

Syllabus for 'Reading the Bible Together: Exodus 3'

Class 1: Exodus 3:1–2 — The Beginning of the Epiphany

- The importance of descriptions? When and why we find them in Biblical prose.
- "Sneh?": Exploring the significance of the burning bush as a central image.

Class 2: Exodus 3:3–4 — Moses' Response to the Epiphany

- The epiphany: A bush that burns without being consumed as a divine sign.
- The word "אין": Reflecting Moses' encounter and understanding of God.

Class 3: Exodus 3:5–7 — Holiness of Place

- Holiness of places: The temporary sanctity created by divine presence.
- "אלהי אביך?": Interpreting "the God of your father" and its implications.
- The sight of God: Did Moses see God?

Class 4: Exodus 3:8–10 — God's Mission

- God "comes down": The language of intervention in human affairs.
- "Milk and honey?": A metaphor for abundance and hope.
- The peoples of Canaan: Understanding the diverse groups mentioned.

Class 5: Exodus 3:11–14 — Moses' Questions

- "Who am I?": Moses' humility and doubts about his mission.
- The open syntax: The structure of divine promises and assurances.
- "Ehyeh?": The meaning of "I will be" in the context of God's name.

Class 6: Exodus 3:15–17 — The Revelation of God's Name

- The name: "YHWH" as a foundational identity for the Israelites.
- The parallelism and its significance: Poetic structures in divine speech.
- The repetition: Emphasizing the certainty of God's promises.
- The elders?: An ancient and resilient institution.

Class 7: Exodus 3:18–20 — The Hebrews' Petition

- "שמע לקולי": The deeper meaning of listening and responding.
- The Hebrews?: Exploring their identity and appeal to Pharaoh.
- "נקרה?": A rare root in specific context.