

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

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

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

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

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR HE IS: The Character of God Revealed

He Is, is a sermon series anchored in the book of Exodus. Throughout this series, we will explore the burning bush moment between Moses and God, when God introduces Himself to Moses in a particular and powerful way. The culture around us has a lot of beliefs about God and the church has a lot of beliefs about God. The best way to learn and build your view of who God is and what He is like is to read what He says about Himself- right in pages of Scripture. Throughout this series, as we look at this interaction between God and Moses, I hope that you will see what God says about Himself and explore what it means for your own life.

"HE IS" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – A God Who Is Set Apart and Personal (Exodus 3:4-6)** | In the burning bush interaction God reveals Himself to Moses as a holy God and a personal God. These characteristics would be essential for the rescue of His people from Egypt. This is good news for you and me because we too need a God who is holy and set apart, but also a God who is willing to come near to rescue us from our slavery to sin.
- **Session 2 – A God Who Sees and Intervenes (Exodus 3:7-9)** | The next thing God says about Himself is that He has seen and heard the cries of his people. The Hebrew people are under oppression in Egypt and are slaves to Pharaoh. But God doesn't just see their situation, He says He's going to do something about it. This is good news for us, that as we cry out to God, we know He's not going to leave us in our situation. He sees us, he hears us, and He desires to rescue us.
- **Session 3 – A God Who Goes with Us (Exodus 3:10-12)** | God now has a task for Moses. We learned in the previous session that God is going to deliver His people and He's going to Moses to help make that happen- but Moses isn't on His own. When God calls us to do something for the Kingdom, He always goes with us. This is good news because when God comforts us by telling us to not be afraid, He calms that fear with His presence.
- **Session 4 – A God Who Is Forever (Exodus 3:13-15)** | In the last moments of this conversation God goes back to calling Himself the God of the Hebrew fathers and then proceeds to say that is His name forever. It's a comforting moment that confirms He will always be the same God He's been. The God that all those people have trusted is the same God that goes with Moses and the same God that offers to go with you.

"HE IS" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

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**

HE IS

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.

He Is Sermon Series | Session 1: A God Who Is Set Apart and Personal

How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

A Prayer Before You Prepare | Heavenly Father, all glory, honor, and praise belongs to You alone! You are worthy of all of my adoration. You alone formed the world and called what You created "good." Thank You for being who You are. Thank You for creating me in Your likeness. Thank You for Your abundant mercy and grace. Every good gift, including Your Word, is a gift to me. Today, I want to worship You! Let my life be for You and Your glory. Lord, please give me Your wisdom and insight now as I approach Your Word. Help me to discern the truth of this text. Help me to not rely on my own understanding. Remove my ego, wants, and selfish desires. Guide and direct me as I prepare to teach the truth of Your Holy Scriptures to the students whom You love and have placed within my care for such a time as this. May the words I speak be those You want to be spoken, may the words they hear be those You want to be heard, and may Your name be glorified through it all. Amen!

He Is Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse of Everything You Need to Prepare

Series Overview | *He Is*, is a sermon series anchored in the book of Exodus. Throughout this series, we will explore the burning bush moment between Moses and God, when God introduces Himself to Moses in a particular and powerful way. The culture around us has a lot of beliefs about God and the church has a lot of beliefs about God. The best way to learn and build your view of who God is and what He is like is to read what He says about Himself- right in pages of Scripture. Throughout this series, as we look at this interaction between God and Moses, I hope that you will see what God says about Himself and explore what it means for your own life.

- **Session 1 – A God Who Is Set Apart and Personal (Exodus 3:4-6)** | In the burning bush interaction God reveals Himself to Moses as a holy God and a personal God. These characteristics would be essential for the rescue of His people from Egypt. This is good news for you and me because we too need a God who is holy and set apart, but also a God who is willing to come near to rescue us from our slavery to sin.
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He Is Series | Session 1

Large Group Teaching Summary | In the burning bush interaction God reveals Himself to Moses as a holy God and a personal God. These characteristics would be essential for the rescue of His people from Egypt. This is good news for you and me because we too need a God who is holy and set apart, but also a God who is willing to come near to rescue us from our slavery to sin.

