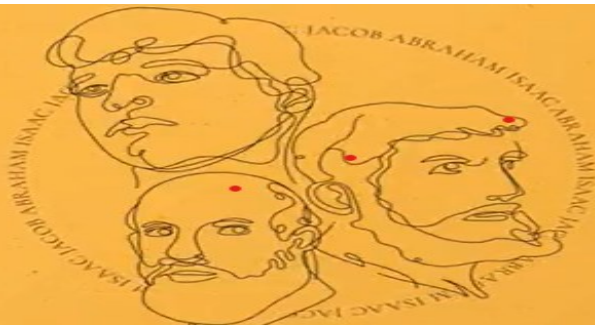


THE GOD of our FATHERS



Title: **I AM WHO I AM**

Date: SEPT. 10, 2023

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end the life group on time.
2. Facilitate discussions with your group and **give all attendees opportunities to share their thoughts**. Encourage participation.

Life Group Discussion Proper

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Option 1: In person - Home gatherings

Suggestions: Assign someone to lead worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.

Option 2: In person gatherings at a public place (at the park, school campus or café) or Online home gathering (via Zoom or other online meeting platform)

Suggestions: Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: Ask the group, "What are you thankful to God about this past week?"

Main Text: Exodus 3:1-15 NLT

Intro: While keeping the sheep of his father-in-law Jethro in Midian, Moses saw something incredible on Mount Horeb, a bush on fire, but it was not burning up. In his curiosity, Moses went closer to the burning bush and there God spoke to Him about how the misery of His chosen people, the Hebrews has come to His attention. There on that mountain, God revealed His plan to rescue them and that He has chosen Moses to carry out that task of delivering His people from their bondage in Egypt. In response to God, Moses made all possible excuses not to be that person to carry out God's plan. In the end, God assured Moses that He would be with him and revealed Himself as "I AM WHO I AM and that He was the One who sent him. 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14)

WELCOME:(15 mins): IWC - Introduce yourself. Welcome guests/first-time visitors. Cheerfully call someone to do the same.

Ice-breaker: Ask the group and give time for participation.

- > *Is there anyone who would like to share a verse you have memorized this past week?*
- > *Is there anyone who would like to share something you received from your daily devotions this past week?*

WORD (30– 45 mins)

Who is I AM WHO I AM? Read Exodus 3: 13-15

1. I AM is a God who is personal and ever-present.

Yahweh is a personal God unlike the gods of Egypt. I AM is someone the Israelites can relate with. The word "I" is a personal pronoun. When He said this to Moses, He meant He wanted to relate with him and the people of Israel. That's the reason why God talked with Moses. He didn't say "I Was" or "I Will Be", He said "I AM". He wants to relate with His people in the present situation they were in.

Read Exodus3: 7-8a

Whatever circumstance or situation you may be in at this very moment, God wants to relate with you in a compassionate and caring way! God is saying to us today, "I have certainly seen your struggle, your suffering, your hurt and pain and what the enemy is doing to you. I have heard your cry so I have come down to rescue you from the power of the enemy and I want to lead into freedom through my Son Jesus Christ!

Continuation:

2. I AM is both the Creator and the sustainer of all that exist –

Yahweh revealed the name 'I Am' to Moses to address the immense and dire needs of the Israelites. Pharaoh and the Egyptians were unwilling to release the Israelites, therefore making the idea of freedom impossible by human standards. Only 'I Am' has the power to fulfill every need in order to liberate the Israelites and fulfill God's promise of giving them the land God promised to Abraham and his offspring.

The name '**I AM**' means, ***He is who He declares Himself to be, the creator and sustainer of everything. He can do everything He wants to do with both the Israelites and the Egyptians.*** Only I AM can bring out 2 million slaves out of Egypt. I AM WHO I AM declared Himself as the Almighty, Sovereign and Most High God who can fulfill everything He promised, and no one can stop Him from fulfilling what He wants to be fulfilled. Not even Pharaoh, or the gods of Egypt can equal His power!

Before sending Moses to his task, I AM revealed Himself to him as creator and provider.

Read Exodus 4:10-12 NLT

3. I AM is the Supreme God among all gods – Read Exodus 12:12 NLT

“Egyptian culture was very idolatrous, with multitudes of gods and goddesses. Many of these were assumed to take the form of animals, so the Egyptians considered bulls, cows, rams, cats, crocodiles, cobras, frogs and various insects and birds sacred. Each of the plagues God sent was a direct challenge to one or more of the gods and goddesses of Egypt.” (Beyond Today, United Church of God)

Standing in opposition to the gods of Egypt, Pharaoh and his army was no match to the power of God. **I Am WHO I AM** who called Moses, displayed His power through only a wooden staff. **I AM** was glorified as the only and true living God in the eyes of the Israelites, the Egyptians and the known world.

Any obstacles that can come our way, including the devil and his demons, are powerless against our God! Our path to victory lies in remaining obedient and under the loving care of the Lord, and He will grant us His victory! **Read James 4:7 NIV**

Conclusion:

The world is engaged in idolatry today, serving a multitude of gods, some worshipping idols and images, some their wealth and riches while others try to find fulfillment through earthly pleasures, exalting their own ego or self. No matter whom or what we choose to worship in place of God, nothing can satisfy the emptiness within our hearts. Only the LORD, known as '**I AM Who I AM,**' has the power to fill that void.

Today, the decision is in our hands: do we desire The LORD, known as **I AM**, to be our friend or our foe? The good news is that we can become children and friends of God through His Son, Christ Jesus the Lord. **Read John 1:12 NIV, Romans 5:10-11**

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY FROM THE LESSON?

Tell your group to partner with someone and ask this question to their partner.

Q: What impacted you the most from this lesson?

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer (15 mins.)

1. Memorize a verse from your devotions this week and be prepared to share it on our next gathering.
2. Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well. Ask each other, ***“what can I pray for you?”***

Leader's Notes:

1. Please remind your group the schedule for the next gathering.
2. Please ask your group to invite people for the next gathering.
3. Please encourage the group to remember to pray for one another during the week.
4. Assign someone to share from his/her devotion to the group next week. *(min. of 5mins.)*