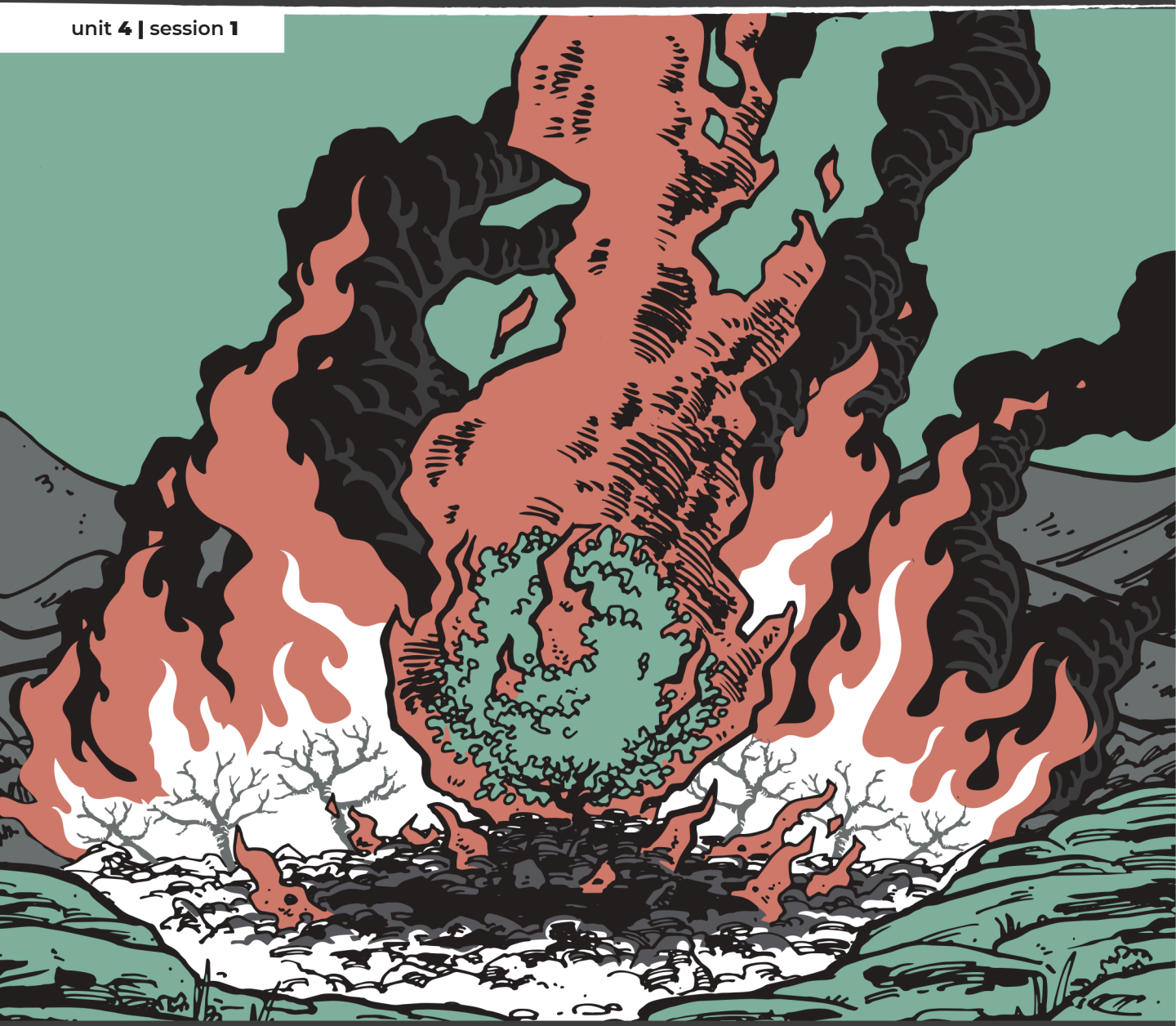
ON HOLY GROUND

unit **4** | session **1**

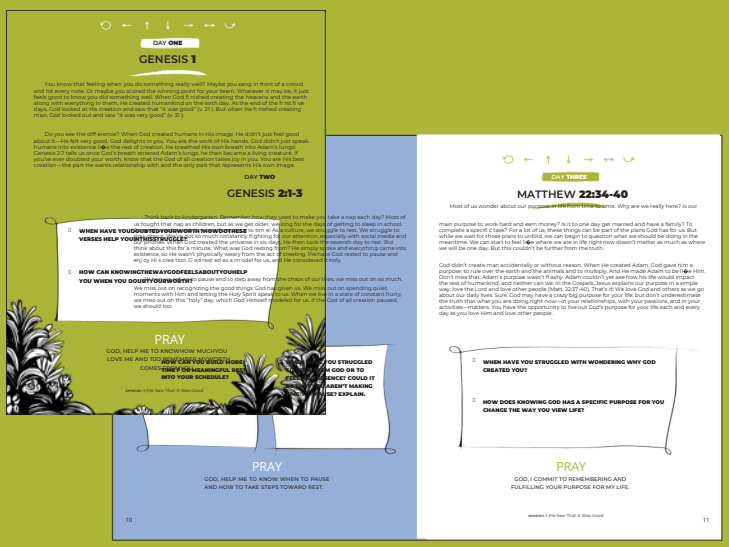


CHRIST **CONNECTION**

Godsaw His people sufferingas slaves in Egypt and sent Moses to rescue them. We all suffer as slaves to sin and desperately need to be saved from it (John 8:34). So, God sent Jesus, who walked in perfect obedience to the Father, to be the sacrifice for our sins. God then raised Jesus from the dead to give us new life.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

