

Week 2.

- Have you ever come across something that you couldn't find a rational answer for? How did you feel? (e.g. confused, worried, fearful, excited etc)
- Read Exodus 3:1-15
- How do you cope with mystery?
- Is the 'Name' purposely enigmatic? Disclosing intimacy & personal presence, but preserving mystery, forbidding possession & control?
*
- Moses was afraid to look at God and covered his face (v6). Why do you think he did that?

The burning bush displays 3 properties / symbols. God is alive; the bush fire is self sufficient & self-perpetuating, the flames symbolise God's holiness and God's voice from within the bush symbolises God's indwelling presence.

- **Divine encounters / revelations always evoke a personal response. They are usually initiated by God for a specific time / purpose. Are you open to the possibility of an encounter with the living God?**
- **Read the quote opposite. Discuss your response.**

I was regretting the past
and fearing the future.....
Suddenly my Lord was speaking:
'MY NAME IS I AM' he paused.
I waited. He continued.

'WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE PAST
WITH ITS MISTAKES AND REGRETS
IT IS HARD. I AM NOT THERE.
MY NAME IS NOT 'I WAS'.

WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE FUTURE
WITH ITS PROBLEMS AND FEARS,
IT IS HARD. I AM NOT THERE.
MY NAME IS NOT 'I WILL BE'

WHEN YOU LIVE IN THIS MOMENT
IT IS NOT HARD. I AM HERE
MY NAME IS 'I AM'.



I Am Who Am

Moses - Friend of God

'The bush & the Name are in contrast to everything that was going on in Egypt at the time. The Egyptians controlled a large slave population, the afterlife, a world empire & even a huge stable of gods & goddesses - as if by reducing them to stone....they could, through elaborate priestly machinations control history.

But the Name from the bush marked the deconstruction of every kind of impersonal, magical, manipulative, abstract, coercive way of understanding God.'

[Questions marked with * & quote above are taken from The Message Study Bible p. 99]

- **Reflect on the words opposite & close in prayer.**

