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6-WEEK STUDY

DIVING INTO THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GOD HAS A NAME

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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Exodus 34:6-7

Secondary texts from this week: Exodus 32:1-35; Exodus 33:1-23

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To grow in our understanding of what God is like so we can know Him better

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: Who was your favorite teacher in school? What qualities made him/her your favorite?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. If you had the opportunity to describe God to someone else, what words would you describe Him?
- 2. In this week's sermon, Pastor Doug read the following quote from A.W. Tozer: "What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Why do you think this statement might be true?
- 3. Have someone in the group read <u>Exodus 34:6-7</u> out loud. What words and phrases does God use to describe himself? Ask each person in the group to share which description word or phrase stands out to them.
- 4. Spend a few minutes discussing the last part of Exodus 34:7. Does that part shock you? Surprise you? Confuse you? (note: we will discuss this section in detail on Week 5 of the series)
- 5. Pastor Doug pointed out that the Old Testament writers quote Exodus 34:6-7 more than any other passage. Look up each of the following passages and read them out loud. Discuss which words or phrases are borrowed from Exodus 34:6-7:

- 6. With the Exodus story in your mind and the words of Exodus 34:6-7 still ringing in your ears, have someone in the group read John's introduction of Jesus in John 1:14. What descriptions or phrases does John use that point back to the story of God in Exodus? (see hints below)
 - made his dwelling—think of the tabernacle where God's presence dwelt (see Exodus 25:8) seen his glory—think of Moses asking to see God's glory (see Exodus 33:18) full of grace—the word "gracious" can be translated "full of grace" (see Exodus 34:6a) [full of] truth—the Greek word for "truth" can be translated "faithfulness" (see Exodus 34:6b)
- 7. Many people feel God is far away and distant. Have you ever felt that way? How does this story in Exodus remind you that God invites us to know Him intimately?

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PRAYER

Pray for each other: Pray that each person in your group would grow closer to God during the next six weeks.

Pray for yourself: Pray **Ephesians 1:17** over yourself every morning this week: Lord, I ask that you would give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that I may know You better,

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that (1) God would reveal Jesus to them, (2) that God would turn their hearts towards Him, (3) that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and (4) that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

Memorize Exodus 34:6-7. Read it out loud every morning a couple of times and then try to recite it with your eyes closed. By the end of the week, you'll probably be pretty close to having it memorized!

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