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**Exodus 3:13-15 NIV**

- Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"
- God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

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**Exodus 3:13-15 NIV**

- God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of you fathers – the God of Abraham, the god of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation."

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**The First Question: Mark 4:38 NIV**

Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"



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**The Second Question: Mark 4:41 NIV**

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"



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**Transitions**

Three Stages of negotiating major change:

1. Endings
2. The Neutral Zone
3. New Beginnings



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### The Neutral Zone

A time of great uncertainty where we are in between the old and the new.

It may seem like God is distant.

You may feel like the waves are filling your boat and you can't bail fast enough to stay afloat!



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### Lessons for the Neutral Zone

### Get back in the boat

Mark 6:45 NIV

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.



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### Lessons for the Neutral Zone

### Lose sight of shore

Mark 6:47 NIV

When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land.



You can't change in your armchair.

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Lessons for the Neutral Zone

Transition is work

Mark 6:48a NIV

He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them.



Seven horizontal lines for writing.

Moses in the Neutral Zone

Exodus 33:18-19 NIV

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence.



Mt. Sinai

Seven horizontal lines for writing.

Moses in the Neutral Zone

Exodus 34:5 NIV

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.



Mt. Sinai

Seven horizontal lines for writing.

Moses in the Neutral Zone

Exodus 34:6 NIV  
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...."



Mt. Sinai

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Just passing by?

Mark 6:48b NIV  
About the fourth watch of the night (3:00 a.m.) he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them,



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Just passing by?

Mark 6:49-50 NIV  
But when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified.



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Who is this?

Job 9:8 NIV  
He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.



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Who is this?

Mark 6:50b NIV  
"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."  
"It is I" = "I AM"



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Who is this?

Exodus 3:14 NIV  
God said to Moses: "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"



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Did they understand?

Mark 6:51-52 NIV

Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.



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Did they understand?

Amazed, but not transformed...

They saw what He did, but did not see who He was.

They had no categories for God in the boat.



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Did they understand?

They weren't ready for the answer to their question -- "Who is this?" -- even when it walked out on the water to them!



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Learning in the Neutral Zone

It is in the Neutral Zone that you meet God and discover who He really is.

It is in the Neutral Zone that you meet yourself and discover who you really are.



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Learning in the Neutral Zone

It takes more than one boat ride to take it all in.

Sometimes you feel like you're out there all alone, rowing against the wind.



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Learning in the Neutral Zone

But that is when He comes and reveals who He is – the I AM.

And it is only when you discover who He is that you discover what it truly means to be you.



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