

the shallow **END**



6-WEEK STUDY

DIVING INTO THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD

WEEK 5

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DOES GOD PUNISH GENERATIONS?

the shallow END



WEEKLY READING

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

Secondary texts from this week: Exodus 20:5-6, Deuteronomy 24:16, Jeremiah 32:16-19, John 9:1-3

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand the troubling portions of God's self-description in Exodus 34:6-7

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

Break the Ice: Have you ever gotten in trouble for something that someone else did?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your initial response when you first read **Exodus 34:7**? How did Sunday's message help clarify your understanding of this passage?
2. American Christianity seems to sometimes perpetuate the belief that God in the Old Testament is mean and vengeful, while Jesus in the New Testament is kind and forgiving. Have you ever felt that way when you read the Bible? How does the fact that God's forgiveness is mentioned 658 times in the Old Testament affect your understanding of His character?
3. Although the fact that God is a forgiving God is emphasized throughout the Bible, it is clear that He does punish sin. Why do you think the fact that God punishes sin is actually a good thing?
4. In his sermon on Sunday, Pastor Doug said, "God is forgiving, but sin is not." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
5. Have someone in the group read **Romans 6:23**. Do you think the phrase, "the wages of sin is death," means that *God Himself* punishes sin with death, or that death is the *natural consequences* of sin?
6. God is just, but He is also merciful. How does Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross demonstrate the fact that God is both merciful and just? What does **Romans 3:25-27** have to say about this question?
7. Have someone in the group read **Revelation 21:4**. What does this passage tell you about God's ultimate goal for the world?

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.