

# JIRAH

## SPEAKER GUIDE

### THEME QUESTION:

Who is God?

### THEME OVERVIEW:

The Christian life is summed up in The Greatest Commandment: "loving God." Although seemingly simple, our objective in loving God becomes impossible when we do not accurately know God. Common sense tells us that we cannot love or enjoy someone if we do not know them. This summer we will be looking at the character of God through the eyes of Moses, the man who spoke to God "face to face." Moses understood that God's love for His people cannot be separated from His holiness, nor His holiness from His justice, and whose sovereignty cannot be divorced from His goodness and eternity. In a world of relativism, culture often attempts to define God according to our imagination. But that is a God made in our image, not we in His. But the God who "is the same yesterday, today and forever" reveals the beauty of His character within His word. Surely no greater need exists today than a right view of God. Our hope is that as students see God for who He is they will respond with a love and affection for Him and an obedience to His word.

### THEME VERSE: EXODUS 34:6-8

*And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation." Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.*

### DAILY DIRECTION:

In order to magnify the understanding of God's character we are extrapolating the truth of who He is through the eyes of Moses in the story of the Exodus. God redeems his people from slavery, he punishes the unbelieving, he is present with them in the wilderness etc. So as a speaker you will be weaving the narrative of the Exodus account into the broadcasting of God's character.

1. THE HOLINESS OF GOD- EXODUS 3
2. GOD'S JUSTICE AND WRATH
3. GOD'S LOVE AND PROVISION
4. GOD'S PRESENCE
5. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY
6. GOD SPEAKS



# MESSAGE 1 - THE HOLINESS OF GOD

## Scripture: Exodus 3

In a culture where God's character is lowered to the lowest common denominator to make God palatable to the world around us, the scripture reminds us that God is the one who reveals and defines Himself. In the words of Schaeffer: He is there and He is not silent.

To the average student (or person in general) sin is not "cosmic treason." It is normal. Although many would claim that they of course are sinners, their understanding of their sin is diminished to a theological assent to the reality that "all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory," leading them to make statements like "I'm only human" or "no one is perfect." When our view of God's holiness is subverted, grace is no longer amazing, but expected. Awe and reverence evaporate and the staggering reality of God's holiness is replaced with a shock that He would ever express wrath and justice.

Our understanding of our sin and consequently our understanding of the love of God is rooted in a deep comprehension of His holiness. Only when we understand God's Holiness can we actually understand that we can live and survive only by "His grace."

In this message you will cover the passage in Exodus 3 and how Moses meets God at the burning bush. Moses is commanded to take off his shoes because he is standing on "holy ground." The same God who says "I am who I am" pronounces that who He is, is Holy. We want students to have a magnified perspective on who God is so that they will (as the week progresses) have a profound understanding of the fact that God maintains His holiness and His justice as he pours out His own wrath on Jesus Christ.

Ultimately Holiness is most clearly demonstrated in the incarnation. Jesus who was the embodiment of God's holiness. Give the students an exalted view of God.

## CABIN TIME QUESTIONS:

1. What are some common misconceptions about the word holy?
2. How would you define holiness? How is it more than moral perfection? If the angels are sinless, why can they not even behold the glory of God?
3. If we are to say "God doesn't leave himself open to interpretation," what does that mean? And how does that differ from the world that we live in? If this is true, then what is our ultimate resource in learning more about the unchangeable God? Does your life reflect the reality that God's word is our most precious resource in knowing more about God Himself?
4. What is the result of a diminished understanding of the holiness of God? How does it play out in our thankfulness for God?



## MESSAGE 2 - SIN AND GOD'S JUSTICE

**Scripture: Exodus 5:2, Isaiah 53:6a, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23**

In this message we will cover the narrative portion of Exodus 4-11. Main thing narratively we want to cover is that God commissions Moses to deliver His people, pharaoh's heart is hardened, and God pours out His justice on unbelieving Egypt and ultimately on a sacrificial lamb (as we will see in the following night's message). Moses urges Pharaoh to let God's people go and chapter 5 provides Pharaoh's response: "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord." This is the mentality of all those lost in sin. Pharaoh's response shrugs off the holiness and power of God and diminishes that he lives life by his own prerogative and authority. Pharaoh's declaration assuredly mimics the mindset of many students today: "I am my own God." Pharaoh sets himself up as his own God, but in reality everyone who is lost in their sin is an enemy of God. Pharaoh's rebellion is obvious, but rebellion lies within the heart of everyone apart from Christ (Romans 5:10, Ephesians 2:3, Colossians 1:21).

