AREN'T YOU CURIOUS?

Scripture used: Exodus 3:1-3 NLT

OVERVIEW

Today Pastor Hurmon began the message series *The Gift of Curiosity* with the sermon titled "Aren't You Curious?" Curiosity has been at the very heart of many discoveries. It is also at the center of the Explore God initiative starting October 1 and the seven basic questions this initiative will explore. God shaped us to ask questions, and when we exercise our curiosity, we often find our relationship with God growing in surprising ways.

KEY POINTS

- 1. Aren't you curious? Moses was born a Hebrew in Egypt at a time when Pharaoh was killing Hebrew baby boys. Moses' mother acted to save his life, and he was raised by Pharaoh's daughter through adoption. At the age of 40, Moses killed an Egyptian for harming a Hebrew and had to flee his home to avoid punishment (Exodus 2 NLT). Moses felt let down by God. Moses thought the people would know that God had sent him, but they didn't (Acts 7:25 NLT). In his new home, Moses married into the family of a pagan priest. At 80 years old, Moses went far into the wilderness to Mt. Sinai. It was there he saw the angel of the Lord in the burning bush.
- 2. God wants to position you for a next-level REVELATION! The GOD-revelation happened for Moses on several levels.
 - a. **God transformed a familiar experience into an unfamiliar occurrence.** It was not strange to see a burning bush in the desert. What caught Moses' attention was the bush was not engulfed by the flames. God can show up in Explore God small groups in the same manner. Having a small group is not strange, but God can use this familiar experience to bring an unfamiliar occurrence.
 - b. God deliberately provoked Moses to ask questions. God has shaped us and designed us to have questions that lead us to him. <u>Hebrews 11:6 NLT</u> tells us that first we need to seek Him by asking questions that allow us to move closer to God. The first question Moses asks is, "Why is that bush not burning up?" This very non-religious question leads to very spiritual questions. Oftentimes people feel uncomfortable sharing their faith because they don't want to impose their beliefs on other people. Explore God opens a venue to ask and discuss questions.
 - **c. God called out to Moses.** God called to Moses from the burning bush, and Moses replied, "Here am I!" God can do something for all of the people you might invite to an Explore God group, but the first person who is likely to have a deeper experience of God is you. It doesn't matter how long you have walked with God or how long you've been away, God is calling your name. He wants to provide a deeper revelation of Himself for you.
- 3. **God introduced himself to Moses.** God tells Moses He is the God of Moses' people, and Moses confirms that he believes this by covering his face to avoid looking directly at God. His heart was uncovered though, and Moses was filled with questions. You exist? Where have you been during all my suffering? God provides a two part response.
 - a. **God tells Moses He knows.** His time is not the same as human time. What seems like a long time to us, is small to God. He tells him that He was close enough to see the affliction of His people and to hear their cries. He knew their sorrows. God knows our pain. He is part of our experiences.
 - b. God tells Moses he is part of the solution. God's plan was to send Moses to Egypt where he would lead his people out. Moses had a GOD-transforming experience. He heard and experienced God. That is what God has for us too.

DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR What is one time in your life when you exercised curiosity? What was the outcome?
- 2) UNDERSTAND Reread the story of Moses and the burning bush. Imagine yourself standing at the bush with Moses. What questions do you have for God? What do you not understand about Him? What doubts do you have about God's timing and His ability to see and hear our suffering? Allow God to draw you closer to Him through your questioning. Expect Him to reveal the answers to you and to grow you spiritually. Ask Him to give you a God-transforming revelation like He did Moses.
- 3) **DO** Consider leading an Explore God small group. Think about people you might invite to join you as you explore seven questions about God. Click on Explore God for more information.