A Memorial for Every Generation

God of Gods, Part 4 · Exodus 3:13-15

Read it. Talk about it. Live it.

BASED ON THE SERMON SERIES "GOD OF GODS, PART 4"

Core Scripture: Exodus 3:13-15

Overview

This session explores the revealed name of God, Yahweh, and what it means that God declared His name to be "a memorial unto every generation." We will examine how God's name carries weight, meaning, and purpose, and how understanding His name changes the way we relate to Him.

Key Takeaways

1. God's Name Is Not a Title, It Is a Revelation The names and compound names of God throughout Scripture, such as Yahweh, Jehovah-Rapha, Jehovah-Shalom, and Jehovah-Nissi, are not simply labels. Each one reveals a specific dimension of God's character, nature, and ability. To know His name is to know who He is and what He can do.

2. Familiarity Can Breed Distance The sermon drew a sharp contrast between the early Israelite practice of speaking God's name with reverence and the eventual decision to stop uttering it altogether. What began as an act of reverence became an act of exclusion. The name meant to be a memorial for every generation was silenced. This is a warning for any believer or church community that allows tradition, routine, or religious habit to replace genuine encounter with God.

3. The Gospel Is Woven Into History The prophetic Gospel hidden in the generational names of Scripture, from Adam through the lineage leading to Christ, reveals that God's redemptive plan was never an afterthought. Every generation, every name, every story was pointing toward the same conclusion: a God who put on flesh, walked among us, and died so that we could know Him personally.

4. God Desires to Be Known, Not Just Acknowledged The sermon illustrated through a personal story that God does not want to be a distant, theological concept. He wants to meet people in their loneliness, their pain, and their need. He presents Himself not only as Deliverer but as a present and personal God who responds when we call on Him.

Discussion Questions

OPENING QUESTION (ICE BREAKER)

- Is there a story behind your name or the name of someone in your family? What meaning or intention was behind it?

SECTION 1: THE WEIGHT OF A NAME

1. The sermon explained that in ancient culture, a name was not merely a label but a descriptor of character, destiny, and purpose. How does understanding God's name as a revelation of His character rather than just a title change the way you think about prayer and worship?
2. God declared in Exodus 3:15 that His name would be a memorial for every generation. What does the word "memorial" suggest about God's intention for how His people should relate to Him across time?
3. The pastor noted that the Jewish tradition of no longer speaking the name of Yahweh, while rooted in reverence, ultimately resulted in a generation that no longer called on Him by name. In what ways might religious habit or tradition in your own life create distance from genuine relationship with God?

SECTION 2: THE GOD WHO SHOWS UP

1. The sermon included a story about a woman who cried out to God in her loneliness and felt His tangible presence. Have you ever experienced a moment where God met a very specific and personal need in a way that surprised you? What did that reveal to you about His character?
2. The pastor said: "You don't lack because He is not capable. You lack because you don't open your mouth." How honest are you in your prayers with God? Is there a need, a fear, or a longing you have been hesitant to bring before Him?
3. Several compound names of God were mentioned, including Jehovah-Rapha (the Lord who heals), Jehovah-Shalom (the Lord is my peace), and Jehovah-Jireh (the Lord my provider). Which of these names speaks most directly to where you are in life right now, and why?

SECTION 3: A MEMORIAL FOR THIS GENERATION

1. The sermon pointed out that God's name was meant to be declared to every generation, not kept within a select group. In what ways might the church today risk doing what the high priests eventually did, keeping God's name and presence contained rather than extending it outward?
2. The pastor said: "We've got so much lineage that we lose track of the anointing. We've got so much history that we lose track of His story." What does it look like practically for your small group or church community to keep the presence of God central rather than the preservation of tradition?
3. The prophetic Gospel hidden in the generational names of Scripture demonstrated that God's redemptive plan was woven into history long before it was fully revealed. How does knowing that God works across generations, not just in single moments, affect the way you view your current circumstances or unanswered prayers?

CLOSING QUESTION

1. If God's name is meant to be a memorial, something that is actively remembered and declared, what is one specific way you can make His name more central in your daily life, your home, or your conversations with others this week?

Practical Applications

Individually:

- Choose one compound name of God that speaks to a current need in your life. Spend time this week studying that name and incorporating it intentionally into your personal prayer time.
- Write down one area of your life where you have been hesitant to bring your full need before God. Bring it to Him specifically and by name this week.

As a Group:

- Take time during your next gathering to pray over one another using the names of God that are relevant to each person's situation. Call on Jehovah-Rapha for the sick, Jehovah-Shalom for the anxious, and Jehovah-Jireh for those in need.
- Discuss together: What does it look like for your group to be a generation that does not let the name of God go silent? What would it mean for your neighborhood, your workplace, and your family if you carried that name outward?

For the Home:

- If you have children, consider sharing the meaning of their name with them this week and connecting it to a truth about who God is. Remind them that just as God's name carries meaning and purpose, so does theirs.

Closing Thought

God did not reveal His name to Moses as a piece of theological trivia. He revealed it as an invitation. Every generation since has had the opportunity to call on that name, to know the God behind it, and to carry that knowledge forward. The question for this generation is not whether God is still speaking. The question is whether we are still listening, and whether we are willing to open our mouths and call on Him.

GATHER WITH US

Full Harvest Church

429 S. 9th St., McAlester, OK · Sunday School 11 AM · Service 12 PM

More study guides: fullharvestchurch.com/small-groups

Daily devotionals: @fullharvestchurch on Instagram