

A NAME LIKE NO OTHER

OWNING A FAITH THAT MATTERS

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE.**

Daily

Discipleship Guide

YOUNG ADULTS • CSB

WINTER 2023-24

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LEADING SOMEONE TO THE GREATEST DECISION OF ALL

One of the great joys of leading a group in Bible study is seeing group members deepen their walk with Christ. Everyone's walk with Christ begins with an initial decision to follow Him in repentance and faith. People may be in your group who have not made that decision yet. Take advantage of your time with them to talk about becoming a Christian.

As you tell your own story about coming to Christ, share these key truths:

1. We're all sinners, and each of us needs to acknowledge that truth before God. That acknowledgement involves repentance, which is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Refer to Romans 3:23; 6:23; and Acts 3:19.
2. The only way a person can receive the gift of forgiveness is by faith in Jesus as God's Son. Use verses like Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; and John 14:6 when talking about faith in Christ.
3. Confessing your faith in Jesus Christ means both believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth that He is Savior and Lord. Share Romans 10:9-10,13.

Invite the person to pray a prayer similar to this:

"Dear God, I know I'm a sinner and have rebelled against You in many ways. I believe Jesus died for my sin and only through faith in His death and resurrection can I be forgiven. I now turn from my sin and ask Jesus to forgive me and come into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I choose to follow Jesus. Thank You, Lord, for loving me and forgiving me. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."

A Special Note about "The Salvation Expressed in God's Name"

(Session 4 of "A Name Like No Other")

As your group studies and discusses this session, use it as an opportunity to lead unsaved group members and guests to faith in Christ. Use "The Physician Comes to Us" on the inside front cover of the Daily Discipleship Guide to connect the session with each member's own need to place their hope and trust in Christ and receive His gift of salvation. The inside cover is a guide for understanding how Jesus provides the one thing we truly need.

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A Name Like No Other

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SPECIAL FOCUS

DON'T MISS THIS!

eBook

Bible Studies for Life is also available as an eBook. You can order a copy at lifeway.com/bsflebook.

EXTRA!

Every week, you'll find additional discussion questions and creative teaching ideas to help you tailor each session to the needs of your group. You'll also find links to magazine articles and the *Family Connection* page for parents.

www.BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra

Podcast

Get free weekly insights for every session of *Bible Studies for Life* with our podcast. Each 20-minute episode will help you get the most out of your upcoming study. Listen at the gym, on your drive home, or wherever is best for you. Just search "Bible Studies for Life Adults" on your favorite podcast app to start listening today.

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Gena Rogers
Content Editor

Dwayne McCrary
Manager, Adult Ongoing Bible Studies

John Paul Basham
Director, Adult Ministry

Ken Braddy
Director, Sunday School

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Bible Studies for Life: Daily Discipleship Guide often lists websites that may be helpful to our readers. Our staff verifies each site's usefulness and appropriateness prior to publication. However, website content changes quickly so we encourage you to approach all websites with caution. Make sure sites are still appropriate before sharing them with students, friends, and family.

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WELCOME


Welcome to winter! Depending on where you live, your weather may get slightly colder, or it may get drastically colder! Either way, change is coming. Culture is ever-changing too. Thankfully, God doesn't change, and because He doesn't change, our faith in Him need not change or waver. As we launch into these studies during this season, we'll discover what God's Word tells us about His name and our faith in His name.

In the study *A Name Like No Other*, we'll see the wonderful, immovable, unchanging character of God that's embedded in His name. He truly has a name like no other. As we discover the beauty of God's name, we're drawn to put our faith in Him. But what does that faith look like? The second study, *Owning a Faith That Matters*, answers that question as we look in the Gospel of Luke to see what Jesus said about faith.

Encountering God through His Word is life-changing; I'm glad you're joining me as we dig into Scripture and grow in seeking God and exercising faith.

Lynn H. Pryor

Team Leader, *Bible Studies for Life*

 @lynnpryor

HOW TO USE BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE

Because God is the guide for your study, invite Him to show you how to be the best facilitator for your group. Read the Bible passage several times with the Holy Spirit showing you its meaning and application.

