



# NEW YEAR | NEW ENCOUNTERS

## **ENCOUNTER TWO: THE MAN IN THE MIRROR**

**Pray and then read Exodus 3:1-15**

In this message, Pastor Ta used the story of Moses and the burning bush to help walk us through a struggle we all face: our belief about ourselves. Most of us have an incorrect view of ourselves. We've looked in the mirror our whole lives for validation, but instead of seeing ourselves the way God sees us, we feel defined by something we've done or experienced. We often look in the mirror of failure and rejection and say, "I am what I did," the mirror of social pressure and say, "I am who they say I am," or the mirror of inferiority and say, "I am not enough." But the truth is, God sees who we can become and wants to do a great work in us. It's important for us to discover the "God version" of who we are.

Moses asked God four identity-defining questions in Exodus 3:11-12, and God's replies show us how to see ourselves the way He does. Moses said, "Who am I?", "Who are You?", "What if they?", and "Never have I ever." In God, we can define ourselves by these truths: We are who we are by His grace, there is nothing too difficult for God, we can be unashamed of the Gospel of Jesus, and we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Let's lean into who God says we are so we can become who He created us to be.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What part of your past do you still "see in the mirror" that you need to replace with God's view of you?
- Do you ever feel like you're settling for "safe Christianity"? What steps can you take to go all in with God?
- Is there anything you feel called to do, but also feel unqualified? What does it mean to you when God says you can do anything in His strength?

### **Prayer Focus**

Ask God to reveal how your view of yourself does not align with His perspective. Ask Him to help you trust Him fully so you can step boldly into everything He has for you.

### **Next Steps**

During 21 Days of Prayer, declare that you believe you are who God says you are. Challenge yourself to take steps towards becoming the person God made you to be. What has God been teaching you so far in our 21 Days of Prayer?

### **Application Tip**

Think about something that God has revealed to you about who you really are VS. how you used to see yourself. Be prepared to share it with the group to help open up the conversation.