mrs _____, Mr _____

-Coach: _____

-Significant other: cringy nickname

-Close friend: Funny/inside joke nickname

-What we call God can say a lot about our relationship and how we view Him!

-Sometimes we can forget God is a person + He is personal

-We can talk to Him just like Moses "as one speaks to a friend"

-Reverent + Real

-We can be Honest + Respectful with God! (Impacts our prayer!)

-PERSONAL PRAYER IS POWERFUL PRAYER!

-In these kind of conversations Moses asked God this:

“One day Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Take these people up to the Promised Land.’ But you haven’t told me whom you will send with me. You have told me, ‘I know you by name, and I look favorably on you.’ If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people.” Moses responded, “Then **show me your glorious presence.**”

Exodus 33:12-13, 18

-Would we share this desire! Not just to know about God, not just settle for head knowledge, but truly experience + encounter Him!

-Couldn’t happen, but God did show Him a glimpse/passed by

-When we approach God personally He meets us powerfully**

“Then the Lord came down in a cloud and stood there with him; and he called out his own name, **Yahweh**. The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “**Yahweh!** The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations.”

Exodus 34:5-7 NLT

-Repeated: shows the significance of His name!

-His name Truly means something, not random!

-Here God is giving a bio, detailed description of who He is! And who He is CONSISTENTLY

2// WHAT GOD IS CALLED REVEALS HIS CHARACTER

WHAT IS GOD’S CHARACTER? WHO IS YHWH?

1// COMPASSIONATE + MERCIFUL

2//SLOW TO ANGER

3// FULL OF UNFAILING LOVE + FAITHFULNESS

4// JUST

- SINS HAVE CONSEQUENCES!
 - JESUS ISN’T THE NEWER, NICE VERSION OF GOD
 - HE’S ALWAYS BEEN KIND, JUST, LOVING AND GRACIOUS
 - Israel rebelled + ran from God time + time again, YET He rescued and redeemed them time + time again

-Ultimately we see JUSTICE on the cross

-We’ve all fallen short of God’s glorious standard (Rom 3:23)

-Our sin deserves punishment, someone needs to pay for the sins of all humanity against a perfect God, it’s only just

-But that perfect God was also the only one who could pay

-So Jesus came down to pay the penalty for our sin and take the deserved punishment and justice upon himself

**-W/O God's justice we wouldn't see/understand the fullness of His love
That's who God is! YHWH, ALWAYS loving + merciful, ALWAYS slow to anger, ALWAYS
unfailing love + faithful, ALWAYS just!!
-YHWH is always the same**

CLOSING//

- **YHWH imitates breathing in + out**
- <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C9bCZDLS3AU/?igsh=MTNpeG0yY3hvYXE4Yg==>
- **By breathing we are calling on the name of God**
 - He gives + brings LIFE
 - Life is found in Him alone

RESPONSE//

1. **Gospel response: Find true/new life in YHWH**
2. **Praise Him because He is faithful, merciful, loving, compassionate**
 - **Worship**
 - **Prayer + reflect on what you are thankful God has done in your life**