



Hill Cliffe Study Guide
Sunday 7 Jan 2024
#1 A Name Full of Meaning

1. What impacted you most from the Sermon on Sunday?

What we think about God really matters – it shapes the lives and behaviour of God-believers. But here's the problem: we usually end up with a God who looks an awful lot like us. As the saying goes, 'God created man in his own image. And man, being a gentleman, returned the favour.'

2. What do you think?

We don't naturally know God (because we've all been estranged from God because of our sin). Nor therefore do we instinctively know what God is like. So, we can't rely simply on our natural instincts or our feelings about God. We need to learn about God – and thankfully we can. God has always made himself known to humanity – He has made himself knowable.

3. Please take a moment to pray as a group that we can all (the whole group and the whole church) get to know God better through this teaching / study series.

Please read Exodus 3.1-15 – The Burning Bush

4. What did Moses learn about God in this encounter – and what does God's name tell Moses (and us) about the most fundamental identity of God?

The Centre for Hebrew Thought says of this passage, "Knowing God's name is a turning point in Scripture. When God revealed His proper, personal name to Moses, he transformed the relationship between Himself and His people. We can liken it somewhat to being suddenly on a first-name basis with someone after calling him or her for an extended period of time, Sir or Madame. In revealing His Name – God's relationship with his people has become very personal indeed."

5. How is this emphasized in **Exodus 33.10-11**?
6. Do you want to be a closer friend of God? How might you get a closer friendship with God? (**Exodus 33.18** is one clue)

Please read Exodus 33.15 - 34.9

God's Name – I AM – reveals the God who was, is and ever will be...

So - whatever God is like, He's like that consistently, unshifting, always, 24/7, now and forever.

7. What are some of the characteristics of God which are revealed to Moses here – which are true of God always and forever?
8. What was Moses' response to experiencing the glorious goodness of God?
9. In **Exodus 34.29** a curious thing happens. How might our being in the presence of God rub off on us?