In addition to the group portions of this study, the **Daily Discipleship Guide** also includes five days of devotions following each session. As we journey through the storyline of Scripture over the course of three years, we won't have time to cover some sections of the Bible. These devotions will help with that, filling in the gaps in the biblical storyline and allowing more opportunities to cover biblical themes and insights not discussed during group time. These devotions help you know how to read and interpret the Bible for yourself. Symbols for the Seven Arrows reading method are provided at the beginning of each week's devotions as a reminder of common questions to ask about Scripture as you read each day. The devotion pages are perforated so that you can take them home with you.



SEVEN ARROWS

OF BIBLE READING

What does this passage say?

What did this passage mean to its original audience?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DAY **ONE**

EXODUS **4:1-9**

Have you ever been in a position where you worried if others would believe you? For instance, maybe you lived one way before coming to know Jesus. Maybe you made really poor decisions, or you partied every weekend. But then you had a life-changing encounter with God and everything changed. You surrendered all your sins and old ways to Him. But deep down, you worried if others would ever believe the change was real. You worried if they'd ever believe you truly met the Lord. And maybe you even worried if people would listen to your story and the hope of the gospel. You may have asked, "Will people think I'm crazy?"

Moses struggled with similar doubts. He heard the Lord in a real, tangible way. But one of his first thoughts was, "What if they won't believe me?" It's a valid question, and God didn't chastise him for asking. Instead, God did something so kind: He gave Moses three different visible signs to show to the people. While God may not give us signs like this, we do have evidence of God working in us. We have the fruit of the Spirit, which God develops in us as we grow in our faith (Gal. 5:22-23). People who may doubt you will begin to see the transformation in your heart as it manifests in your life—in your words, in your actions, and in your attitude. They'll see the change, and you can pray they'll see that it's only because of God's work.

- **WHO DO YOU WANT TO SHARE THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL WITH BUT ARE AFRAID THEY'LL THINK YOU'RE CRAZY OR WON'T BELIEVE YOU?**

- **WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY DOING TO GROW IN YOUR FAITH SO THAT OTHERS WILL SEE THE EVIDENCE?**

PRAY

GOD, HELP ME LIVE IN A WAY THAT POINTS PEOPLE TO YOU. HELP ME USE MY WORDS AND ACTIONS TO LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL SO PEOPLE CAN KNOW YOU.

DAY **TWO**

EXODUS **4:10-17,27-31**

Many of us are great at coming up with excuses for not doing something we need to do. We're too tired. We're too busy. And when God presses on our hearts to do something, it's just as easy to use these same excuses and more: We aren't "called" to do it; we're too shy; we're not gifted enough; there has to be someone better. Honestly though, we're just scared. Right?

God called Moses to do something pretty scary. Think about it: Moses had killed an Egyptian before fleeing Egypt. And even though forty years had passed, he was likely afraid to return. Plus, Moses had never spent real time among the Hebrew people. He didn't quite identify with them, so he wondered if they'd even listen to his words. Speaking of his words, he explained to God—the One who created him —that he wasn't great with words. But for every excuse Moses voiced, God had a provision. He assured Moses multiple times that the people would listen and that He would help Moses with what to say. He even said Aaron, Moses's brother, would be his official speaker. The bottom line is that Moses experienced all the emotions we experience when we're called to something that feels big or scary or uncommon. But God promises to equip us. He doesn't just call us and then leave us. We have the help of the Holy Spirit and the same power that raised Jesus from the dead living within us (Rom. 8:11)! We can walk in confidence toward anything God asks us to do.

WHAT EXCUSES HAVE YOU MADE FOR NOT OBEYING GOD OR FOLLOWING GOD?

WHAT IS GOD CALLING YOU TO DO—BIG OR SMALL? HOW CAN YOU TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO OBEY HIM?

PRAY

GOD, I ADMIT I'VE MADE EXCUSES WHEN YOU'VE CALLED ME TO OBEY. HELP ME TO TRUST YOU TO WALK WITH ME WHEN YOU CALL ME TO BE BOLD FOR THE GOSPEL.

DAY **THREE**

JOHN **8:56-59**

This week, we read about God calling Moses to lead the Hebrews out of slavery. And while Moses was also a Hebrew man, he grew up in Egyptian culture. He was immersed in it and surrounded by false gods and idols. When Moses met God at Mount Sinai through the burning bush, he wasn't quite sure who he was speaking with. What god was this? God's answer was definitive: "I AM WHO I AM." That's powerful. In a sense, God said, "I've always been. I'll always be. I'm constant." Imagine what this meant for Moses to hear that the One sending Him was all of these things.

