

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

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Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, Biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series is exactly what you're looking for.

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete sermon outlines and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR I AM

It wasn't really the beginning. Not the REAL beginning. But it was the start. When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, it was the start of calling a people to Himself. The promise made to Abraham came to fruition in Moses. But not before God miraculously made Himself known through a fiery display on a desert mountaintop. In that encounter, God revealed so much more about Himself than we may grasp at first glance.

- **SESSION 1:** "God is Eternal and Unchanging": To show students that God is eternal and unchanging, and His plan to redeem humankind from sin is eternal (Exodus 3:1-15, John 1:14).
- **SESSION 2:** "God is Holy": God is holy, and in Christ, God sees us as holy (Exodus 3:1-15, Col. 1:21-22, 1 Pet. 2:9).
- **SESSION 3:** "God is Love": God is love, and Jesus is the most active expression of that love (Exodus 3:1-15, Deut. 7:6-8, 1 John 4:7-8, Psalm 86:15, Psalm 13:5).
- **SESSION 4:** "God is With Us": God is always with His people through His Spirit and His Word (Exodus 3:1-15, Matt. 1:22-23, Gal. 4:4-6, Eph. 1:13).

I Am is a four-session sermon series designed to use the burning bush account to launch into an in-depth look at who God is and how He relates to us.

BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



INSTAGRAM IMAGES



LOGO TREATMENT



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

I Am Sermon Series Overview

The Sermon Series Overview is a one-page glimpse of the stuff you need to know to begin preparing to preach.

- **Session 1 Purpose:** You'll help students understand that God is eternal and unchanging, and His plan to redeem humankind from sin is eternal.
- **Scripture Passage(s):** Exodus 3:1–15, John 1:14
- **Session Snapshot:** The moment God chose to reveal Himself to Moses in the burning bush was a game-changing moment. And not just for the Israelites. What God revealed about Himself to Moses resonates down through history. The truths God revealed about Himself to Moses deeply impact us today. Your students will learn how in this session.
- **What You May Need:** You may want to be prepared to show a picture of a pet or one of your children;

Details on *I Am* Sermon Series Outlines

It wasn't really the beginning. Not the REAL beginning. But it was the start. When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, it was the start of calling a people to Himself. The promise made to Abraham came to fruition in Moses. But not before God miraculously made Himself known through a fiery display on a desert mountaintop. In that encounter, God revealed so much more about Himself than we may grasp at first glance.

I Am covers the following purposes and passages:

- **Session 1:** To show students that God is eternal and unchanging, and His plan to redeem humankind from sin is eternal (Exodus 3:1–15, John 1:14).
- **Session 2:** God is holy, and in Christ, God sees us as holy (Exodus 3:1-15, Col. 1:21-22, 1 Pet. 2:9).
- **Session 3:** God is love, and Jesus is the most active expression of that love (Exodus 3:1-15, Deut. 7:6-8, 1 John 4:7–8, Psalm 86:15, Psalm 13:5).
- **Session 4:** God is always with His people through His Spirit and His Word (Exodus 3:1-15, Matt. 1:22–23, Gal. 4:4–6, Eph. 1:13).

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How To Use the *I Am* Sermon Series

This sermon series outline is designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. It provides various elements such as suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you will need to prepare your lesson. It also includes discussion questions that could be used in a small group following the message and artwork for promotion or message support.

These sermons are designed to be useful for all types of groups and churches, and you should feel free to make adjustments that benefit your particular circumstance.

I. Introduction

- a. The purpose of these four sessions is for us to get to know God better.
 - i. This is a remarkable statement in itself.
 - 1. We can *know* God. Actually know Him. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The God who created all things from nothing.
 - 2. We can know Him and learn about His characteristics and His nature.
 - 3. Why is this important?
 - ii. If I asked you your best friend's characteristics, how would you answer? What if I asked you to describe your dad or mom? You could do this easily.
 - 1. Our relationships are alive and dynamic because we know our friends and our family.
 - 2. God is no different.
 - iii. We miss out on a depth and a richness of our relationship with Him because we don't know Him.
 - 1. And so this series is all about getting to know God better.
 - iv. We're going to do this by using a very significant moment in Scripture as "home base."

II. Passage Context

- a. We're going to be looking at the first time God revealed Himself to Moses. [Turn to Exodus.]
 - i. We're going to look at the narrative of God speaking to Moses through the burning bush
 - ii. This was the moment God told Moses he would be God's chosen person to lead God's people out of slavery.
 - 1. Remember the story of how God's people got to Egypt?
 - 2. [Tip: Recap quickly God's covenant promise to call a people to Himself through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. The goal is simply to remind students of the highpoints.]
 - 3. The Israelites flourished in Egypt because of the provisions Joseph put into place, and because of the favor Joseph earned under Pharaoh.
 - 4. But then there arose a new Pharaoh. He didn't know Joseph's history in Egypt. He felt threatened by the Israelites, through no fault of their own.
 - 5. The new king enslaved the Israelites, even passing a rule that no Israelite baby boys could be born.
 - 6. [Tip: Recap the story of Moses as a baby. Found in the reeds of the Nile. Adopted. Grows up in Pharaoh's home.]
 - 7. Moses sees an Egyptian abusing an Israelite, and he murders him and flees.
 - 8. Goes to a land named Midian. Marries a good Midianite girl and becomes a shepherd.
 - 9. That's where we pick up our story.

