

# GROWING IN THE WILDERNESS

LENT 2022 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

## WEEK 3: INTIMATE GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the videos, for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

### REFLECTION

The exchange of names is the beginning of knowing and being known, the beginning of intimacy.

It's not a coincidence that men and women who have made this world look more like heaven and less like hell speak of an intimacy with a loving God as their starting place.

In the quietness of the wilderness in life we can grow in our desire for intimacy with God.

~Bishop Wright

### SCRIPTURE

**Read Exodus 3:1-15.** The call of Moses at the burning bush revealed to Moses more of who God is through God's name.

**Read any of the following:** These are all stories in Scripture which include a name for God, where something more about God's character was revealed: Exodus 17:15, Judges 6:24, Genesis 22:14, Ezekiel 48:35, Genesis 16:13, Matthew 11:25

These are places where others gave God a name, based on their intimate experiences of their relationship with God.

Reading the surrounding context can help reveal why that name was so meaningful.

### DISCUSSION

- What is your full name? How did you come to be named that? What does your name mean? How do you feel about your name?
- If you could give yourself a name, the meaning of which truly reflects who you are, what would it be? In other words, who are you in the core of your being?
- Does it change anything knowing that God knows you and calls your name?
- Share about a time when you had a profound experience of God's presence, when you felt most intimately connected to God.
- Throughout Scripture, people gave God names based on their experiences with God. What name would you give God, based on what God means to you/how you are relating to God these days? (you can also use the list linked in the "article" section below)

### ARTICLES

For Further Study:

Scripture records hundreds of names for God, each showing something about God. Which one resonates with you most right now? Look it up and study the story in its context

<https://urbanareas.net/info/100-biblical-names-god/>

### PRAYER

*Loving God, who is near to all who call, by you we are truly known; help us to make your love known to the world. All this we ask in your holy Name.  
Amen.*

### TAKE-AWAY

Identify the names of God that are most meaningful to you right now, perhaps the ones that indicate what you most desire to experience about God right now. Write them on post-it notes, place them where you'll see them, and be reminded of the intimate relationship God offers you.