

## I vs. I AM - Response Guide

Exodus 3-4

Bethany Assembly of God

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### Introduction

- Who is your favorite superhero and why?
- Do you have a favorite story of real life heroism? If so, share it.
- What about Bible “heroes?” Who’s your favorite? Was he/she an imposing hero, or a reluctant hero?
- Talk about the term “reluctant hero.” What makes a person a “reluctant hero?” What contributes to a reluctant hero’s hesitation?
- Today, we’re talking about the call of Moses from Exodus 3-4. Has God called you?

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” **(1 Peter 2:9)**

- God’s call includes many blessings and purposes for our lives. What are some elements of His call? (Two of the most important are salvation and service.)
- How does it make you feel to know that God has called you? Can God still clarify or direct His call on your life?

*In Moses’ call, we find a pattern of how God calls people as well as how we often respond. As we look, I want to encourage you to concentrate on the Caller.*

- Read Exodus 3:1-6
- Consider how ordinary the circumstance was for Moses, other than the burning bush. Why do you think that God appeared to Moses in something so ordinary? Could it be that God wanted to reveal to Moses that He is able to work in ordinary people without destroying them because of His presence?
- Why do you think God chooses to reveal Himself in fire? Can you think of other times when God did this? (see Hebrew 12:29) What’s the significance?

*God can fill ordinary things, like you and me, with His holy fire. Encountering the holy presence of God may sound fascinating or fun, and in a sense, it is, but it’s also terrifying because we*

*know that fire burns bushes and the ordinary can't hold the extraordinary, or so we think. So, like Moses, we may object to whatever God calls us to do. But as we consider God's responses to Moses' objections, I want to encourage you to **concentrate on the Caller**.*

## **You should concentrate on the Caller.**

### **1. I will be with you.**

- Read Exodus 3:7-12
- What was Moses' first objection to God's call?
- What was God's response to that objection?
- On what basis does God call people to serve Him? Is it because of their pedigree or simply their talent?

*When you feel insufficient, you're in good company. God uses ordinary things like bushes, and shepherds to accomplish His purposes and they get to know Him in the process.*

### **2. I AM sends you.**

- Read Exodus 3:13-22
- Have you ever thought about God's name? The names of many gods in the Ancient Near East were tied to a specific attribute or physical power they were thought to possess. How does God's name differ?
- While God is called by many titles in the Bible (i.e. The Lord of Hosts, the Lord who breaks out, the Lord who heals...), the name in this passage was known by the Jewish people as *the name*. Why do you suppose that is?

*I don't think it is going too far to suggest that God is describing himself as the basis of all being. He exists without need of anyone and everything that exists needs Him.*

- Even though God describes himself with a mysterious and grandiose name, to whom does He tie himself (the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)? Why do you suppose that He does that?

*while God is the basis for all that exists, He doesn't just show up in the abstract, like some new kind of god on the scene. He is the God who has been at work all along and He will fulfill His promises. When you consider God's call on your life, this is a reassuring thought. God may call you to do things that seem frighteningly new to you. They might feel detached from everything you've known previously. But remember, God is not new to this. He is the ground on which all creation stands, the basis of all existence.*

- Read Colossians 1:17.
- What similarities do you see between God's name and what Paul says concerning Jesus?
- Since Jesus is the basis of all creation and He promises to be with me, why should little "I" doubt the great "I AM"?

### **3. God will do the convincing.**

- Read Exodus 4:1-9.
- What was Moses' third objection?
- What was the significance of the signs that God gave Moses?
- Have you ever worried that if you followed God's call to witness, to serve, or to lead, that people wouldn't take you seriously or would outright reject you?
- Consider Acts 2:22, Acts 2:43, and John 14:12. What pattern do you see in these passages about signs and wonders?

*You don't have to try really hard to do miraculous signs or worry about who will believe you. Instead, trust God to do the convincing. If His work requires a sign, He will give one. You be faithful and obedient to what God has called you to do.*

### **4. I will be with your mouth.**

- Read Exodus 4:10-12.
- What is Moses' fourth objection?
- Can you relate to Moses? Have you ever been nervous about public speaking or about presenting an idea to someone you were pretty sure would reject you? Share about how you felt.
- You can see that God is getting more direct with Moses, now. Do you think it was a legitimate excuse for Moses to say that he wasn't good with words? (Remember, he went on to write the first five books of the Bible.)
- In light of what we've learned about God from this passage, especially as revealed in His name, do you think you have a legitimate excuse to say that you aren't good at speaking? What excuse could you offer for not responding to God's call to lead, to teach, to testify, to witness in light of God's words?

### **5. I will send help.**

- Read Exodus 4:13-17

- What is Moses' fifth and final objection?
- While He may have been terse, did God respond in anger? What does this tell you about God?
- Have you ever disobeyed God's call because of your fear, stubbornness, insecurity, or "all of the above?" What does God's response to Moses teach you about whether God will call on you again?
- How will you respond the next time God calls?

### **Conclusion**

- How has God been speaking to you? Has He been pushing you toward some particular service or ministry? Has He been pressing you to be a witness? How will you respond to that call in light of this passage?