III. Burning Bush Narrative (Exodus 3:1-15)

- a. Read Exodus 3:1-3
 - i. Moses sees the bush

- ii. When we see “angel of the LORD,” this is another way to refer to God Himself.
 - iii. As we’re about to see, it IS God.
- b. Read Exodus 3:4-6
 - i. God got Moses’ attention.
 - ii. God identified Himself how? As the God of Moses’ people.
 - iii. Moses knew the stories of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and Joseph.
 - 1. They were passed down from generation to generation.
 - iv. He knew that God sometimes spoke to people like Abraham.
 - v. And so God identified Himself, but He wasn’t even close to being finished.
- c. Read Exodus 3:7-9
 - i. God knew His people were in trouble.
 - ii. He knew it was the right time to rescue them and lead them out of Egypt into the Promised Land.
- d. Read Exodus 3:10-12
 - i. God was giving Moses, *Moses the shepherd*, the job of leading the people out of slavery.
 - ii. Moses wasn’t really feeling this. But God reassured him and gave him a sign that would be prophetic for sure.
- e. Now, we’re going to be coming back to this passage over the next three sessions. But for tonight, we’re going to drill down hard on verses 13-15. So pay attention.
 - i. *This moment is amazingly powerful.*
 - ii. Moses asked for God’s name. This sounds weird!
 - iii. Didn’t Moses know God’s name? After all, God had appeared to His people before. Interesting question . . .
 - iv. Moses asked for God's name, and God gave it. And at this moment, everything changed.
 - v. This is what we’re going to focus on tonight.

IV. Teaching Point 1: There is one, true God.

- a. Read Exodus 3:13–15
- b. Vs. 13. Why would God’s people ask His name? Didn’t they know it?
 - i. Read Exodus 6:2–3
 - 1. What we learn here is that until the moment at the burning bush, God had not revealed His name to His people.
 - 2. Do you see that all cap LORD? Have you ever wondered why that is?
 - a. God said, "I AM."
 - b. When the Hebrew word for “I AM” is translated into English, you get four letters YHWH because there are no vowels in the Hebrew. (This is a pretty major oversimplification of this concept, but it will work for our purposes.)
 - c. We pronounce this, Yahweh, or Jehovah.
 - d. When you see “LORD” in all caps, this is God’s proper name.
 - 3. You may be saying, “Wait a minute. Don’t we see the LORD in all caps in the book of Genesis? So doesn’t that mean that God’s people knew His name?”

- a. The truth is that God did not reveal Himself to His people using His proper name at that time.
 - b. Guess who wrote Genesis? Moses. And he would have written it AFTER he had met God at the burning bush.
 - c. And as Moses was writing about God creating the world and talking to Adam and Eve and Noah, he used God's proper name. Yahweh. The LORD.
- 4. But up until this moment in the bush, God had not told His people His name yet.
- c. If this seems like not a big deal, it's actually a HUGE DEAL!
 - i. It was a huge deal for the Israelites, and it's a huge deal for us.
- d. The Israelites lived in a culture where everyone worshipped multiple gods.
 - i. There are many scholars who up to this point argue that the Israelites didn't know who God *fully* was.
 - ii. At that moment in the burning bush, God separated Himself.
 - iii. He gave His name. And suddenly it was personal.
- e. But it's a big deal for us too!
 - i. We're surrounded by people who worship different gods.
 - ii. Hear all the time, "Isn't it all the same god? Isn't it all just different paths to the same place?"
- f. **God doesn't give us that option!**
 - i. God has a name. His name isn't Allah. Or Buddha. It's *I Am*. Yahweh! The Lord!
 - ii. And we know His story. God appeared and interacted with specific people in very specific times and places. We have a record of this in the Bible.
 - iii. Because God has a name and a story, we don't have the option of believing He's just one of many gods, or that Allah and Buddha are just other ways of talking about the same god.
- g. *[Tip: This is a great time to give a quick illustration about the nature of knowing God. We know God. We know His name. We know His stories. Show a picture of a child or a pet. Introduce the child or pet to your students.]*
 - i. This is my dog [or child, or fish, or whatever].
 - 1. If I introduced you to my dog, you would realize a few things about him.
 - 2. You'd recognize his color. His size. His personality. You may even recognize his bark.
 - ii. If you met another dog, you would not confuse him for my dog. Why?
 - 1. Because my dog has unique characteristics.
 - iii. It's the same with God.
 - 1. God makes Himself known very specifically.
- h. The world around us may not believe in God, and that is their choice. But they cannot ever claim that He is some version of another God. There is only one God. He has a name.
 - i. But what does this name tell us about Him?