Key Takeaway | God is Holy, But He's Never Distant.

Scripture Focus | Exodus 3:4-6

What You May Need | *Optional Illustration: Living upstairs & Name the Room (Personal Stories)*

He Is Sermon Series | Session 1: A God Who Is Set Apart and Personal

I. Introduction:

- A. Today, we are starting a new series called *He Is*.
 - 1. You are growing up in a time and place where culture is progressing at a rate that is faster than any other time in human history to this point.
 - 2. In our culture, this rapid and constant change can even affect how we feel about things like God, the Bible, and the church. A particular area of change is often belief about God, who He is and what He is like, this is highly debated- not just “out there in the world” but even within the church and it seems like we can’t agree on everything.
 - 3. So today and for the next four sessions together, we want to enter into an incredible moment in Scripture where God decides to say some things about Himself and about who He is so that a man named Moses can get a better understanding of who God is.
 - 4. For you and me, we can look at this interaction and discover truths about God, too, and ensure that our understanding of God matches what He actually says about Himself. We don’t want to be someone who let’s culture, or others influence our idea of God, we want to hear about Him straight from Him.
 - 5. My hope is that at the end of this series, we will all have a better idea of who God is and it will create in us a similar faith to the faith that is created in Moses, a faith that brings to the place of being willing to trust God with everything!

- B. The reality is that a lot of your classmates, friends, and even family all have some sort of belief about God. It could be an accurate belief formed through the careful study of Scripture and involvement in a healthy and Biblical church throughout the years or it could be a belief that is built around what culture says, or how media portrays Him, or even just what they *think* God *should* be like. And this can create some issues.
 - 1. ***Optional Illustration: Tell a story about someone who lives far away or is consistently out of the picture. This is an out of sight out of mind relationship that when you see them it evokes the response, “Oh I didn’t know you were here,” or, “Nice of you to join us.”***
 - a) Ex: I tell a story about living in the only upstairs bedroom in my childhood home. I would spend so many hours up there that when I came down my family would pretend like they forgot I was part of the family. I was, quite literally, the man upstairs.

- C. Many of us, and many of those around us, have put God “upstairs”, out of sight, out of mind, as if He is in a faraway place.

II. Tension:

- A. WE HAVE PUT GOD UPSTAIRS
 - 1. If you were to think about it, we even use this in some of our language about God as we refer to Him as “the man upstairs”.
 - 2. We may even go to funerals where the language about a lost loved one who has gone to Heaven comes out as “They are looking down on you.”
 - 3. We place God far away and then hope He comes to visit every now and then, but only when we need Him, or at special retreats and camps, and then He returns back to His distant place, up there in the sky someplace.

He Is Sermon Series | Session 1: A God Who Is Set Apart and Personal

4. This view of God can make our faith walk incredibly difficult and stressful if our God is always upstairs and we are wandering around the lower floors wondering when He might come to join us or if we're stuck wandering down here on our own.
- B. We get a different picture in Exodus chapter 3, in the story of the burning bush.
1. Truthfully throughout all of Scripture, we get a very different view of God. We don't see Him displayed as a distant, faraway being. While He's certainly different than we are, in ways that we'll unpack throughout this series, He is not disconnected from you or disinterested in you.
 2. Let's jump into the story and see for ourselves, go ahead and open your Bible to Exodus chapter 3 and I'll give some background on where we're picking this story up.