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Everyone in your group will need a copy of the *Daily Discipleship Guide*. This resource includes:

- **Group pages.** This is the content you will study in your weekly gatherings. This material is also included in this Leader Guide.
- **Live It Out.** This section is designed to help your group apply the study content in the form of actions they carry out during the week. Encourage them to choose at least one action to pursue further.
- **Talk It Out.** This section is designed to encourage two or three individuals to gather during the week and discuss further the passage, its relevance to their lives, and ways they can live it out.
- **Daily Study pages.** Five daily readings provide an opportunity to dig deeper into the Scripture text and Bible study material. Encourage your group to study this content during the week.



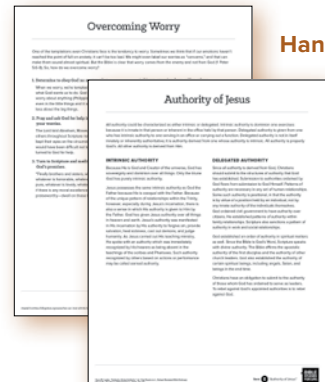
LEADER GUIDE

This Leader Guide provides valuable, customizable content for use in your weekly group meetings. As you prepare to lead your group sessions:

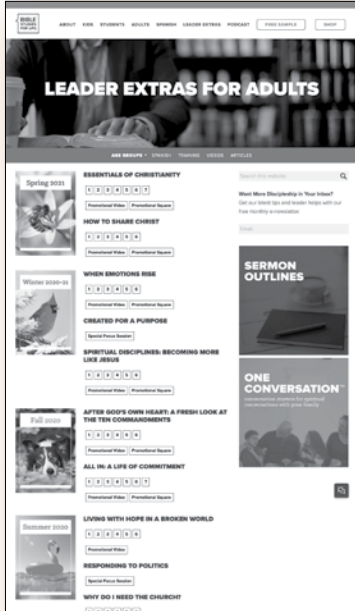
- Begin by asking God to open your mind and heart to His Word. Read the passage in your Bible, noting key words and phrases.
- Review the group plans and make adjustments to fit the needs and personality of your group. These plans will guide you to engage your group in discussion around the Bible passage.
- Read the commentary for the passage. Share insights from the commentary as needed during your group discussion.
- Occasionally you will see a QR code in this book. Use your phone to open the QR code for bonus digital content.
- Gather the Leader Pack items you plan to use in your group time.



Posters



Handouts



LEADER PACK

The optional Leader Pack is designed to enhance your group experience, especially for visual learners. Pull in the Leader Pack items as referenced in the group plan. The Leader Pack also provides access to a variety of digital files, including:

- JPG files of the two main study images that you can use with any presentation software (ie., PowerPoint). (Promote the study by placing these images into an announcement slideshow or display the images during the sessions to reinforce the study topic.)
- PDF file of each pack item. (Create multiple posters; during your sessions, display images on a screen using any presentation software; post images on social media to promote the study.)
- Sample Twitter® and email messages to post prior to your Bible study time to raise awareness and promote the session topic.
- An electronic version of the group plans that you can customize and print.
- Promotional videos to introduce both of the studies in this quarter.
- *Biblical Illustrator* articles that allow you to go deeper in your study.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

Additional discussion questions and teaching suggestions for leaders are available online at BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra.

A twenty-minute podcast is available for each session, providing an overview and insights to help you prepare. Search “Bible Studies for Life Adults” on your favorite podcast app or go to MinistryGrid.com/BibleStudiesforLife.

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO GO DEEPER

The **Advanced Bible Study** is written for group members who desire more extensive commentary. It includes exposition of each session’s Scripture passage, an examination of key words, an introduction to the setting of the passage and biblical life and times, questions to guide the study, and interactive responses to help readers apply God’s truths to their lives today.





10 BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

THE PATHWAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Growing in Christ is a journey—a lifelong journey—but what does that look like? Lifeway’s research reveals eight markers consistently present in the lives of believers who are growing spiritually. Each year, *Bible Studies for Life* engages all eight of these areas. Following this intentional plan for discipleship ensures progress on the pathway to becoming more like Christ.

Visit www.BibleStudiesforLife.com for a fuller picture of this discipleship plan through 2024.

