



[Begin with this tongue in cheek story.]

Sorry if I seem a little off today... (pause for dramatic effect, rubbing your head and trying to gather your thoughts) I was on my way here today when a big semi-truck came out of nowhere, ran me off the road, hit me, and my vehicle flipped over several times! I barely made it out of there. (You can embellish this however you want; students will likely be freaking out a bit-even doubting the likelihood of your story.) That was so crazy! Sorry guys... just trying to compose myself, get my head on straight. (As the students doubt your story more and more you move on to the truth.)

Yeah, you're right. I didn't actually get hit by a truck on the way here. None of that was true. However, if I had been hit by a truck, there is no way I could walk away from that unimpacted. An encounter with something that big would impact me in a huge way. I would never be the same again.

When you encounter something as big as the real God, you cannot walk away unimpacted. I'd like to look at the impact that God has when we have an encounter with Him.

We are going to start in the book of Exodus, chapter 3.

(This is a quick, rapid-fire summary to catch the students up on the story so far and give them context while they get to Exodus 3.)

In the chapters leading up to this, we learn about:

- Joseph moved his whole family to Egypt, after he was sold into slavery there. He worked his way up from slavery and imprisonment to being Pharaoh's right-hand man. Essentially, he was the person in Egypt with the most power other than Pharaoh himself.
- 400 years of silence followed. By then, God's people had become so numerous that they were enslaved and oppressed by a wicked ruler. The Israelites began questioning and wondering if this God they had been hearing about was around anymore, or even real.

- Enter Moses. You've probably heard his story. As a baby, he had been placed in a basket and put into the river, safe from Pharaoh's evil decree that all Israelite baby boys would be thrown into the Nile and killed. Moses was found by Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him and raised him as her own.
- Moses grew up, and one day murdered an Egyptian who had killed one of Moses' fellow Israelites. He ran away into the desert and ended up living with the Midianites, marrying into their tribe.

Now you're caught up! This is such an amazing story of forgiveness and God's faithfulness. If you haven't ever read the first two chapters in Exodus, definitely read it later!

OK, if you haven't already, get out your Bibles and turn to Exodus 3:1-14

Today, we're going to learn about five things God does when He shows up.

1. God Called Moses by Name (v. 2-4)

And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."

When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

In order to call someone by their name you need to know them. I make a point to know each and every one of your names because you matter. And your names matter. There is something that lights up in our souls when we hear a friend say our name. This tells me that God knew Moses. Even though it didn't look or feel like that to Moses.

2. God knew what His people were going through (v. 7)

Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,

He saw them. He heard them. He was aware of their pain. To see someone, you need to be present. Right now, you and I have no idea what is happening outside this building. Your parents could be pulling into the

parking lot right now. We don't know because we can't see. If we wanted to see, we would need to get closer. God was close to His people. He saw them.

(For this next part, if you speak with a mic from a stage, turn it off, or just don't talk into it at first. If you don't have a mic, whisper.)

To hear someone, you have to be even closer than you do to see them. Right now, you can barely hear me, because we are far away. If you want to hear me, we have to be really close.

(Speak into the microphone now. Or speak up.)

Or I can just talk louder. But you get the idea. God cared enough to pay attention. He didn't need to listen. He didn't need to see. But He wanted to.

3. God came to them (v. 8-9)

and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

He didn't need to "come down," but He chose to. He chose to intervene and to deliver them from their oppressors.

Deliver is an interesting word. We use it in the church a lot but I'm not sure if we fully understand its meaning. Think of Amazon. They deliver packages from one place to the place where they are supposed to be. God chose to come down so that He could bring the people of Israel from Egypt to the place where they were supposed to be, the Promised Land, to give them a home.

4. God called Moses beyond (v. 10-13)

Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have



Theme: The Bronze Serpent – God provides life when death is near.

1. When you face a difficult problem, who do you usually turn to for help? Why do you trust them?

2. When you're feeling stuck or helpless, which among the following list helps you trust that God will come through for you? (A) Praying, (B) Reading the Bible, (C) Talking to others who believe in God, (D) Remembering past times He helped you) (E) I struggle feeling that. Explain your answers.

3. Think of a time when you were really scared or in trouble. What helped you get through it?

4. Rank the following in order of who/what you trust the most when you're in trouble: (A) Your own abilities, (B) Your parents, (C) Your friends, (D) God. Why did you order your list in this way?

5. On a scale of 0 to 10, how much do you trust God to help you with your biggest problem right now? Why?

6. This week, what's one way you can remind yourself that God is the only one who can help you when life gets tough?

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