

“Who Is the Great I AM?”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

We are well on our way through the Story of God. We have learned much in just a few weeks about who God is and what He desires for His people. We learned about creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the Flood, Noah, and God’s covenant with Abram. Through the story so far we have seen a Faithful God who loves people in spite of their rebellious hearts.

Week 4 of the StoryFormed way covers a lot of ground throughout the biblical story. Years after Abraham and Sarah had Isaac, Isaac married Rebekah who had a son named Jacob—his name was later changed to Israel— meaning “struggler with God”. The Hebrews would then be called the people of Israel after Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons. One of his sons, named Joseph, ended up living in Egypt. Joseph invited his family to join him to escape a horrible famine that covered all the land. While living in Egypt, the people of Israel grew into a large nation. After Joseph died, the King of Egypt named Pharaoh, feared Israel because of their great numbers. He treated them horribly and made Israel his slaves. Their slavery lasted 400 years but God promised he would bless his people...and He blessed them through a man named Moses.

This week’s sermon focused on Moses’ burning bush encounter with God at Horeb, the mountain of God. However, this week’s lesson in the StoryFormed Way will cover the entire rest of the Old Testament Story. That’s right, the entire Old Testament from Exodus to Malachi! We will hear the story of Moses, the Exodus, and how God delivered His people into the Promised Land. We will learn how they were to be a people who displayed God’s glory to the nations and how over and over again, even through the sending of kings and prophets, and through judgment and exile, they rebelled again and again to live their own way, doing what was right in their own eyes. Even though God still loved His people, they entered into a dark 400 year period of silence from God. At the end of the story this week you may be left wondering, will God fulfill His promise? Will He be faithful to send a Redeemer?

We know the answer to that question. Just as Moses learned at the mountain of God about the Great I AM we too will learn that He is the same today. Jesus Christ identified with and claimed to be the Great I AM. We learned that we can trust Him with our lives. He is extraordinarily beautiful and glorious. He is worthy of worship and a life of surrender to His plan. As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine the sermon outline once again. Do you thank God for who He is? Do you focus on His character and beauty or do you spend your time dwelling on your difficulties in life? We can have hope in this life even in the midst of brokenness, messiness, sadness, pain, and sorrow because we know the Great I AM!

Message Outline

God says,

1. “I am Holy.” (1-6)
He is morally pure and without corruption.
He is approachably separate.
He is reverentially feared.
2. “I am Compassionate.” (7)
He sees your suffering.
He hears your cries.
He understands your pain.
He remembers His promises.
3. “I am Deliverer.” (8)
He rescues from danger.
He restores abundant life.
4. “I am Instructor.” (9-10)
He has the plan.
He sends laborers.
He equips the called.
5. “I am Present.” (11-12)
He is sufficient to calm your fears.
He expects your worship.
6. “I am Eternal.” (13-14)
He is the uncaused cause.
He has no needs.
7. “I am Faithful.” (15-18)
He promises freedom.
He promises redemption.
He promises possession.
He promises adoption.
8. “I am Sovereign.” (19)
He is never surprised.
He always wins.
He will forever rule.
9. “I am Just.” (20)
10. “I am Gracious.” (21-22)

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Exodus 3:1-22:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**
 - Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
 - Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
 - Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
 - Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
 - Pray for the Missional Communities impact their communities with the Gospel.
 - Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
 - Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- **Local:**
 - Pray for the Storyformed Way, a 10-week journey through the Story of God. Pray for open and receptive hearts and for God to use this journey to draw people to Himself.
 - Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
 - Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- **Global:**
 - Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
 - Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
 - Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
 - Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
 - Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.