	FALL 2023	WINTER 2023-24	SPRING 2024	SUMMER 2024
LIVE UNASHAMED	Staying True in a World Far from God			
SHARE CHRIST	Confident in the Face of Hard Questions			
SEEK GOD		A Name Like No Other		
EXERCISE FAITH		Owning a Faith That Matters		
OBEY GOD AND DENY SELF			It’s All About Jesus	
SERVE GOD AND OTHERS			Being an Authentic Church	
ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE				Promises We Can Count On
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS				More Than a Sidekick: Serving Alongside Others

A NAME LIKE NO OTHER

How this study supports the Discipleship Plan:

SEEK GOD. Understanding the name of God guides us in knowing Him better. His name helps us understand and trust who He is; consequently, we can live with confidence and trust that He can and will work powerfully in our lives as we turn to Him.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Session 1 | The Importance of God's Name • Exodus 3:1-6,9-15 |
| Session 2 | The Majesty of God's Name • Psalm 138:1-8 |
| Session 3 | The Love Expressed in God's Name • Psalm 103:1-5,8-13,17-19 |
| Session 4 | The Salvation Expressed in God's Name • Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25 |
| Session 5 | The Righteousness of God's Name • Jeremiah 23:5-6; Romans 3:10b-13,21-26 |
| Session 6 | The Protection of God's Name • Psalm 91:1-6,9-16 |

OWNING A FAITH THAT MATTERS

How this study supports the Discipleship Plan:

EXERCISE FAITH. The Christian life is a journey, and as we walk with Christ, we will be regularly challenged to trust Him. We grow in our faith as we continually trust Christ.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Session 1 | Life-Changing Faith • Luke 5:1-11 |
| Session 2 | Yielded Faith • Luke 7:1-10 |
| Session 3 | Expectant Faith • Luke 8:41-42,49-56 |
| Session 4 | Praying Faith • Luke 11:1-13 |
| Session 5 | Confident Faith • Luke 12:22-34 |
| Session 6 | Maturing Faith • Luke 17:1-10 |

Why People Should Leave Your Group

By Lynn H. Pryor

We love to see our Bible study groups grow in size. After all, one sign of healthy church growth is when more people engage in Bible study and discipleship. And yet, another sign of healthy church growth is a reduction in the number of adults in your group!

That may sound odd, but look at it from a parent's perspective. Parents love to bring a child into the family. It's a joy, and they love to watch the child grow. But a parent knows the best thing for that child is to eventually leave the home, become an independent adult, and maybe even start his or her own family.

No one likes to see people leave their Bible study group. Admittedly, I don't. But if adults are leaving the group for the right reason, it's a great benefit. It benefits the individuals, as it can strengthen their discipleship, and it can certainly strengthen the ministry of the church. But what could possibly be a good reason for people to leave your group?

Serving in the church.



Group Bible study isn't simply for the sake of Bible study. At least, it shouldn't be. As we engage in the study of God's Word, we also see how it applies to our lives. Bible study is more than knowledge; it's also action. We learn about God and how He works in our lives, and we respond with action. A key part of our growth in Christ occurs as we serve and minister to others.

Think about how you've grown since you started leading a group. No doubt, leading a group has made you a better student of the Bible, stretched your faith, and shaped who you are today. Some of the people in your group could experience that same kind of growth, and you may be cheating them by not giving them permission to leave your group.

As we lead our groups week after week, our instruction should include encouragement to step out and lead in some capacity—and that may very well mean they teach or serve at the same time your group meets.

There's an old adage that eighty percent of the work in the church is done by twenty percent of the people. I don't know who originated that statistic or how accurate it is, but it's surely close. In my own experience, I've seen that when we discover a committed Christian who is willing to serve in some capacity, we tend to give this person more . . . and more . . . and more to do. We know this individual will say yes if we ask. Meanwhile, other believers in the church go untapped for service.

Ideally, all Christians should have at least one ministry/task they do in the church's overall ministry. Unfortunately, it seems every church has individuals who are content to be "pew-warmers," doing nothing more than attending the worship service. But there are others, including many in your Bible study group, who would step up and serve if asked or given permission to do so.

I'm not a fan of the broad announcement: "WE NEED SOMEONE TO TEACH THE EIGHTH-GRADE STUDENTS!" Typically, the person who responds is the person who's already doing six things in the church. A better approach may be to:

1. TALK INDIVIDUALLY WITH THOSE IN YOUR GROUP WHO COULD SERVE IN A PARTICULAR AREA.

You've observed their participation in the group. You've seen how they interact with others. Over time, you've seen their skills and giftedness, so tell them what you see. Challenge them to step out and serve as God has equipped them.