V. Teaching Point 2: The one, true God is eternal and unchanging.

- a. [Re-read Exodus 3:14.]
 - i. So, God gives His name as “I Am.” But what does that mean?
 - ii. The actual meaning of the original language is more than just “I Am.”
 - iii. What is implied is that God “has been, is, and will be.”
 - iv. The name “I Am” is a way of saying to Moses and us, that God simply is. He has always been. There was never a time when He wasn't.
 - v. He is eternal, and He is unchanging.
 - vi. We see this throughout the Bible!

- b. [Read Psalm 90:2]
 - i. God existed before creation.
 1. Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning, God . . .”
 2. At the beginning of all things, God was already there.
 - ii. From everlasting to everlasting
 1. I don't know exactly how to explain that, but it's a long time
 - iii. God is eternal

- c. [Read Psalm 102:25–27]
 - i. Time changes all things. Weather and wind erode even the mountains. Stars burn out and die. But God Remains!
 - ii. He is eternal and unchanging.

- d. You may say, "OK, cool. How is this relevant to me?"
 - i. [Read Malachi 3:6.]
 1. Because God doesn't change, you aren't consumed.
 2. Because God doesn't change, you have hope.
 3. Because God doesn't change, you have a source of strength and love and comfort that will never go away.

- e. Guess what? All people change. Sometimes this a positive thing. I hope I have changed for good over my life. But sometimes this change is not so good. Sometimes people change for the worse.
 - i. Some of you have friendships that don't exist anymore because someone you used to know isn't the person they once were.
 - ii. Some of you watched divorce tear your family apart because one of your parents changed.
 - iii. People change. Sometimes it's people you rely upon very, very closely. And they change. And it hurts.
 - iv. Guess what? GOD NEVER CHANGES.
 1. He is the same, always.
 2. He will always be true.

VI. Teaching Point 3: The one, true, unchanging God makes Himself known to us.

- a. This is a fact that you and I take for granted because we can't HELP but take it for granted.
 - i. We are finite and dim-sighted.
 - ii. We are imperfect, and our vision is so small

- b. But for just a second, can we just sit here and wonder at what it means that God makes Himself known to us?
 - i. He made Himself known to His people.
 - ii. He did amazing things that His people saw.
 - 1. Parting of the Red Sea
 - iii. He had interactions with people.
 - 1. God revealed Himself to Moses and David and Elijah and Isaiah and Jeremiah and SO many others.
 - iv. This is amazing and mind-blowing.
 - 1. The God who spoke the world into existence wants you to know Him.
 - 2. God told Job that When He laid the earth's foundations, the morning stars shouted for joy and the angel's rejoiced. That God? The God that saw that happen? He allows you to know Him!
 - 3. The God that sits enthroned in heaven surrounded by angels and fantastic beings who do nothing but praise Him all day long for eternity . . . THAT GOD makes Himself known to you!
 - 4. How amazing is that!
- c. The most amazing thing of all is that THAT GOD wanted you to know Him so badly that He left heaven to come down to earth in the form of the very people He created.
- d. [Read John 1:14.]
 - i. We can know God because He went to the greatest lengths possible to make Himself known.
 - ii. And that is an amazing truth.

VII. Closing

- a. We're going to get to know God better over the next four sessions.
 - i. Before we wrap up this session, I want to challenge you to look for where you see God around you this week.
 - ii. One of the truths we learned tonight is that God reveals Himself to us.
 - iii. It may not be through a burning bush (though, it may . . . with God all things are possible). But God shows Himself to us in many different ways all day long.
 - iv. Part of our calling as Christ-followers is to put ourselves in a position to SEE God work and move. That comes from having a mindset of expectancy. Work on that this week as you go throughout your day-to-day life.

Small Group Discussion Questions

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your sermon, or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to help students think critically about the sermon and what it means to them.

1. Why is it easy to forget how amazing it is that we can actually know God? We take that for granted. Why do you think that is?
2. God revealed Himself to Moses by giving His name. Yahweh. I Am. As we think about following God in the 21st Century, why is it important that God revealed His name to Moses thousands of years ago?
3. People change all the time. We change our minds. We change our likes and dislikes. But God NEVER changes. Why is this important?
4. How does God's eternal, unchanging nature give you strength as you live your life as a Christian?
5. Through Christ, God seeks us out, similarly to how He sought Moses out. But in Jesus, we have an even more complete picture than the one Moses had of who God is. Who is Jesus to you?
6. How does Jesus coming to earth as God Himself change everything about our life and our faith?