SERMON TRANSCRIPT

God's Call

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Holy Fire | November 8, 2026 | Colossians 3:16; Exodus 3; Romans 8:28; Romans 12:2; Hebrews 13; Genesis 15; John 16; Matthew 28

Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

When I was in preschool, I was playing in the backyard like preschoolers do, unsupervised, and I found a pack of matches by the grill. And I did what every little kid does, right? You pick it up and you start playing with matches. You strike the match, and you watch it burn, and you play with them, and hopefully you don't make too big of a mess.

But I've got this vivid memory in my mind. I was a little guy, maybe three years old, and my parents were inside. I'm standing up against the bricks on the back of the house, looking into the window, maybe seeing if my parents are coming or not. I've got these matches, and I just keep lighting them one after the other and watching them burn, and then they're going out, and watching them burn, and then going out.

At some point, I guess in my inexperience, I struck the match like this, and I drew it to myself, and I burned myself right there on my chest. Of course, I screamed and cried, and my parents came running out.

Now I laugh. One of my earliest memories of my childhood is burning myself playing with matches. I learned a lesson that day, early in life: fire can burn you. If you get too close, it hurts. If you let fire get too big, it consumes.

I'd imagine that I'm not the only one who's got memories of playing with fire as a child, because fire can leave a mark on your body. Fire can leave a mark in your mind. And if the circumstances are right, fire can leave a mark in your heart.

That's certainly true of Moses in the Bible. His very first encounter with God - think about that - was through fire. But the fire that Moses encountered was completely different than anything we've ever experienced. This was a big fire, a burning fire, a hot fire, but it was not a consuming fire.

That's what this series is all about: Holy Fire. These are moments in the Old Testament where God showed up with His presence in the fire. Over and over again in this series, we're going to see through these encounters that God is holy, that God is powerful, and that God draws near to His people.

If you've got a Bible, look with me at Exodus chapter 3. We're going to unpack one of the most discussed, most well-known passages in our Bibles. If you're taking notes - and we always encourage that, because it helps it sink in and helps us remember what we're talking about - our title for today is "God's Call."

Here's where we're heading with this: the holy fire of God's presence doesn't consume us. We're not burned up. Instead, it calls us and goes with us.

Look with me, starting in verse 1. The Bible says:

> *Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. And he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and he came to Horeb, the mountain of God.*
>
> — Exodus 3:1

Now, you've probably heard of Moses, but I want to give you some context for why he is where he is in this chapter. To do that, we've got to back up a little bit into the book of Genesis, about 600 years before this moment, where God makes a promise to Abraham. He tells Abraham, "Abraham, all of the families of the earth are going to be blessed through your family." He talks about the size of his family and the blessing of the family. Ultimately, we know that God's promise to Abraham is pointing us forward to Jesus.

A couple of generations forward from Abraham, you've got his grandson Jacob. It's through Jacob's family that Abraham's family ultimately ends up in Egypt. That happens through the story of Joseph. You might know that one: Joseph and the coat of many colors. His brothers are jealous. They take the coat, and they sell Joseph into slavery, and he ends up right there in Egypt.

God uses him there. There's a famine in the world. God gives Joseph the wisdom and the ability to save food for it, and so people from all over the world are coming right there to Egypt to be saved. His brothers show up, never expecting to find Joseph there. They're terrified, but Joseph welcomes them in and says, "What you guys meant for evil, God has used for good."

So Joseph's family, Abraham's descendants, about 70 of them - that's all there were - moved into Egypt at that time. They began to prosper there. They're growing and multiplying in number to the thousands, tens of thousands, and hundreds of thousands of people now in this family.

As Joseph dies and the people of Egypt forget what he had done for them, they get scared that the Hebrews will rise up and take over. So they enslave them there in Egypt, hoping to tamp the numbers down and keep the Egyptians in a position of power.

Well, it doesn't work, because the people of Israel continue to grow. They continue to multiply. There are more and more babies. At this point in history, Pharaoh orders that every Hebrew baby boy who is born must be killed.

That's when Moses was born, in the era of those babies being killed. Moses' mother would not accept that. She risked her life to save his life and hid him away from the Egyptians as long as she could. When he got too big to hide anymore, she put him in a basket and floated him down this river.

Guess who finds Moses as he floats down the river? Not a hostile Egyptian, but Pharaoh's daughter. The princess of Egypt finds him there in the basket, floating down the river, and she says, "I'm going to adopt this baby. I'm going to take care of him, I'm going to love him, and he's going to be my own."

Think about how his life changes there. He goes from certain death to royalty, to being a prince of Egypt. He hits the lifetime jackpot right there. He is safe in the palace, raised with all the finest things that the earth has to offer. But in his mind and in his heart, he absolutely knew who he was. He knew that he was a Hebrew and

that he wasn't with his people.

One day, he sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave, and he rises up in anger and kills the Egyptian. Because of that, he's got to run. He's got to flee Egypt. He's wanted for murder, and he finds himself in the wilderness.

That's where we are 40 years later in Exodus 3. He's a shepherd in the wilderness. He is watching his sheep, his flock, on the mountain of God. It wasn't called the mountain of God back then. It wasn't called the mountain of God because something had happened on it. It's called the mountain of God here in the text because of what is going to happen on it out into the future.

Look at verse 2:

> *And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.*
>
> *And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."*
>
> *When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"*
>
> *And he said, "Here I am."*
>
> *Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."*
>
> *And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."*
>
> *And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*
>
> — Exodus 3:2-6

God Speaks

If you're taking notes, point one is: God speaks.

He speaks very clearly to Moses. Moses hears Him, and He does it through the fire of a bush. Listen, God can draw near however He chooses to, in the most unusual and unexpected ways in our lives. That's what happens here, and it very clearly got Moses' attention.

Look at verse 3. I love this. Moses said, "I'm going to turn aside to see that. There is something out of the ordinary in my life. There's something I'm not used to. There's something I did not expect. I'm going to lean in a little longer to see what's going on here."

It's when Moses slows down to take a look that God speaks. I love the detail. God speaks when Moses leans in, when he's paying attention long enough to hear the voice of God.

He does it in an unexpected place. Moses is not at a spiritual retreat. Moses was not at a student camp. He's not at a Vacation Bible School. He's not at a prayer conference, and he's not at a revival.

Do you know where Moses was when this happened? Moses was at work. He's doing his day job. He is

walking his sheep around. That's what he does every single day. He's doing his profession, and the very last thing that he expected to happen while he was at work that day was for him to have a conversation and encounter with the God of the universe.

I want you to sit with that for a minute. Think about that. As I wrestled with that this week, I had these thoughts where I wondered, "Are there moments in my life where I've missed hearing the voice of God because I didn't slow down and take a second look at something that God was doing? Are there moments in my life where I missed hearing from the Lord because, in my mind, I've just got this box where I expect God to speak to me at a certain place, in a certain way, or with a certain pattern? Have I missed things?"

Listen, Moses slowed down. He leaned into the unexpected. That's when God spoke.

What does God say? Look at verse 5. God said, "Moses, you're standing on holy ground."

Moses had been on that mountain before. He had never had that thought of it being holy ground before. Why is it holy ground? What made it holy ground? I'll tell you: God's presence made it holy ground.

Moses responds appropriately. What does he do? He takes off his sandals. This is a posture of humility. "God, You're in control. This is Your place now. It is not my place."

Then what else does God say? In verse 6, God says, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

God said, "I'm the One who's made all of these promises to your family. The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob - I am that God."

Now, the word choice matters here. I love this. He says, "I am their God," not, "I was their God while they were alive here on earth," meaning that the people of God, though they die, are alive in the presence of God. What an encouragement for Moses and for us.

As He speaks this way, saying, "I'm the God of your father," He's telling Moses, "I know what family you're in." He tells Moses, "You're a part of the people of the promise."

Let's pause there before we continue on and think, "What does this mean for us? What is our application that we should be pulling from these first couple of verses?"

Here it is: just pay attention. Pay attention, knowing that God is speaking. Pay attention, knowing that God speaks.

Now, I'm not saying that this afternoon, after the Texans game, you should go sit in your backyard in the bushes, waiting for one of them to catch on fire. Don't do that. You'll be out there a while. There's a very good chance that God never speaks to you through a burning bush at any point in your life today.

But God is speaking to you. The question is, are you listening to His voice?

You might be wondering where He speaks. There are a lot of ways. Let me give you four that He very frequently uses to speak to every single one of us.

The first way we know God speaks is through His Word. We see the voice of God, the character of God, the heart of God, the love of God, and the commands of God. We see all of that right here in His Word. You cannot be frustrated and go around saying, "I just don't hear from God," if your Bible is closed on a bookshelf somewhere. God speaks to us through His Word.

I had a conversation with someone this week. They're in a season of their life where they're looking ahead to what's next, and they don't know what decision to make. They admitted they're not walking with the Lord currently. They admitted that their Bible is closed and hasn't been opened in quite some time.

So I pointed them to Romans 12:2, and we read it together. If you remember that verse, God talks about being transformed by the renewing of our minds through His Word. Our minds are transformed by the Word of God. God makes a promise and says we're going to know something. Do you remember what He says we're going to know? God's will.

> *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
>
> — Romans 12:2

You want God to speak to you and live a life knowing God's will for your life? I'm telling you, He speaks through His Word. Make sure yours is open.

Second, God speaks through the Holy Spirit in your heart. In John 16, Jesus tells the disciples that the Holy Spirit is going to speak to them the truth of the Word of God, to speak truth straight from God. He says it in other places too, but John 16 is an anchor point.

God also speaks through His family. When I say His family, I'm talking about other believers. They will speak into our lives. Colossians 3:16 talks about the Word of God dwelling in us so that we can admonish one another with all wisdom from the Word of God.

God often uses other believers in our lives to share the truth with us. God uses us in each other's lives. So when believers are speaking to you from the Word of God, take that as God speaking His truth to you.

Finally, God speaks through His moments - these moments that God creates. He creates a moment right here with Moses in the mundane moments of a normal workday. God steps in, interrupts, and speaks to him.

Slow down long enough to listen when you're interrupted like that. Slow down long enough to hear when something different is going on in your life. It very well may be that God's trying to get your attention.

Again, this is probably not going to be a burning bush for you, but it could be as simple as this: You're struggling with something, a decision that has to be made or something that has you anxious or worried right now. You get into the car, and the first song that pops on is worship on the radio, full of Scripture that specifically addresses what you're walking through. Just lean into that moment.

It could be a believer talking to you. It could be a note that you get. It could be a timely podcast, sermon, or book that you read that addresses what you're going through. I'm telling you, God speaks to us. He is not quiet.

When God speaks, you need to know that He's never going to contradict His character, and He's never going to contradict Himself. So if you believe God has spoken to you and you come to a conclusion about a situation in your life that goes against what God's Word says, I will just tell you now: you have misheard. You're mistaken.

If there's ever a moment when our life contradicts the Bible, we do not get out a pen or an eraser and change what's here in the Bible. No, we change our lives to be in line with what God has said.

Listen, God speaks. He's consistent. Most of us just need to slow our lives down a little bit. We're moving very quickly. We've got a lot of different things going on. We just need to slow down. Don't go too fast. Don't be too self-absorbed or self-focused. Pay attention.

When you hear God, have that same posture of humility: sandals off, hands open. In humility, we respond as if, "God, here I am."

Look at what happens in verse 7:

> *Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,*
>
> *and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.*
>
> *And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them."*
>
> — Exodus 3:7-9

God Cares

Point two, if you're taking notes: God cares.

God cares about His people. Look at the verbs: "I've seen their affliction. I've heard their cry. I know their suffering." What does He do? "I have come down to deliver them."

Seen, heard, know, and come down.

Remember where Israel is right now. They've been in slavery for generations. Brick by brick, they're building for Pharaoh. Their baby boys are being thrown into the Nile River.

I'd imagine there were so many nights when they were crying out to God about what was going on in their world, thinking and wondering, "Is God even hearing us anymore? Does God hear? Does He see? Does He know? Does He even care what's happening?"

Maybe you've been there. Maybe you're there now. You're walking through this incredibly difficult season, and you're praying and wondering, "Is any of this getting through? God, do You still hear me?"

Here's what God said to Moses: "I've seen it. I've heard it. Every cry, every prayer - not one of them has been

missed."

God knew their condition. He knew their suffering, not as some distant fact in a book that He read somewhere, but intimately and personally. You need to understand that when God's people cry out, God hears.

Let that be an encouragement to you this morning. God heard the people of Israel, and God hears you when you cry out in prayer.

But God doesn't stop with just seeing and hearing. Look at verse 8. What does He say? He says, "I have come down. I am here. I have come down to deliver them."

God cares enough to come down into the pain of His people. He is taking action here.

I'll never forget a mission trip years ago in Chicago with a bunch of students. We're all over the city, moving around and doing all different kinds of things, so we have to take the L train, their subway train system, to get from spot to spot.

There was a moment when we were getting on with this group of kids, and we looked behind us, and there was this commotion. There was a guy crying out, and he had his foot wedged right there between the side of the train and the sidewalk. He's panicked, obviously. He's thinking, "What if the doors shut? What if this train takes off and my foot is still here? What's going to happen?"

He's crying out, and one of our leaders comes down. He steps into the pain. He takes action, grabs the leg, and starts working with it a little bit. The time is running out, so he gives it a big jerk. They fall in, and he looks up, and he's holding the guy's leg in his hand.

It's not on the guy's body anymore. He's ripped the guy's leg off!

Then we learned it was a prosthetic leg. It was not a real leg. It was a prosthetic leg, and the guy whose leg it was thought it was the funniest thing in the world to see the panicked look of this leader and everybody there.

But listen, that's what happens. When love sees a need, what does love do? Love steps in to help meet the need.

That's what God does, not just for Israel. You need to know God does that for you. The same God who came to rescue His people from Egypt is the God who would come down again in Jesus. Emmanuel, God with us. We're going to celebrate that next month. Some of you are early with your Christmas trees. That's next month.

But this is the same God. He steps in, God in the flesh, stepping into our suffering, stepping into our sins, stepping into our brokenness to deliver us. The same holy fire comes down.

God doesn't just come down. God comes down with a plan. He remembers what He said. He remembers His promise.

Remember where this started. This started with Abraham hundreds of years before. If you were to look in Genesis 15, you'd see that God told Abraham, "Hey, listen, your family - I'm going to make them big. I'm going to make them great. But they're going to spend 400 years in slavery, and then I'm going to pull them out."

God said this was going to happen. The season of suffering for God's people was never meant to last forever. God was working in the midst of that suffering to build them into a great nation and into a great family. He was doing something in their hearts to prepare them for where He was taking them.

Here's a hard reality of this concept: there were some who were part of the people of God who were born, lived, and died their entire lives in Egypt. They were waiting for God to fulfill the promise, and they never saw it on this side of eternity.

So I've just got to say, if you're in a hard season right now - and I know some of you are - I'm not going to promise you that it's going to be over next week. I don't know that.

But here's what I do know. Here's what you can hold on to. We see it right here in Exodus 3: God sees what you're going through. God hears your prayers, and He hears your cries. God is working even in the midst of it.

The Bible says in James chapter 1:

> *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,*
>
> *for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*
>
> — James 1:2-3

Listen, if you're in one of these Egypt-style seasons in your life, God is working. God is growing something in you that you might not be able to see yet. He has a plan bigger than anything we can be aware of in our immediate context.

Seasons change, but the promises of God don't. He always keeps them.

Now, this promise here about a land flowing with milk and honey was for a specific people at a specific time. You can't read this and think, "Man, at some point God's going to move me into a neighborhood that's a land flowing with milk and honey." That's not a specific promise for you. I'm sorry.

But God has made promises to you, and He keeps those promises too.

What do we do as we see God stepping in to fulfill His promises? It would be a great application for us to remember His promises. Whatever season of life we find ourselves in, we've got to have our hearts and minds going back and back and back again to the promises of God.

There are so many promises of God for Christians, for believers, right here in His Word. We can go back, pull them out, read them, and use them in our hearts and minds in the different seasons in which we find ourselves. Let me share three with you this morning in the interest of time.

God has promised His presence in your life. In Matthew 28, Jesus says:

> *And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*
>
> — Matthew 28:20

In Hebrews chapter 13, God says:

> *I will never leave you nor forsake you.*
>
> — Hebrews 13:5

The presence of God is with us, just like we see the presence of God here with Moses.

Second, God has promised His Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God resides and lives inside of us. We talked about that a minute ago. Jesus said in John 16 that He's going to be with you as a guide, helper, and counselor.

Finally, God has promised that He is working for your good - the good of those who love Him. Romans 8:28 doesn't say that all things are good. It says that God works all things - the good, the bad, and the ugly - for our good and for His glory.

When you find yourself in a challenging season, a discouraging season, or a confusing season, I want to encourage you to go back to the promises of God in His Word. Write them down. Read them. Hide them in your heart. Talk about them. Discuss them with your spouse, your family, and your friends. Remind yourself of what God has already promised to do.

He saw Israel and kept His promises to them. He sees you, and He's going to keep His promises to you as well.

God cares, and that care is driving Him to action and to the fulfillment of these promises. Moses is very surprised to learn that he's going to be a part of God's action plan here.

Look with me at verse 10:

> *"Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*
>
> *But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"*
>
> *He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."*
>
> — Exodus 3:10-12

God Calls and Sends

Point three for your notes: God calls and sends.

He calls Moses, and He sends Moses. Then, this is important: He goes with us as He calls us and sends us.

That's the Bible over and over again: God calling and sending His people to fulfill His promises. Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Esther, Peter, Paul, Philip - you can go on and on throughout Scripture.

God could do all of this on His own. He doesn't need us, but He chooses to work through His people to accomplish His plans and His purposes.

Here is the reality for all of us - me, you, and everyone else: God has a call on our lives as well. There's a general call on our lives and then a specific call, like Moses had the specific call to go back to Pharaoh.

Lewis sums up the general call well on Sundays when he says we're about loving God and loving people. In Matthew 22, Jesus says, most importantly, love God. Second most important, love people. The rest is going to fall out of that right there.

That's a call for every single one of us, to love God and to love the people He brings into our lives.

But there are also specific calls. Moses' specific call was, "Go to Pharaoh, get the people, and bring them out of there."

God has specific callings on your life for specific seasons of your life. Maybe it has to do with your profession, your neighborhood, or your family. God has you where you are for a purpose.

There are going to be moments when the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and God is speaking to you through His Word, where He's calling you and saying, "Hey, I need you to go and do this. This is next for you. This is how I want to use you for your good and for My glory."

There are going to be moments when we're overwhelmed by it, when we feel inadequate to go and do what God's calling us to do. Moses felt that.

Look at his response in verse 11. Moses looks at God and says, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Some people read that and say, "Moses, how could you question in that moment? You're talking to God. There's this fire there. You should just be saying, 'I'm in. Let's go.'"

Well, listen, I think Moses has pretty good self-awareness to say, "God, who am I?"

Think about who he is. What's his resume looking like? For the last 40 years, he's been chasing sheep around a mountain in the wilderness. That's what he's been doing.

Later in Exodus, he's going to tell God, "God, I'm slow of speech, and I'm slow of tongue. I can't speak in front of people. I can't go to the courts of Pharaoh and deliver a message that's intelligent, coherent, and persuasive. God, You've got the wrong guy.

"And by the way, if I go to the courts of Pharaoh, they're going to arrest me. I'm wanted for murder there. I killed somebody and had to leave Egypt. That's why I'm out here in the wilderness in the first place.

"If for some reason they don't arrest me, and I go to Your people and say, 'Hey, guys, follow me. We're going to get out of here,' they're not going to listen because they don't like me."

They mocked him in Exodus chapter 2. He's the rich kid who grew up in the palace. They didn't want anything to do with him.

So Moses says, "God, who am I?" That's pretty self-aware. If you were making a list of who should go in and do this, I don't even think you'd put Moses on it.

We can feel the same way. Personally, when God called me to be a pastor, I know that I heard Him speak to

me clearly through His Word. There were several passages in Isaiah that God used to work in my heart to say, "The plans you've got, it's time to bail on those, and I need you to go this way."

I know that happened in my life. The Holy Spirit was speaking to me. God used the people in the church to speak those things into me as well. I know that.

But here's the deal with me: I'm terrified to speak in front of people. That's been my biggest challenge and struggle for the longest time in my life. Through the grace of God, He's sorted that out some in me, but there are still these anxious moments when I know I'm going to be in front of people.

So I understand the instinct of Moses to say, "God, no way. Not me. I can't do this. You've got the wrong person."

Maybe you've been there too. "God, I can't do it. I'm not smart enough. I'm not prepared enough. I'm not experienced enough. I'm not spiritual enough. I don't know enough of the Bible. I've got a past filled with mistakes and sins. I've got these anxious moments. God, who am I?"

Look at how God addresses that in verse 12. How does God address that with Moses? All He says is, "I will be with you."

"God, I can't do it."

"I'll be with you."

"God, who am I?"

"I'll be with you."

God doesn't reassure Moses. He doesn't say, "No, man, you can do it." He doesn't say, "No, you're a better speaker than you think you are." He doesn't say, "No, you've got the experience, the connections, and the relationships." He doesn't say, "Moses, I believe in you. You're going to crush it."

He says, "Moses, I'll be there. You can do it because I'll be there."

At the end of the day, what qualifies us is not who we are. It's who goes with us. There's that old phrase: "God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called." He does it with His presence.

We see God keep His word. He goes with Moses. The same fire that didn't consume Moses goes with him before Pharaoh, through the plagues, and through the Red Sea. In Exodus 13, we literally see a pillar of fire, the presence of God, guiding the people of Israel in the sky as they walk along.

The holy fire of God, the presence of God, goes with him. His presence equips His people for His calling.

What do we do with that? Lean in like Moses did. Embrace God's calling in your life. Think about what He's calling you to in this season.

Maybe it's sharing your faith with somebody, speaking up for people who don't have a voice or don't have the strength to speak for themselves. Maybe it's meeting a need that He's placed in your path.

We saw some parents in this service and a bunch of parents in that first service. God's got a calling on their lives right now, in this season of life, to raise their kids to know and love God with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their strength. That is a specific calling in their lives.

We've all got them in our lives right here, right now. If it overwhelms you - and sometimes it will, and sometimes it should - stop asking, "Who am I?" and start remembering who He is.

It's only His presence in your life that's going to enable you to fulfill His calling on your life.

This is a massive moment for Moses here with that holy fire. God speaks. God cares. God called him out and sent him, all for God's glory.

As we wrap up, I want you to look back at verse 4. Before going to Egypt, before "I'll be with you," before any of that, God said, "Moses, Moses." Moses said, "Here I am."

That's where it started for Moses, and that's where it starts for us too. God speaks, and we respond.

I've been praying for your family and for my family that, as God speaks to us, we would respond with, "God, here I am."

Would you pray with me this morning?

Go ahead and bow your head and take a moment to slow down and listen. Slow down and let the Lord speak to you. Maybe even ask Him, "God, help me to walk slowly in a way where, when You speak, I hear."

Ask Him to lead you to those moments where you're going to hear His voice, getting you into His Word, making you sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit in your heart, and putting you in a place where you're surrounded by believers who know you and love you.

Maybe it's a life group class, and you haven't jumped into one. Listen, I'm telling you, that's what happens in those groups. We meet people who love us like this.

Tell God you're thankful that He speaks. You're thankful that He cares. You're thankful that He calls us and gives us that purpose in life.

In just a minute, we're going to stand and sing one last song. We have some pastors and prayer partners up here. We'd love to pray with you about whatever's going on in your world.

Maybe it's one of these things. Maybe you're hearing God calling you to something, and you're overwhelmed, intimidated, or discouraged, and you just want somebody to pray with you. We'll be here. We'd love to pray with you.

Maybe you're hearing about a God who loves you, sees what's going on, and steps into your life for the first time. You're here with a friend, and you'd say, "You know what? I'm not a Christian, but if that's how God's going to treat me, if God cares for me and loves me, if He wants to be involved in my life, I'm ready. I'm ready to trust Him."

If that's the case, come and tell us. We'll answer your questions, and we'll help you do just that.

Or maybe there's something altogether different going on in your life. Whatever it is, just know that when we stand to sing, that's your invitation. Our pastors will be here, and we'd love to pray with you.

Father, we love You. We trust You. We thank You for the incredible love You have for us, God. Lord, I pray that when You speak, we listen and respond. In Your name we pray. Amen.