2. SHARE NAMES WITH THE ONES NEEDING HELP.

Let the leaders know you have a member of your group who would be a great asset to their ministry. These leaders, in turn, can talk with the individual with more clarity about ministry opportunities.

3. GIVE PEOPLE PERMISSION TO LEAVE.

Some may feel they're abandoning you or feel an allegiance to you and the group, especially if you helped them through a rough time. Remind them that the greatest compliment a person can give you is to follow your example by becoming a leader of a group.

Most people won't step up unless asked. I know because my wife is just such a person. Her gift is service, but she doesn't readily volunteer. When asked, she gladly helps. She's currently working with one-year-olds each week—because someone asked.

One person who may need to leave your Bible study group is you! Bring someone alongside you to lead the class. Mentor and model what's involved in leading a group. Let the person see how you prepare. You could even tag-team teach for a season, with the goal of handing over the leadership reigns permanently. This frees you up to start a new class!

Lead and disciple your Bible study group with an eye on getting others to step out and lead. The church benefits from additional servants and leaders, individuals exercise their gifts and grow in their spiritual journeys, the kingdom expands, and God is honored.

Lynn H. Pryor is the publishing team leader for *Bible Studies for Life*. A resident of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Lynn serves as the discipleship director in his church. He offers a weekly blog at lynnhpryor.com.

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A NAME LIKE NO OTHER

We study aspects of God's name not merely as a theological exercise, but also for application to our daily experience. While honoring God's name is worthy by itself, doing so impacts our lives. We draw closer to Him by knowing more about His nature. We live more securely because His name encourages trust. We love Him better and allow His love to flow through us more fully because of the love expressed in His name.

This study will help us understand how God's name reveals His majestic nature. Because of His name, we can trust Him, worship Him, and pray to Him. Whoever calls on Jesus's name will be saved. We appreciate the righteousness of His name. His name encourages us to trust Him with our well-being.

As we study God's name, let's use this opportunity to get to know Him more and love Him better.

AUTHOR

Chuck Lawless is Dean of Doctoral Studies and Vice President for Spiritual Formation at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, where he also serves as Professor of Evangelism and Missions. In addition, Dr. Lawless is Team Leader for Theological Education Strategists for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

COMMENTARY WRITER

Gregory T. Pouncey has previously pastored churches in Alabama, and now is senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton, Mississippi. He studied at Samford University (B.S.) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div., Ph.D.), where he was named the President's Scholar for 1987-88. Gregory and his wife, Cathy, have two sons and one daughter.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S NAME

THE POINT

God's name reveals He is the all-powerful God whom we can completely trust.

THE PASSAGE

Exodus 3:1-6,9-15

LIFE CONNECTION

Successful businesses work hard to ensure that their name or their brand evokes a positive feeling in the marketplace. They recognize the value of a good name and of maintaining that good name. Names are important, but no name carries greater value and importance than the name of God. God's name reflects His attributes and character and draws us to trust Him.

BACKGROUND

Moses fled from Egypt after he killed an Egyptian taskmaster who was mistreating an Israelite slave (Exodus 2:11-12). He took refuge in Midian (v. 15), where he met and settled with the family of Reuel, the priest of Midian. While perhaps Moses thought this would be his home from that day forward, God had other plans as He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (vv. 23-25).

GETTING STARTED



5 MINUTES

DISCUSS: Give your group an opportunity to discuss the question on page 15 of the Daily Discipleship Guide (DDG): **Who in your family tree has an interesting or unique name?**

RECAP (DDG, PAGE 16): Invite a volunteer to read **The Bible Meets Life** to introduce the session:

My full name is Charles Edward Lawless, Jr. As the first son, my parents named me after my father. My brother's full name is Edward Allen Lawless, after our grandfather. Edward was also my dad's middle name. My grandpa and brother shared a birthday, and my brother was instrumental in leading Grandpa to the Lord. Names tell a story, and they really do matter. No name matters more than the name of God. God's name reflects His character and draws us to trust Him.

GUIDE: Direct attention to **The Point** on page 16 of the DDG. Invite the group to fill in the blank. **God's name reveals He is the ALL-POWERFUL God whom we can completely trust.**

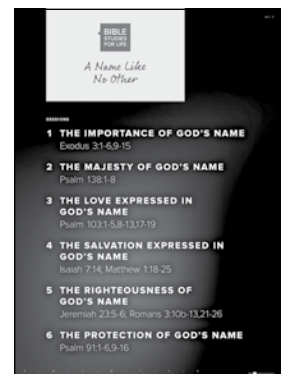
LEADER PACK: Display **Pack Item 1**, the **A Name Like No Other** poster, and give a brief overview of the session titles in this study.