God pours out proofs of his power and justice over the next 6 chapters, ultimately culminating in the threat of the last plague which reveals to us God's wrath will either be poured out on a sinner or on a substitute. Some today steer clear of addressing the wrath of God, but without doing so, we fail to understand the wrath of God that was poured out on Jesus Christ.

This will be the main idea through the rest of message # 2. God's holiness demands that his wrath and justice are poured out on all sin. Romans 3:19 puts all sinners in the same pool as pharaoh. God doesn't grade on a curve, "He will by no means let the guilty go unpunished."

Pharaoh was an enemy of God, so are sinners (Ephesians 2:1-9).

Pharaoh experienced the wrath of God, so will those who do not believe (John 3:36).

Egypt was judged, likewise all men will one day be judged (Hebrews 9:27, James 2:10).

The wages of sin is death (Exodus 12, Romans 6:23).

The necessary ending point for message #2 is that we all need a deliverer.

### CABIN TIME QUESTIONS:

1. In light of God's holiness, why does He have full authority to judge?
2. What are ways in which we diminish the seriousness of sin?
3. Do you think your sin deserves to be judged? Have you ever considered yourself as an enemy of God?



## MESSAGE 3 - GOD'S LOVE

**Scripture: Exodus 12, Romans 5:8**

If God is both holy and just we need a Savior from our sin. We must place our faith in the spotless substitute of a sacrifice. In his love, grace, and mercy God provides this sacrifice in Jesus Christ.

In this portion of scripture you will cover the narrative portion of the passover. God, in order to spare His own people, instructs them to kill an innocent lamb and take its blood as a covering over their household. This really establishes the sacrificial system where over the next 1500 years God will engrain in the mind of His people that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22). Ultimately, this lamb could never take away sin, but would point to the One who could "once and for all (Rom. 6:10)," "the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)."

The passover leads us to Jesus Christ, who was led like a "lamb to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7)," to take away our sin. We know that the "blood of goats and rams could never take away sin (Hebrews 10:4)," but only Jesus who not only died for us, but lived for us as He exemplified the holiness of God for 33 years on earth. Therefore, the cross of Jesus Christ becomes the greatest demonstration of God's holiness, justice, and love simultaneously as God the father pours out the full measure of his wrath on his only son. Why? Because of his great and unexplainable love (Ephesians 2:4, Romans 5:8, John 3:16).

The method by which this salvation is appropriated is clear: repent and believe (Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38). In the Exodus account there was wholehearted dependence on the substitute of the spotless lamb, and today we place our wholehearted dependence on Jesus Christ's work on the cross.

### CABIN TIME QUESTIONS:

1. If God required a blood sacrifice back then, and God is the same today as He was then, what does that mean we need today in our life to be saved?
2. God required a spotless lamb as a sacrifice, what makes us, as human beings, an insufficient sacrifice?
3. Looking at Ephesians 2:1-3, what can be determined about our standing in relation to God? Now look at verses 4-7, how does this change where we stand?



## MESSAGE 4 - GOD'S PRESENCE

**Scripture: Exodus 13:17-22**

In this message we will trace how God delivers his people from Egypt. God does not deliver Israel to abandon them, although the Israelites may have felt that during their wandering. God delivers His people in order that He would dwell amongst them. God is not a distant deliverer, but a present companion and faithful God. God is not merely transcendent, but intimate (Psalm 139). The believer's omniscient and omnipresent God dwells within the believer. We see this in the pillar of fire and cloud, tabernacle (Exodus 36:8-Exodus 39), temple, and then most clearly in Jesus Christ.

God's presence is not dependent upon our feelings or circumstances, but upon His own character and commitment to His own. From the beginning, the design has always been for God to dwell with his people. God's presence is the greatest comfort to his children and the greatest dread to those who reject Him (Jeremiah 23:23-24). No matter where we go, there God will be. He is limited to only one space, so even in the loneliest moments of our life, God is with us (Psalm 139).

