

Week Eight: The God Who Loves His People

Exodus 33:1-36:38

Question

How has the Lord's steadfast love been revealed?

Key Verse

"The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation.'"
— Exodus 34:6-7

Session Introduction

While Moses was on the mountain, the Israelites made and then worshipped the golden calf. Just before Moses ascended the mountain, the people had declared whole-heartedly that all God said they would do. How quickly they forgot their promise! Nevertheless, as Moses goes back up the mountain to receive the commandments of the Lord once again, the Lord speaks of his *hesed*—the Hebrew word for steadfast love.

Graciously, the Lord continues to reveal that steadfast love. When Moses requests to see God's glory, the Lord reveals aspects of his glory: his grace and mercy, that he is slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

In experiencing this love of the Lord, Moses is transformed just as the nation of Israel will be changed by following the commands of the Lord. The Lord's steadfast love not only transforms his people but also differentiates his people.

Reading Plan: Week Eight

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Reading</i>	
50	Oct 11	Exodus 29:1-21	
51	Oct 12	Exodus 29:22-46	
52	Oct 13	Exodus 30:1-21	
53	Oct 14	Exodus 30:22-38	
54	Oct 15	Exodus 31:1-18	
55	Oct 16	Exodus 32:1-20	
56	Oct 17	Exodus 32:21-35	

Exodus: Leaving Egypt

Opening Prayer

In you alone, O Lord, do we experience the steadfast love of your covenant faithfulness. Open our hearts to receive this perfect love. Cover us in your mercy and grace and teach us how to live as your chosen and beloved children. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Getting Started

1. When you think about the nature of God, what attributes first come to your mind?
2. After the golden calf incident, the Lord tells Moses that he will not go among the people anymore. How do you see God's mercy in this?

Sinai: Meeting at the Mountain

Watch the Video

Video Notes

God reveals his attributes. The visible manifestation of the attributes of God comes through the revelation of his glory. Moses asks to see the Lord's glory. While Moses wanted to see the Lord; the Lord knew Moses needed to understand his character, his attributes, and his covenantal love for the people. He gave Moses what he needed instead of what he wanted.

God shows steadfast love. The love of the Lord leads to assurance. Though his people have sinned grievously, the Lord's love remains upon them. They are still his people, and they still have all the benefits of the covenant. The Lord's love for Israel is not based on their behavior but upon his covenantal promises to the patriarchs.

God's glory is reflected on Moses. The presence of the Lord transformed Moses. When he came down from the mountain, his face shone with the reflected glory of God. No other god impacted his followers the way Yahweh did. No other person in history has been said to reflect the glory of his God but Moses.

Shema: Hearing God's Covenant Word

Read Exodus 33:12-23: Moses' Intercession

3. In this passage of Scripture, what do you think is meant by the word "glory"?
4. Moses tells the Lord that it is his presence that sets the nation of Israel apart from the other nations. The Lord remains with his people. His presence assures them of his love. We, too, have the presence of God. How do you experience his love through his presence?
5. Why do you think there is a difference between the number of generations to whom God will keep his promises versus forgiving iniquities? What do these multigenerational commitments say about the nature and character of Yahweh?
6. When Moses asked to see God's glory, the Lord told Moses that he would make all his goodness pass before him. What was the manifestation of God's goodness? How do you think that manifestation would minister to Moses?

Tabernacle: Journeying with Glory

7. *“May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ”* (2 Thessalonians 3:5). How does Jesus’ death and resurrection assure you of God’s steadfast love?
 8. Our lives are to reflect God’s glory to this dark world. In Matthew 5, we are told to be salt and light. How can we live as salt and light?
 9. Moses moved from being an insecure and fearful leader to a bold leader of the Israelite nation. Read Acts 4:8-13. Here we see the disciples transformed into bold witnesses for Christ. What made the difference for these men? How can you become this kind of bold leader?
 10. Moses was transformed by beholding God’s glory. Each time he met with the Lord, his face shone. Read 2 Corinthians 3:17, and discuss how you are transformed by meeting with the living God.
-

Prayer Requests

You may want to share prayer requests with one another. There’s a Prayer & Praise Journal found on p. 46 where you can keep track of your group’s requests. Have someone close in prayer or pray together as a group.

Closing Prayer