PRAY: Transition into the study by asking God to help us better understand what His name reflects about His attributes and character.

Study Introduction



SCAN ME



TIP: When helpful, use this "Notes" column to record additional discussion questions, concepts, and activities that connect the study content with your specific group.

STUDY THE BIBLE



10 MINUTES

NOTES

EXODUS 3:1-6

1 Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** Then the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush. As Moses looked, he saw that the bush was on fire but was not consumed. **3** So Moses thought, “I must go over and look at this remarkable sight. Why isn’t the bush burning up?” **4** When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called out to him from the bush, “Moses, Moses!” “Here I am,” he answered. **5** “Do not come closer,” he said. “Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” **6** Then he continued, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

GIVE BIBLICAL CONTEXT (DDG, PAGE 16): Having killed an Egyptian, Moses fled the palace and found shelter among the tents of Jethro, a Midianite priest. Marrying Jethro’s daughter, Moses traded the silk robes of royalty for the humble clothes of a shepherd. God used Moses’s exile to prepare him for a historic act that would display the Lord’s trustworthiness.

READ: Ask someone to read aloud Exodus 3:1-6 on page 16 of the DDG.

GUIDE: Use the commentary for verse 5 on the next page of this Leader Guide to discuss more about what is meant by “holy ground.”

GUIDE: Direct your group’s attention to statement 1 on page 16 of the DDG. Invite the group to fill in the blanks: **God is a holy God we are to approach with REVERENTIAL FEAR.**

RECAP (DDG, PAGE 16): While shepherding on the mountain, Moses saw a bush on fire but not consumed. The situation surely intensified when Moses heard his name called from the bush. Realizing it was the voice of God, all Moses could do was hide his face from the Holy One. It was God who called Moses that day. The most holy God of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob planned to keep His word to give His people a land—and He intended to use Moses to accomplish that task.

DISCUSS: What does it mean for something to be holy?

TRANSITION: In the next verses, we see that we can trust God will do what He says He will do.

ALTERNATE QUESTION:

How do you feel about approaching God?

EXODUS 3:1-6 *Commentary*

Connection to The Point: God is a holy God we are to approach with reverential fear.

Shepherding (v. 1). Egyptians didn't have a high view of shepherds. They were "detestable to Egyptians" (Genesis 46:34) because they viewed shepherds as being uncultured in their nomadic ways.

Father-in-law Jethro (v. 1). Jethro is also identified as "Reuel" (Exodus 2:18). It is possible that the term for "father-in-law" is used of all male relatives in that line, meaning Reuel was the grandfather of Moses's wife, Zipporah (v. 21) and Jethro was her father. It is also possible that the names were synonymous. It was not uncommon for a person to have multiple names in that period.

Priest of Midian (v. 1). Midian was a son of Abraham by his concubine Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2). Abraham had sent him and his family away to the east (v. 6), where they became a nomadic tribe. The Midianites settled in habitable areas of the central and northern parts of the Sinai Peninsula, where Moses went when he fled Egypt. The god that the priest of Midian served is uncertain, though Jethro later declared Yahweh to be "greater than all gods" (Exodus 18:11).

Wilderness (v. 1). The term "wilderness" is sometimes referred to as "desert." The wilderness is similar to a desert in that it receives little rain throughout the year, but it is usually not composed of sand, like we normally associate with deserts. Rather it is a rocky, barren land.

Horeb, the mountain of God (v. 1). Horeb was another name for Mount Sinai. Sinai was the name of the peninsula, and Horeb was a mountain located in the southern part of the peninsula. Moses had apparently traveled a far distance from Midian with Jethro's sheep to find good pasture land. Moses referred to Horeb as "the mountain of God" because it was where God appeared to him and where he later received the Ten Commandments from the Lord (Exodus 19:20; 20:1-17).

Angel of the LORD (v. 2). The phrase "angel of the LORD" appears in the Old Testament fifty times. It often appears to designate a theophany, or appearance of God to humanity. In Exodus 3, the angel is referred to as both LORD (vv. 2,4,7,15-16,18) and God (vv. 4,6,11-16,18).

