



# GOD KNOWS YOUR SIN AND CALLS YOU BY YOUR NAME

with Eric Brew

## ▶ FOCUS VERSES

But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
Isaiah 43:1

## ▶ DISCUSSION

- 1. In relating the story of how he first joined the military, Eric says “something”—as in “something told me I needed to change”—is his favorite name for God.**
  - a. Have you ever experienced an epiphany that inspired you to change something about your life?
  - b. At the time, did you take into account that the “something” that inspired that change might be God’s handiwork?
  - c. Looking back, can you see any signs that that might have been the case?
- 2. Think about the longest romantic relationship that you’ve ever had (that you’re not currently in).**
  - a. What were your thoughts and feelings when that relationship ended?
  - b. Did you blame yourself for the relationship collapsing?
  - c. Were you at all worried that you wouldn’t ever find anyone else?
  - d. Looking back with the benefit of hindsight, which of those thoughts, feelings, or worries do you still agree with, and which ones do you think have proved to be inaccurate?



- 3. Leading up to his near-suicide attempt, Eric recalls thinking, “There’s no reason I should be this successful for my whole life and then fumble on the 5 yard line.”**
- Have you ever had similar thoughts—that you’d experienced a great deal of success or achievement, yet your life was still falling far short of what you wanted it to be?
  - What were the main things that were (or are) missing?
- 4. Discuss Eric’s emphasis on the need to “understand the voice and character of the Lord.” (See *Ezekiel 36:26.*)**
- Have you ever felt like God was telling you that you were worthless, immoral, or irredeemable?
  - After listening to Eric’s explanation, does it seem plausible to you that that wasn’t God talking, but something else?
  - Can you embrace the idea that God would never say those sorts of things?
- 5. Take Eric’s metaphor about the flies and the piles of horse manure and apply it to your own life.**
- What are your “flies” (the things that cause you stress or shame), and what is your “manure” (the aspects of your life that might be causing or attracting those stressors)?
  - In your efforts to combat those challenges, have you been using a flyswatter when what you really need is a shovel?
- 6. Whether or not you’re a military veteran, does the “Freedom Appointment” that Eric’s ministry conducts seem like something that would be helpful to you in your current season of life?**
- If you participated in a Freedom Appointment, what would be the main things you would talk about, and what kinds of things would you want to hear from the person who was conducting the appointment?



7. **Think of the best piece of advice you've ever given one of your children (or, if you're not a parent, a younger person for whom you had some responsibility) that they didn't take.**
  - a. What was the outcome?
  
  - b. Do you think they regretted not heeding your advice?
  
  - c. Or, if there weren't any negative consequences to their actions, did that frustrate you at all?
  
8. **Now think of the best piece of advice your parents ever gave you that you didn't accept.**
  - a. What were the consequences, if any, of you not heeding that advice?
  
  - b. How long did it take for you to realize the advice they'd given you was actually pretty good?

