

When God Finally Shows Up

Starting Where We Started:

Exodus 19:1-2 Exodus 3:11-12

God Showing Up Always Includes:

- ✓ God as the **starting point**.
Exodus 19:1-4 1 John 4:7-19
- ✓ An invitation to **relationship**.
Exodus 19:4-6 Romans 8:12-17 1 John 3:1-3
- ✓ An **"If / Then"** statement.
Exodus 19:5 Romans 10:9-13
- ✓ A new **purpose** and **identity**.
Exodus 19:6 Romans 12:1-2
- ✓ An appropriate **fear of God**.
Exodus 19:9-25 Exodus 20:18-20 Proverbs 1:7 Joshua 24:14-28 Hebrews 10:31,
Hebrews 12:1-29 Luke 12:4-5 Acts 9:31 Revelation 4 & 5

Taking It Home:

Philippians 2:5-13 Mark 9:2-8

There is a big difference between **knowing about** God,
and **knowing** God!

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 10, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. When it comes to the fear of God, how has your understanding of it changed over the years?

2. This weekend Chris compared what most people think of who God is with how he shows up in Exodus 19. In light of the great discrepancy between those two perspectives, how would you explain what it means to have an appropriate fear of God to a co-worker or a friend?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. During the sermon Chris read Exodus 20:20 where Moses told the Israelites that "the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." Regrettably, we still see people in the Bible who didn't fear the Lord and it cost them dearly. How does God use the married couple's lack of fear in Acts 5:1-11 to teach the other people in the church an important lesson?

How could the people's response to this event help them relate to God in a healthy way?

Can you think of any examples in your own life of how your fear of God has helped you?

Do you have any thoughts on how a person could determine if they have an appropriate fear of God?

2. It can be a challenge to understand and balance a healthy, appropriate fear of God with the confidence that he loves and accepts us. Looking at how another person handles this can be helpful. As you read David's prayer in Psalm 86, jot down how he describes God and what he requests of God.

Descriptions of God	Requests of God

How might David's perspective and response to God in this Psalm help you balance a healthy fear of God and the confidence to come before Him?

What would it look like for someone to put too much emphasis on the fear of God over his love and acceptance? How about putting too much emphasis on his love and acceptance?

3. This weekend Chris talked about the new purpose and identity God had given the Israelites. As followers of Christ and citizens of God's kingdom, we also have been given a new identity. What do you learn about that new identity from the following passages?

Galatians 2:20 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 2:19-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

1 John 3:1-3 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Can you think of any ways remembering our new identity could impact how we act towards others and God?

How has your understanding of your identity in Christ changed as you've grown in your faith?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on this week's teaching and homework, what's most important for you to remember?

TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in a Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.

Prayer Requests:

