Introduction

1. How do people describe God’s interaction with the world—is God near or far?

2. Compare God’s interaction with his creation to a watchmaker and his watch.

3. What are some biblical examples of God revealing himself to his people? How did he do it?

Background: Moses

4. Where does Moses fit into the story of the Bible? What events surrounded his birth and early life? How did he end up in a place called Midian?

Read Exodus 3:1-6

5. What was Moses’ vocation when God called him? How was that useful for what his vocation would become? (See also Matthew 4:18-22; 1 Samuel 16:1-13)

6. How has God used your past experiences to benefit you in your present vocation?

7. What is Horeb, the “mountain of God?” Why did Moses have to take off his shoes? Should we take off our shoes? What is “holy ground” in God’s eyes today?

8. Reread verse 2. Who appeared to Moses in the bush? What do you usually think of when you think of angels? (See Malachi 2:7; Revelation 2:1)

9. If the word malach can mean any messenger of God, who is the messenger here? Reread the whole section. What other names are given to this “angel of the LORD”? See Genesis 22 for more evidence.

Read Exodus 3:7-10

11. What’s up with the fire? When else in the Bible do we see fire and God linked together? Is the fire of the burning bush positive or negative here? What connection do we as believers in God have with fire?

Read Exodus 3:11-15

12. Explain God’s name: “I AM WHO I AM.”

13. Read Exodus 34:6-7. What does God’s name “the LORD” mean for you?

Read Exodus 4:1-17

14. Why was Moses so reluctant to go as God had asked him? Describe his excuses and the assurances that God gave to him.

15. What callings has God given to you in your life right now? What excuses sometimes keep you from carrying them out? What does God reply to those excuses?

16. Does God ever appear to us in burning bushes?

17. What did God accomplish through Moses—his reluctant servant?

Conclusion

Jeremiah 23:23-24 – “Am I only a God nearby,” declares the LORD, “and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?” declares the LORD. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.

Ephesians 2:8-10 – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.