Jesus was asked a similar question. A group of Jewish leaders wanted to know more about Jesus's identity. In truth, they desired to trap Him by getting Him to say something blasphemous. Jesus explained that Abraham "rejoiced to see my day" (v. 56). They couldn't make sense of this. How could Abraham see Jesus when He wasn't alive in Abraham's day? And Jesus's response shocked them: "Before Abraham was, I am" (v. 58). The people then picked up stones to kill Jesus. His response claimed God's holy and sacred name for Himself.

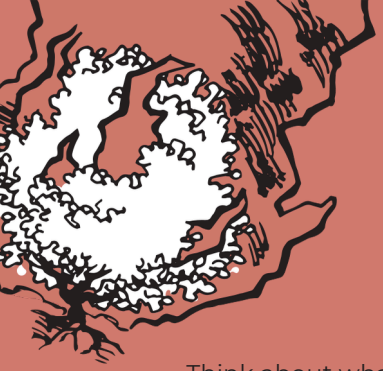
We know Jesus is God. He has the authority to forgive sin. And He embodies what's true of God: He has always been; He'll always be; He is constant. And we have His Spirit living inside of us. Let that sink in. God isn't going anywhere. He is with you. He is constant. His name says it all.

HOW IS GOD'S NAME, "I AM," COMFORTING TO YOU?

HOW HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED GOD BEING WITH YOU?

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH ME.
THANK YOU FOR BEING CONSTANT WHEN
NOTHING ELSE IS.



DAY **FOUR**

1 PETER **1:15-16**

Think about what it means to have good morals. Usually, we associate morality with trying to do what's right, treating people with kindness, or being good citizens. We connect good morals with not cheating on tests, being honest, and speaking up when something is immoral. And as believers, sometimes we settle for having good morals instead of striving for holiness. Every believer should absolutely display good morals, but being holy is so much more.

To be holy means to be set apart. Holiness is one of God's attributes, and when we think of God being holy, it means that He is completely unlike anything or anyone else. He exists on a plane all on His own. He isn't just moral. He is above morality in every way. He is perfect, unblemished, pure. And He calls us to be all of this. Here's the truth though: we'll never reach holiness in our own strength. While we walk this earth, we'll be prone to sin. But don't let that defeat you. God still calls us to seek holiness because we're made in His image—made to be like Him. Through faith in Jesus, we are clothed in His righteousness. We're set apart from this world to show the world what God is like. We're set apart to live out the gospel—to make decisions which are grounded in biblical truth. God knows we'll never be perfect here, but He tells us to strive to be like Him. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can live lives that are pleasing to God.

DOES THE IDEA OF BEING HOLY FEEL IMPOSSIBLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUST BEING A GOOD PERSON AND BEING HOLY?

PRAY

GOD, I CAN'T EVEN SEEK HOLINESS WITHOUT YOUR HELP. I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU SO THAT OTHERS WILL KNOW YOU. HELP ME TO STRIVE FOR HOLINESS AND TO DEPEND ON YOU.

DAY **FIVE**

DEUTERONOMY **4:23-24**

Jealousy is when we want something that belongs to someone else—possessions, status, attention. Think of a time you struggled with jealousy. What was it concerning? Did anything good come from it? Most of us have felt jealous of another person at some point. If we aren't careful, jealousy can consume us and make us bitter. Jealously can lead to other negative emotions and actions. So, reading these verses may trip us up a bit. How can God be jealous?

We have to keep in mind that God feels emotion, but He does so in perfection. In Scripture, we witness God's anger over sin many times. And Paul even instructed believers in Ephesus to "be angry and do not sin" (Eph. 4:26). There is a way to feel anger, especially over sin and injustice, yet refrain from sinning. When we read about God being a "jealous God," it doesn't mean He is envious of *someone else's* possessions or status. It simply means God will have what is *His*; He won't share it with another. God alone deserves glory and worship, and He won't share either with false gods and idols.

This week, we read about Moses's encounter with God through a burning bush—through fire. As we continue to journey through Scripture, we'll see that God often appeared in fire. Fire is all-consuming. It alters everything it touches. God intends to consume us in the best way—to refine us and make us more like Him. He is jealous for your heart and devotion because they don't belong to anyone or anything else. Only God is worthy of it all.

| **HOW ARE YOU POSSIBLY WITHHOLDING WORSHIP AND GLORY FROM GOD IN YOUR LIFESTYLE?**

| **WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU RESISTED ALLOWING GOD TO CONSUME AND CHANGE? WHY?**

PRAY

GOD, I KNOW YOU DESIRE TO CONSUME ALL OF MY HEART AND DEVOTION. I SURRENDER ALL PARTS OF MY LIFE TO YOU FOR YOUR GLORY AND TO WORSHIP YOU.