In the mind of many within the church, there is the idea that God is more present at A (camp, church, mountains etc.) than he is at B (school, home, mundane etc.) but this couldn't be further from the truth.

As the people of God are navigating the wilderness the promise that God had made to Moses (Exodus 3) was true for them and is true for us today - God is with us.

### CABIN TIME QUESTIONS:

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## MESSAGE 5 - GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

**Scripture: Genesis 15:13, Exodus 12:40**

God's sovereignty is at the very bedrock of His character. From the beginning of scripture to the very end is the asserted reality that God reigns. He rules. He is King. None of this is possible if He is not sovereign. The sovereignty of God means that He has the authority and ability to execute His predetermined plan for His own glory.

In this message we want students to understand that God is not surprised by anything. That he is sovereign. Egypt cannot thwart his purposes, pharaoh cannot frustrate His plans, He is God and He "has established his throne in the heavens and His Sovereignty rules over all" (Psalm 103:19). God has no plan B, He never has to adapt, he never waits for information, He is orchestrating events, kingdoms, and king's hearts (Proverbs 21:1) according to His purposes.

As we look at the scripture we see that God promised Abraham that he would bring His descendents out of land of Egypt, but in order for that to happen, Abraham would have to have a grandson named Joseph, who was the envy of his brothers, who would then get sold into slavery, who would then become a prisoner in Egypt, who would then became an interpreter of dreams, who would then be elevated to the position of prime minister of Egypt, who would then provide a haven for his family in the midst of famine, who would then settle in the land of goshen, who would then greatly multiply causing great concern to a new Pharaoh (Exodus 1:8), who would then oppress the Israelites in order that God would display His passion to keep His promises, redeem His people and display His glorious might.

The last year for many students looks chaotic, confused and uncertain, but the One who upholds the universe by the word of His power is in complete control. This should be a great source of comfort to God's children, that the God, whom they call Father, is in complete control. It's additionally important in this message to reiterate that God's attributes are never segmented from His other attributes. Meaning, God's sovereignty is not a piece of His attributable pie. He is always sovereign and loving and holy and just and good. God's sovereignty can never be divorced from His other attributes.

### CABIN TIME QUESTIONS:

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## MESSAGE 6 - GOD SPEAKS

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:11-14**

As Moses' life is drawing to a conclusion, the people of Israel begin to worry and think: "how are we going to hear from God if Moses is gone?" The matter of hearing from God wasn't simply slightly perplexing, but deeply troubling. If we can't hear from God, we don't know where to go, how to live, we don't know our creator! There is a deep angst associated with merely a distant creator, but Moses, moments before He dies, encourages his people - God is there and "He is not silent." He speaks. Moses looks at the people and encourages them that the One that they need to know is not accessed by daring adventures "beyond the sea" or "in the heavens" but has revealed himself in His word.

**Our heart for this message is to obliterate the obscurity of how students can hear from God.** The answer to the question "does God speak?" is a one million times "YES!" And he speaks plainly, authoritatively, and sufficiently in His word. These words in deut 30 are the grand **finale** of Moses, the leader of Israel. He is about to die and is charging the people with the call to obey the Lord their God and he assures the people in vs. 11-14 that God's word is not beyond them. He is saying that the word of God can be understood and obeyed, not perfectly, but in a way that pleases God. God doesn't not keep himself hidden in **obscure mysteries** to keep his children in suspense, and to **torment us with the difficulties of understanding** him, but shows us plainly who He is and how we can know him.

Rc Sproul begs the question: *"What kind of God would reveal his love and redemption in terms that are technical and concepts so profound so that only an elite group of professional scholars could even understand them?"*

Not our God. Not our God. Our God speaks. He Speaks through His word.

We often say that our desire for students not to go from "camp high" to "camp high," but in order for them to grow and seek Christ at home, they must find great comfort, strength and hope in "the God who speaks."

### CABIN TIME QUESTIONS:

1. Do you truly view the bible as the words of God speaking to you authoritatively and personally?
2. If God speaks to us in His word, How should our priorities and our time reflect that reality?
3. Next time you want to "hear from God," where do we turn?