III. Scripture:

A. Scripture Background

1. The book of Exodus captures the key history of the people of Israel. Back in the book of Genesis, God made a promise to a guy named Abraham that He would make Abraham the father of a great nation. As this nation is coming into form, they end up enslaved by Egypt which was a major superpower of that time in history. This slavery carried on for over 400 years and for most of the Israelites the idea of becoming a "great nation" was a long-lost dream that was never going to happen and the notion of God, the One who made that promise to Abraham years ago was likely shakier than ever.
2. Enter a guy named Moses. If you don't know much about Moses, that's ok—that's why we're taking the time to give background! So, when Moses was born he was actually born a Hebrew, one of the people under enslavement to the Egyptian people. At the time of Moses' birth the Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was getting unsettled because the Israelites kept growing in number and he saw this as a threat to his people so he made a law to have any Hebrew male that was born be killed to stop the growing population.
3. In an attempt to rescue her son, Moses's mom puts him in a basket and floats him down the Nile, and on the other end, he is taken out of the water by Egyptian royalty and is ultimately raised by, get this, by Pharaoh's daughter!
4. As he grows up, Moses knows he's one of the Hebrew people. So he lives in this world of Egyptian royalty that is not really his own while his own people are slaves. One day he sees a Hebrew slave being abused by a slave master and Moses reacts in anger and actually kills the Egyptian slave master.
5. Now Moses is in some trouble and he fears for his own life so he runs away into the desert to build a life. Moses meets a woman whom he marries and makes a life for himself in the desert living as a shepherd.
6. And this is where we find Moses, in a self-imposed exile in the wilderness of the desert, taking care of some sheep when his whole world is interrupted by a burning bush...

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B. Read EXODUS 3:4-6 ESV

1. *"When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God."*

C. Moses approaches the bush at first because it's on fire but it's not burning up. If you were to light a fire in your backyard, the logs that you lit the fire with would eventually burn up and disappear, and that is what catches Moses' attention. The fire is not consuming the bush.

D. So, Moses approaches the bush, and when the Lord sees this He begins to speak to Moses and the first thing God does is ask Moses to take his sandals off because this is "holy ground".

1. The first thing we see in this interaction is that God is set apart.
2. To be holy, literally means to be set apart, different, other than.
3. The ground is holy, the moment is holy, because God is holy and He is present in this moment- working in the center of it all.
4. The first thing that God communicates about Himself is that He is different from all other "gods" and this moment with him is different from all other moments Moses has experienced to this point in his life.

E. Then it looks like God begins to namedrop in the middle of this interaction, but He's making His second point to Moses here.

1. God is identifying Himself with people as a personal God, referencing the relationships He initiated with some of the significant players throughout the history of the Hebrew people.
2. Amid Egyptian culture that had gods over all forms of nature and different occurrences, the Hebrew people have a God who identifies Himself as the God of all things and a personal God to His people.
3. As a God of people, God declares that He is the God of all these men of the past and that He has set out to foster that same connection with Moses and the people of Israel currently stuck in slavery.

F. GOD IS SET APART AND HOLY

1. God is holy and set apart, totally different, totally *other* when compared to the gods of Egypt and other powers at the time. He is also personal. He is also the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and He is showing Himself to be God to Moses and the Israelites in bondage too.
2. He is the only God who is both.
3. Here's the thing, to be rescuing God, He has to be both holy and personal.
 - a) If God is only holy or set apart, then it could be said He's distant, unapproachable, and disinterested. He's ruling and reigning from His

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throne issuing decrees and demands but never really inconveniencing Himself with the lives of His people.

- b) However, if God is only personal, He can be seen as nothing more than a buddy, a close friend. He's always around and that's cool, but He lacks the power, majesty, and glory to be the God who designs and upholds the world.
4. God is both and He wants Moses to hear and see this as they interact at the burning bush. This is what makes Him different from all other gods, He has the character of the One who rescues

