

Today is a day to ask questions. Let's get our minds going with a warm-up question. Who is your favorite book character? How do you know what that character is like? *(by reading about him/her)*

Now let's ask a bigger life question. Who is God? Where can we find out about who God is? *(the Bible)* Do you think He minds or gets annoyed when we ask a question like, "Who are you?"

We're going to explore Exodus 3 where God is talking to Moses through a burning bush, and Moses asks, "When I'm asked by people what your name is, who should I say you are?" And God answers that His name is Yahweh.

Yahweh is spelled Y-A-H-W-E-H. Did you have any kids named Yahweh in your class this year? Digging through what Yahweh means helps us uncover answers about who God is. Let's look deeper at what's going on in Exodus 3 because the first time God uses a name seems like it's a significant moment.

At the time of Exodus 3, Moses is 80 years old. What are some things we already know about Moses?

Moses spent the first 40 years of his life in the best schools in Egypt getting the best administrative and military training. He spent the next 40 years of his life shepherding stinky sheep. And then God appears to Moses and reveals His big, miraculous, crazy plan of adventure for Moses' life. His voice booms from a burning bush, and He tells Moses to go back to Egypt and rescue the Israelites who are slaves.

Exodus 1 says that the Egyptians treated the Israelites ruthlessly. They were excessive in their cruelty to them. But when God tells Moses He wants to use Moses to rescue the Israelites, Moses does something that is really easy for all of us to do.

He looks at himself.

He looks at himself and says, "Oh, I can't do that. I don't say things well. I'm not good enough at speaking to do that."

This is a powerful life lesson for you and me. When God asks us to do something, if we look at ourselves we'll know we can't do it. But when we put our eyes on God and focus on who God is, He invites us to be His partner in accomplishing things beyond our imagination.

God's answer to Moses is that His name is Yahweh, which means **I am**. God's answer is that if Moses just turns his eyes to Him, Moses will discover God is everything that He is ever going to need. Moses doesn't know this yet, but here's what God has in mind. **I am** going to release 2 million Israelite slaves out of Egypt. **I am** going to split the Red Sea so they can escape. When my people are hungry, **I am** going to put out bread on the desert ground to feed them. When my people are thirsty, **I am** going to bring water from rocks. **I am** all that you need for every day of the rest of your life.

So why do you think it's worth our time to explore who God is? Why is it more important to be discussing this now instead of playing a video game?

In addition to all of those answers, knowing who God is helps us to trust Him. Psalm 9:10 David writes this about God. "Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord (Yahweh), have never forsaken those who seek you." (Read a couple times to let it sink in.)

What's the name we now know for God? *(Yahweh)* Is this promise in Psalm 9 for you and me? How often does God forsake, which means abandon or leave, those who seek Him? What if we've messed up that day? What if we're in a bad mood? Does God forsake us? NO! God's name of Yahweh reveals to us that God steps into our lives when they're not pretty and they're not perfect, and He is our great **I am**. He is everything we need, and He will never forsake us! Let's pray and turn our eyes to who He is as Yahweh, our great **I am**.