A bush (v. 2). The Hebrew word (*seneh*) refers to a small, thorny bush that populated this region of the wilderness. The presence of God was often associated with fire: a pot of fire and a flaming torch (Genesis 15:17); a pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21); "A consuming fire, a jealous God" (Deuteronomy 4:24). The miraculous sighting of a bush that was burning but not consumed attracted Moses's attention.

God (v. 4). The Hebrew term is *Elohim*. It emphasizes the majesty and infinite nature of God.

"Moses, Moses!" (v. 4). In Semitic culture of that time, speaking someone's name twice was known as "repetition of endearment." It was a way of expressing friendship and affection. "Thus Moses would have understood immediately that he was being addressed by someone who loved him and was concerned about him."¹

"Remove the sandals . . . holy ground" (v. 5).

Priests who entered temples in that day would enter barefoot to prevent bringing in dust or impurities to the place of worship. An inferior removed his sandals when in the presence of his superior. God had taken a common place in the wilderness and turned it into "holy ground." Because the presence of God was in the bush, Moses had to keep a distance from the bush and remove his sandals in acknowledgment that he was in the presence of God.

"God of your father" (v. 6). God first introduced Himself as the "God of your father." He also spoke in the present tense "**I am.**" The same God who was with the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, was now with Moses, and this was too much for Moses to endure. He **hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.**

STUDY THE BIBLE



10 MINUTES

NOTES

EXODUS 3:9-12

9 So because the Israelites' cry for help has come to me, and I have also seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them, **10** therefore, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."
11 But Moses asked God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" **12** He answered, "I will certainly be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I am the one who sent you: when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship God at this mountain."

READ: Ask someone to read aloud Exodus 3:9-12 on page 17 of the DDG.

GUIDE: Direct your group's attention to statement 2 on page 17 of the DDG.

Invite the group to fill in the blank: **We can TRUST that God will do what He says He will do.**

RECAP (DDG, PAGE 17): God called Moses to lead the Hebrews who had been slaves in Egypt to leave that land. Moses asked the question we often ask when God calls us to do something beyond our ability: "Who am I, that I should go?" (v. 11). But the story wasn't about Moses the leader; it was about the God who would lead him. The faithful, promise-keeping God would not only be with Moses as he went to Pharaoh, but He would also show His power by bringing His people back to that same mountain to worship Him. He is a trustworthy God.

GUIDE: Use the commentary for verse 12 on the next page of this Leader Guide to give further information about what God saved the Israelites from and what He saved them to.

DISCUSS: What reasons do you have for trusting God?

ACTIVITY (OPTIONAL): See the optional activity (on page 27 in this Leader Guide) to give your group an opportunity to identify what makes something or someone trustworthy.

TRANSITION: In the next verses, we see that God's name reflects His sovereign character that draws us into a trusting relationship with Him.

ALTERNATE QUESTION:

How can we be sure that God's promises are true?

EXODUS 3:9-12 *Commentary*

Connection to The Point: We can trust God to do what He says He will do because He is all-powerful.

“The Israelites’ cry” (v. 9). The intensity of the Israelites’ cries for help was due to the Egyptians’ increasing demands under which the Israelites were forced to labor. God had heard their cries and remembered His covenant with the patriarchs (Genesis 12:1-3; 15); He was now acting to fulfill His promises to Abraham by delivering the Israelites from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 2:23-25).

“Seen” (v. 9). Nothing escapes God’s attention. He knows all that happens throughout His creation.

“Oppressing them” (v. 9). The Israelites were suffering under the crushing weight of the Egyptians’ work demands. The oppression of the Israelites centered on the Egyptians’ fear that the Hebrews were becoming too numerous and powerful (1:9). This resulted in increased workloads (vv. 11-14) and genocide against Israelite male infants (vv. 16,22). It would get worse before it got better, as more labor was demanded of the Israelites with less supplies provided to accomplish their work (5:6-19).

“Go. I am sending you” (v. 10). Moses was to be God’s representative before Pharaoh and the Egyptians, as well as the leader of the Israelites during their exodus from Egypt.

“My people” (v. 10). Abraham’s descendants were part of God’s covenant; therefore they were God’s people. God called Abraham to leave his homeland and go to a land God promised Him (Canaan). The Lord promised to bless Abraham and make him into a great nation. Through Abraham, all the peoples of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3).

