

Points to Ponder

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Who is God? In His Own Words

The God of Compassion and Mercy: Exodus 34:6-7

With a friend, your family or in your small group, discuss the following questions.

1. Have you been in a situation recently when you had to give a brief introduction of yourself? What did you say? If someone asked you to describe yourself, what would be the first thing you would say (besides your name)?
2. The first thing God says when describing Himself is that He is, *The God of compassion and mercy!* How does this description reinforce what you know about God from your personal experience? Do you think the people you know who are not Christians would describe God in this way? Why or why not?
3. God is compassionate in the way that a parent loves their child. How does this analogy resonate with you? God is merciful in the way that a parent takes action to help their child in need. How does this analogy resonate with you? Why do you think this analogy of God as a parent may not be as helpful for some people?
4. What experiences have you had with people who are all talk and no action? What experiences have you had with people who are all action and no talk? Why is it so important that God describes Himself as being all talk and all action?
5. If you feel comfortable, share a situation where you have been truly hurt by someone. God is full of compassion and mercy towards us but He also demonstrates those qualities towards people we don't like or people who have hurt us. Discuss how you feel about this quality of God.
6. How is Jesus the epitome of God's compassion and mercy?
7. What would it look like for you to demonstrate the qualities of God's compassion and mercy to those people in your life? In what ways would you find this difficult to do? In what ways would it be meaningful and even therapeutic?

Prayer and Action Item

Pray for one another out of the key points that were discussed. Invite God to give you opportunities to share His compassion and mercy to those people in your life. Pray specifically for the way that God's compassion and mercy can be shared through you to someone who has hurt you in the past.