

EXODUS 34:1–9 / MAY 4

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read & Pray

Read Exodus 34:1–9. After reading, pray for God to open our hearts to discuss and apply these truths.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- "When we think better about God, we will live better for God."
- "There's power in being named. Power in what we label and call things. Get a name wrong, and you can get purpose wrong, you can get a relationship wrong."
- "Compassion, therefore, doesn't mean that we get bailed out of suffering or hard situations; it simply means that we are never alone in these situations."
- "On the cross, Christ became our scapegoat, where all of the sins we've ever committed, are committing, and will ever commit were laid on him!"

Group Discussion

1. In what ways have you labeled God incorrectly in your life (uncaring, punitive, contractual)? How has that affected your approach to him?
2. How does Exodus 34:5–7 reveal God's character, and how does it challenge your misconceptions about God?
3. How does God's compassionate nature, as shown in Matthew 9:34, comfort you when you feel he is uncaring or distant?
4. What does it mean practically for your daily life that God is "slow to anger" rather than instantly punitive? How might this change your daily approach to God?
5. Pastor Bryan suggests that God allows suffering to "work empathy and compassion in you," in order to reach others. How have your struggles shaped your ability to show compassion?

QUOTE

- "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." - A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

PRAYER

- Pray that God would reveal any incorrect labels or false perceptions we have placed on him, and ask him to replace those with a true understanding of his character.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to work compassion in us through our suffering, that we might become vessels through whom God pours his compassion on others.