“Out of Egypt” (v. 10). Joseph asked his descendants to carry his bones from Egypt to the land God had promised the Israelites (Genesis 50:24-25). The Israelites spent 430 years in Egypt (Exodus 12:40), so slavery and Egyptian culture were most if not all that the Israelites knew by the time of Moses.

“Who am I” (v. 11). This was a proper and respectful way of expressing humility when given such a large assignment. This question in and of itself did not suggest that Moses lacked self-confidence. However, Moses’s seeming lack of self-confidence is clearly apparent in another passage (4:10). Most likely Moses’s question expressed both respect and humility, as well as a lack of self-confidence.

“Be with you” (v. 12). God promised Moses that he would not be alone in accomplishing the task He was giving him. God would go with him. This is a similar promise to the one given to Christians by Jesus in the Great Commission where they are commanded to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20).

“Sign” (v. 12). This Hebrew word (*oth*) describes something that points to something of greater value or significance. For instance, the rainbow was a sign God would not destroy the world again by water (9:12-13,17). The purpose of this sign in Exodus 3:12 was so all would know it was the Lord who sent Moses to the Israelites and that it was the Lord who would deliver the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.

“Worship” (v. 12). God saved the Israelites *from* something (slavery), but He also saved them *to* something (worship and witness). He delivered them from their old way of life and prepared them for a calling to worship Him, to live in community with Him, and to be a witness concerning the one, true God to the world. In Hebrew the verb is plural, meaning that God was calling the entire nation to worship Him after He had delivered them from the Egyptians.

“This mountain” (v. 12). This is a reference to “the mountain of God” (v. 1), which identifies this mountain as Horeb, another name for Mount Sinai. It was on this mountain that God would descend in the presence of the Israelites (vv. 16-20). It is also where God would give Moses the Ten Commandments, the instructions concerning how the Israelites were to faithfully live in covenant with God as His people, as well as instructions on building the tabernacle.

STUDY THE BIBLE



15 MINUTES

NOTES



ALTERNATE QUESTION:

How does the way God worked in the past inform the way we walk in the present?

EXODUS 3:13-15

13 Then Moses asked God, “If I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what should I tell them?” **14** God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.” **15** God also said to Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: The LORD, 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 name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.”

READ: Ask someone to read aloud Exodus 3:13-15 on page 17 of the DDG.

GUIDE: Direct your group’s attention to statement 3 on page 17 of the DDG. Invite the group to fill in the blank: **God’s name reflects His SOVEREIGN character that draws us into a trusting relationship with Him.**

RECAP (DDG, PAGE 17): When Moses heard God’s call, he suspected the people would ask him about the God who set him up as their leader. God powerfully addressed Moses’s concern by giving him His name: “I AM WHO I AM” (v. 14). God was saying to Moses, “I have always been and will always be. I am the present-tense God of the Hebrews who has the right to call them out and set you apart to lead them.”

DISCUSS: When have you seen someone respond to the call of God on their life?

LEADER PACK: Display **Pack Item 2**, the **Names of God** poster, to draw your group’s attention to the names of God revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14.

GUIDE: Use the commentary on the next page of this Leader Guide to point out the importance of how God identified Himself in these verses: It was important for the people of Israel to know that the God who spoke to Moses was the God who created and sustained the world in which they lived, and He was about to deliver them from slavery in Egypt.

DISCUSS: How does knowing God’s name help you trust Him?

DO: Direct the group to the **Engage** activity on page 17 of the DDG (page 27 of this Leader Guide) to help them consider different names for God found in Scripture and to begin using those names as they interact with Him. If time allows, invite volunteers to share their responses with the group.

EXODUS 3:13-15 *Commentary*

Connection to The Point: God's name reflects His sovereign character that draws us into a trusting relationship with Him.

“If I go to the Israelites” (v. 13). This conditional clause is an indication of the concern that Moses would have had about returning to Egypt, where he had killed an Egyptian and then fled to the wilderness to escape Pharaoh's wrath (2:11-15). He needed assurance that what God was asking Him to do was attainable.

“What is his name?” (v. 13). Although God has different names based on the circumstances through which people came to know Him, He is still the same God who is consistent in character. The reason for Moses asking the name of God was so the Israelites would know the source of his calling and message.

