

3. He's Calling You

Mark 10:48-49 NLT - 48 "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!"

Bartimaeus may have been blind, but he clearly saw who Jesus was when he called out for mercy. Remember what God said of Himself in Ex. 34:6? And Jesus responded by calling Bartimaeus to Himself and asking, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Why was it important for Bartimaeus to recognize that Jesus was merciful before he responded to being called? What if God calls to us but we don't trust that God is Good? If Jesus was walking by today, what would you ask Him to do for you?

If we trust that God is who He claims (compassionate, merciful, loving) we will be confident to bring Him our deepest needs. But we must believe that He is good and that He is able to restore us to good, no matter where we are right now in our brokenness.

WRAP-UP

God has chosen to reveal his radical and relentless love and goodness to us and through us. Embracing all of us so that He may restore and redeem us. He calls us by the name He knows we can be- beloved, son, daughter, righteous, good.

MEMORY VERSE

But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. - Isaiah 43:1 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life

Challenge- Spend some time looking up the names of God. Which sound familiar and which are new to you? Do you know God in all of these ways?

"God is Tov & Calls You Tov"

Tov 2

INTRODUCTION

As we begin to explore the nature of God, we find that God is good (Tov in Hebrew). His goodness is revealed, not only in the information we know about Him, but in the way we experience God and his glory. Moses got to know God first-hand. When he spoke to God on Mt Sinai Moses was told God's name, "I am" and when he asked God to go with Israel on their journey to the Promised Land, God's glory passed right in front of Moses. Moses learned of God's goodness from both information and experience. We need both, information about God's goodness, and the personal witness of His glory so that we can reflect the goodness of God. God, in His goodness, restores and redeems us and calls us by name and he calls us "good".

Ice Breaker

What name did your mom or dad call you?

Key Passage

Isaiah 43:1 NLT - 1 But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. God's Name

Exodus 3:13-14 NLT - 13 But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" 14 God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."

If you are a parent, you may recall the process of picking out your child's name. Maybe you chose a name that was popular at the time. But when you chose your child's name, did you look up its meaning? In ancient times your name was in fact a representation of who you are. So, when Moses asked God His name, he was trying to find out more than just what to call Him, he wanted to know who He was.

When God identifies Himself as "I AM" what does it tell you about His nature? How do you think this made Him different from other ancient gods?

Exodus 34:6 NLT - 6 The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

When God passed in front of Moses, not only did He declare His name, He also declared His nature. This was not an assumption or inference about God, but what He declared about Himself.

What are some of the other characteristics of God that He could have chosen to declare about Himself, but didn't? Why do you think He chose to declare this about Himself to Moses?

*Did you notice the word "LORD" in all capitals? That is the translation of God's proper name *Yḥōvâ* which is also translated *JEHOVAH* and *GOD* in other passages. In fact, the same word is repeated twice here *Yḥōvâ Yḥōvâ* and is translated here as "Yahweh, the LORD". Several other words in the bible are translated lower case "lord" meaning master.*

John 14:9 NLT - 9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?"

When Jesus said to Philip "you don't know me" he used the word *ginōskō* in Greek which means knowledge gained thru experience. Then Jesus said, if you have seen me, you have seen the Father.

If we see the Father when we see Jesus, then we should see God's nature as He described Himself. In what ways have you seen Jesus' life reflect the description of God in Ex 34:6 (compassionate, merciful, slow to anger, abounding in love)?

2. What God Calls You

God knows us better than we know ourselves. He should, He created us. And He calls us by the name that represents who He made us to be. Did you know God changed several people's names in the Bible?

Genesis 17:5 NLT - 5 What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations.

Genesis 35:10 NLT - 10 saying, "Your name is Jacob, but you will not be called Jacob any longer. From now on your name will be Israel." So God renamed him Israel.

God changed Abram's name which meant "exalted father" to Abraham, meaning the "father of nations" because He knew Abraham would father many sons though he was 100 years old. Jacob was named "heal-catcher" because he grasped his twin brother's foot at birth, but his name was changed to Israel meaning "wrestles with God" because of his encounter with God. God called them by name based on who He intended them to be, not by what they were.

Matthew 16:17-18 NLT - 17 Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. 18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Jesus renamed Simon ("heard") to Peter ("rock"). He saw a future Peter who would help establish the church. Think back to who you have been without Jesus, and who you are in Christ. What might you have been called before (wanderer, cynic, forgotten, angry) and what name do you think God has for you now that you are His?

Isaiah 43:1 NLT - 1 But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.