



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Lent Sermon Series – What is God Like?

Speaker: Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor

Scriptures: Exodus 34:5-7

⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining 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.”

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Pastor Rich will begin our Lenten sermon series through Exodus 34:6-7. This introductory sermon will explore some of the most important words that describe what God is like.

Sermon Questions:

1. A Baylor University Study found that people view God in 4 ways: 1) The Distant God, 2) The Critical God, 3) The Authoritative God (more about rules than relationship, 4) The Benevolent God. What is your concept of God? Which of these four do you most relate to?
2. Pastor Rich shared 3 reflections about God’s judgment: 1) God’s judgment is not God’s preferred course of action, 2) God’s judgment is tied to God’s Justice and God’s Justice is tied to God’s love 3) God’s judgment is revealed in the consequences of our sin. How do these reflections compare or contrast with how you have viewed God’s judgment?
3. Please refer to our Lent Study Guide below for further questions and reflection.



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CHURCHWIDE LENTEN 2024 BIBLE STUDY

what is
GOD
like?

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE



Scripture Passages

EXODUS 34:6-7 (NET)

Read together

6 The Lord passed by before him and proclaimed: "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love and faithfulness, 7 keeping loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. But he by no means leaves the guilty unpunished, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children and children's children, to the third and fourth generation."

JOHN 1:14-18 (NET)

Read together

14 Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory—the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father. 15 John testified about him and shouted out, "This one was the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than I am because he existed before me.'" 16 For we have all received from his fullness one gracious gift after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. The only one, himself God, who is in closest fellowship with the Father, has made God known.



Session 1: Introduction (cont.)

OPENING QUESTION

Take time to introduce yourselves to the group. Share your name, neighborhood, and one adjective you would use to describe your character or personality.

INVESTIGATE

Have someone from the group read Exodus 34:6-7.

1. What surprises or challenges you about this passage?
2. What did you learn about the context of this verse in your study or through the sermon?

Have someone from the group read John 1:14-18.

1. Why do you think God went to such great lengths to be present with us?
2. What does this passage want us to know about Jesus?

INTEGRATE

If you were asked, "What is God like?" what would you say? How does your view of God compare or contrast with the five characteristics in Exodus 34:6 (gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness)?

INVITE

Pause for a couple of minutes in prayerful silence to reflect personally on how God may be inviting you to expand or change your understanding of what he is like and feel free to journal your thoughts. Then, take turns sharing in a sentence or two, starting with the prompt "I'm beginning to realize _____."

CLOSING PRAYER

Allow people in the group to take turns thanking God for the beauty of his character and loving presence with us. They can finish the sentence,

"God, thank you that you are _____."

No one is required to pray, but are invited to participate as they are comfortable. The facilitator can close with a final prayer of gratitude.