“I AM WHO I AM” (v. 14). God revealed to Moses that His name is “I AM WHO I AM,” the translation of the personal name of God—*Yahweh*. This name comes from the Hebrew verb for “to be.” It emphasizes God as being both self-existent and self-sufficient. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists. It was important for the people of Israel to know that the God who spoke to Moses was the God who created and sustained the world in which they lived, and He was about to deliver them from slavery in Egypt.

“I AM” (v. 14). This is a shortened form of the Hebrew translated “I AM WHO I AM.” Later, Jesus would refer to Himself as “I am” when He said, “Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58, see 1:1-3).

“Say this to the Israelites” (v. 15). Moses was to tell the Hebrews that *Yahweh* was the same God who had revealed Himself to their ancestors and made His covenant with them. In reestablishing the Israelites as His people and leading them to the promised land, God was continuing the work of fulfilling the covenant He had begun in calling Abraham. This promise would have its ultimate fulfillment in the coming of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, through whose sacrifice people can

be saved from their sins, reconciled to God, and receive eternal life (Mark 10:45; John 3:16).

“The LORD” (v. 15). This is a substitution for God's name *Yahweh*. The substitution follows the practice of the Jews, who substituted the word *Adonai* (meaning “lord” or “master”) for *Yahweh* because they feared saying God's name lest they mispronounce it. When *LORD* occurs (in small caps), it is an indicator that the word being referenced is *Yahweh*—the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists.

“My name forever” (v. 15). Though the Hebrews did not have a fully developed view of eternity, the Hebrew word translated *forever* (*olam*) is the closest they came to understanding the concept. It referred to a continuing permanence, or something that would extend to the future, even beyond what one could comprehend or experience with his own senses. In this context, it indicates there never will be a time when God's name ceases to exist. The Israelites could trust Moses because his commission was from God, whose name will last into all eternity.

“Remembered” (v. 15). One of the consistent reasons the Israelites strayed from their faith in and covenant with *Yahweh* was that they failed to remember Him, their covenant with Him, and how He had faithfully provided for them and their ancestors. Instead, they strayed, placing their hopes in false gods, and thereby falling into idolatry.

“Every generation” (v. 15). God did not choose Israel because of some deserved merit on their part. Rather, He chose them because of His grace and His desire to use them to bless all other nations (Genesis 12:3). His desire was to use the Hebrew people to reveal Himself to the nations. The Hebrews failed in this regard; but God still used the Hebrews to bring the Messiah, Jesus, into the world. In so doing, the name of God would stand forever. God declared to Moses that *Yahweh* was the name by which He was to be known to every future generation of the Israelites.



5 MINUTES

NOTES

LIVE IT OUT

ASK: What actions will you take in response to today's study?

GUIDE: Direct your group to review the three bulleted statements under **Live It Out** on page 18 of the DDG. Call on volunteers to share (1) which of these statements is something they want to pursue further, or (2) ways this study will transform how they trust God this week.

- **Admit your struggle.** Where are you struggling to trust God? Admit this to someone you trust. Simply inviting another person into your struggle can renew your hope.
- **Examine the "I AM."** Look up the list of Jesus's "I AM" statements in John (6:35; 8:12; 10:7,11,14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1). Write down at least one thing each statement reveals about His character.
- **Answer God's call.** Is God calling you to do something that seems beyond your ability, skills, or position? Take a step of faith and trust Him.

WRAP IT UP

GUIDE: Invite each person to gather with two or three Christ-followers of the same gender this week for a deeper discussion, using **Talk It Out** (page 18 of the DDG) to guide their discussion. Encourage your group to spend time each day in God's Word with the **Daily Study** section (pages 19-24 of the DDG).

RECAP: Read or restate from page 16 of the DDG.

Names tell a story, and they really do matter. No name matters more than the name of God. God's name reflects His character and draws us to trust Him.

PRAY: Close your group time with prayer, thanking God for who He is and for the assurance that He can always be completely trusted.



Free additional ideas for your group are available at BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra

ENGAGE

List different names of God recorded in Scripture. Circle the ones you use to address God. Try using some additional names for God in your prayer time this week.

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BONUS CONTENT

ACTIVITY (OPTIONAL): In advance, gather several items that have the manufacturer's logo prominently displayed on them.

- Divide your group into several smaller groups and give each small group one of the items you brought. Instruct them to come up with a sales pitch for their assigned item, emphasizing why it can be trusted.
- After each small group has had an opportunity to make their pitch, bring everyone back together and talk about the things that make something or someone trustworthy.