IV. Gospel:

- A. Is there good news, is there "gospel" for you and your everyday life in this story?
- B. While you and I probably don't have a burning bush that reveals the character of God to us. We do have our Bible, and on every page, we see glimpses of God's character, His holiness, and His personal work in the lives of His people. As you read your Bible you can and I believe will grow in your knowledge of who God is. But knowledge isn't our only goal. As we'll see in future sessions, Moses doesn't simply leave this interaction with knowledge about God, He leaves with an experience of God and as the story of the Exodus- God's people being freed from their slavery- unfolds you see more and more instances of God acting in accordance to who He is.
- C. So, while I absolutely want to encourage you to read your Bible and grow in your knowledge of God, I also want you to come to know and embrace the person of Jesus as your Savior and experience all that God in your relationship with Him. Jesus is the full revelation of a God who is both set apart and personal.
 1. Jesus is God, He is holy, perfect, and set apart. But Scripture tells us He left the glory of Heaven and being in God's presence to come down and live among sinful and broken people, people stuck in slavery to sin and rebellion against God. This is what we celebrate every Christmas, that God came near to us to rescue us because He loves us.
 2. Jesus doesn't only offer to rescue us from sin He also offers to rescue us to something. In our series together we're just exploring a part of this amazing story in Exodus but as the story goes on you can see that God doesn't simply send Moses to get His people their freedom He also uses Moses to lead the people into a land of flourishing. In a relationship with Jesus, we have the same invitations- freedom and flourishing.
 3. In accepting Jesus as your Savior and King you're not only forgiven for your sin, your rebellion against God, you're also rescued from its consequences- namely death and separation from God forever. On top of that, you're invited into what Jesus calls life to the full. Does life feel empty, stuck, like a crushing burden you have to carry? Jesus gives freedom from that and leads you into a life of flourishing.
 4. Like Moses, your job is simply to respond- "yes". God revealed Himself to Moses and laid out His plan of rescue, God made the first move and Moses just had to accept the invitation and choose to trust God. The same offer is extended through Jesus to you. Do you want forgiveness, freedom, and flourishing? It's all found in a relationship with Jesus.

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V. Application:

- A. So what does it mean for us?
 - 1. HOW WILL YOU PURSUE GOD'S HOLINESS?
 - a) Through Jesus, we are made holy and can live holy and the people of God are made to be like their God.
 - b) If God hates sin, then we need to learn to hate sin. And not to hate other people's sins but to hate our own sins so that we might learn to leave them behind and follow Jesus more fully ourselves.
 - 2. HOW WILL WE BE PERSONAL?
 - a) If God is personal, then as those who love Him, we should be, too.
 - b) Not only is God Abraham's God, and not only does he want to be Moses's God, but He wants to be the God of all the people that Moses will come into contact with and lead.
 - c) This is the direct effect of a personal God who interacts with personal people. As you embrace God and live into a growing relationship with Him, He will work through you to draw others to Himself through your life, too.

VI. Conclusion:

A. *Optional Illustration: Name the room*

- 1. Ex: As you're closing out and you've set the stage for a personal God who is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and wants to be Moses's God too. Take the time to look at different students and say, "And he wants to be _____'s God, and _____'s God."
- B. Just like Moses, we have the opportunity to respond to God today, we have the invitation to receive His rescue and join in the work He is doing to rescue the whole world. You have the invitation to show His holiness to others by how you live and engage with them and you have the invitation to show God's personal love to others by how you live and engage with them. The invitation is extended and the choice is yours.

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He Is Sermon Series | Session 1: A God Who Is Set Apart and Personal

Key Takeaway | God is Holy, But He's Never Distant.

Scripture Focus | Exodus 3:4-6

He Is | Session 1 Discussion Questions

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and consider how these Biblical truths impact their often complicated and ever-changing lives.

Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question to Get Students Talking

1. Ask your students what good things are happening in their lives right now. Did they ace a test at school? Did they win an award? Is their family getting along? Get them talking and thinking about the good things we have in life because of God's goodness. Nothing is too small to celebrate!

Discussion Questions

1. Read Exodus 3:4-6 What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. What is something that stood out to you from this message? It could be something surprising, confusing, exciting, or even frustrating.
3. Have you ever felt God's presence in your life? What was that experience like?
4. What does it mean to be holy?
5. What does it mean to be personal?
6. What are some ways God has been personal to you?
7. What are some ways God has encouraged you to be holy?
8. When is a time someone wanted to know God because you knew God?