

## Points to Ponder

Sunday, April 25, 2021

### *Who is God? In His Own Words*

#### *The God of Forgiveness: Exodus 34:6-7*

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

1. There have been a lot of losses over this past year. Humour can be an important way that we deal with grief and loss, and laughter can help us through all kinds of challenging seasons of life. What makes you laugh these days?
2. Sometimes we like to laugh at our mistakes, and even the mistakes of others. Can you think of a funny *fail* moment that you've experienced? Maybe it wasn't funny in the moment but you find you can laugh about it now?
3. The reality of our imperfection is addressed throughout the pages of scripture, but the idea that sin is a very real problem that exists is not always popular in our society. What evidence do you see that suggests that the problem of sin truly does exist in the world today?
4. Scripture uses several different words to describe humans' imperfect behavior, including iniquity (transgression, guilt or wickedness), rebellion (betrayal or breaking trust), and sin (missing the mark). In Exodus 34:7 God declares that he forgives it all. In what ways does the expansive scope of God's forgiveness encourage you? "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12)
5. Are there faults or mistakes in your life, or in the lives of others, that you find difficult to believe God can (or should) forgive? How does this create distance or barriers in your relationships with others, and in your relationship with God?
6. It is difficult to be in a relationship with someone who is unforgiving, holds grudges, and keeps a record of wrongs. Have you experienced this with someone in your life? In what ways does God's forgiving nature make it easy for us be in relationship with Him?
7. Jesus is the full embodiment of God's character. In what ways do you see Jesus expressing the forgiving nature of God throughout the Gospels? (See John 8:2-11, Luke 5:17-26).
8. What steps can you take this week to further reflect on God's forgiveness, and to allow the truth of God's forgiveness to more deeply take root and transform your life?

#### **Action Item and Prayer:**

Jesus taught that just as we have been forgiven by God through Christ, so we must forgive others. Take time to pray this week:

- *Lord, where am I missing the mark in my relationship with others, and in my relationship with you? Help me to recognize where I am going wrong and turn back to you. Help me to accept your forgiveness for the ways I have fallen short, and help me to allow you to work in my life, lifting my faults and failures from me and helping me to do a better job of loving you and loving others.*
- *Lord, are there ways that I am not living out your call to extend forgiveness to others, just as you have forgiven me? Help me to see where I am holding onto offense and I need to forgive. Help me to let go of any anger, bitterness, or resentment, and to extend grace and forgiveness to those who have wronged me.*