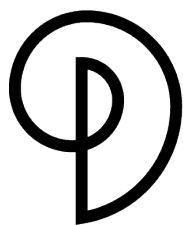


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Holy Name

July 8 & 9, 2023

Moses asked God the million-dollar question - "Who Are You?" - never expecting God to give him a direct number. But that's what God did, and Moses' life was never the same. We'll ask that same question, and when God responds, "I Am Who I Am," we can expect things to change.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: EXODUS 3:13-15

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Moses, a Hebrew man, had been raised in Pharaoh's court in Egypt. (It's a long story - see Exodus 1-2:10.) Eventually, Moses flees Egypt and becomes a shepherd in Midian. (It's another long story - see Exodus 2:11-22.) Meanwhile, the Israelites remain enslaved in Egypt, and God hears their cry for help. Our scripture reading picks up as God begins His plan to rescue the Israelites by reaching out to Moses in a rather unusual way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A voice comes out of the bush and says, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses knew those names. Those were the names of some of his most legendary ancestors.

- When have you heard from God in an unexpected time or way?
- Share some stories about your ancestors and their relationship with God. How have their stories influenced your story and your relationship with God?

Moses asks, "Which god are you, and what kind of God are you?" And God answers Moses with this cryptic line, "I Am Who I Am." This is important. In ancient Hebrew consciousness, names had meaning and power because the name expressed the person's character. To reveal your name is to reveal your character.

- What do you know about why you were named your name? If you've ever named somebody, why did you choose the name you did for them? What nicknames do you have and what do they reveal about you? Describe your character using 3-5 adjectives. Describe God's character using 3-5 adjectives.

From Luther's Small Catechism: "We are to respect and love God so that we do not curse, swear, lie, or deceive by using God's name. Instead, we are to use that very name in every time of need, to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God."

- On a scale of 1-10, how good are you at keeping the 2nd Commandment? Share about a time you "nailed it!" and a time you experienced an "epic fail!"

CHALLENGE: God giving us His personal name is like God handing out His business card with His private number, saying, "Call me anytime, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. I am your God. This is my name. This is who I am; you have access to me." This week, make the call!