



*The*  
**heart** *of*  
**worship**

**small group leader guide**

***week three***

**Who Is the God We Are Worshiping?**

## ***BIG IDEA***

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**The single most important thing about us is what we believe about God.**

## ***GETTING STARTED***

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“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

A.W. Tozer

Icebreaker: What are some of the best and worst ways God is depicted in movies and on TV?

Are any of those depictions worthy of your worship?

Why is God worthy of your worship?

**LEADER: PLAY THE VIDEO FOR WEEK THREE.**

## ***LEARN***

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Ask a volunteer to read Exodus 34:5-8.

### **1 God Is Personal**

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed,  
 “**YAHWEH**, the LORD God.” (Exodus 34:6)

Pastor Tony pointed out that the word “LORD” in all caps in the Bible represents God’s name, YHWH, or Yahweh.

**Why is it important that God introduced Himself to Moses using His name?**

## 2 God Is Graciously Compassionate

The LORD God, **compassionate** and **gracious**. (Exodus 34:6)

**God describes Himself in Exodus 34:6 as compassionate and gracious.  
How is this different than how you think God  
is portrayed in the Old Testament?**

*Leader: Luke 15:20 is taken from Jesus' parable of the prodigal son.  
Verse 15 describes the waiting father's response when he saw his son returning home.*

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 15:20.

But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was **filled with compassion**. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)

**How different is the compassionate father from your view of God?**

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## 3 God Is Patiently Loving

The LORD God ... **slow to anger**, and abounding in **steadfast love**. (Exodus 34:6)

Ask a volunteer to read 1 John 4:16.

We have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love**. (1 John 4:16)

**What does it mean that God's anger has a long fuse?**

**Do you ever still play the daisy game in your relationship with God?**

**Has anything happened recently that caused you  
to question the love of God?**

## 4 God Is Faithfully Forgiving

Ask a volunteer to read Exodus 34:6-7, 1 John 1:9, and 2 Timothy 2:13.

The LORD God ... abounding in ... **faithfulness**, keeping steadfast love for thousands, **forgiving** iniquity and transgression and sin (Exodus 34:6-7)

If we confess our sins, He is **faithful** and righteous to **forgive us** our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

If we are faithless, He remains **faithful**, for He cannot deny Himself. (2 Timothy 2:13)

**How does God's faithfulness and forgiveness affect your day-to-day life?**

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## 5 God Is Just

Ask a volunteer to read Exodus 34:7.

The Lord God ... who **will by no means leave the guilty unpunished**. (Exodus 34:7)

**Does God's justice bring you peace or anxiety?**

## APPLY

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“It is on the cross of Jesus that you see the love of God and the justice of God displayed. It is on the cross that you see the full character and nature of God. In Jesus Christ you see love and compassion and forgiveness.

But you also see the full force of God’s wrath and justice. And since Christ has fully taken our punishment for sin, we can now fully enjoy God’s love and mercy.”

Pastor Tony

Between God’s love and His justice,  
which one do you tend to gravitate more towards?

Pastor Tony taught us about several characteristics of God:  
Personal, Compassionate, Loving, Forgiving, and Just.

Which one did you need to hear this week?

What can you do this week to learn more about God’s character?

God’s goal for Christ followers is to become more like Him.

As we become more like Him, which characteristic of God, Personal, Compassionate, Loving, Forgiving, or Just, is most difficult for you to reflect?

What steps can you take this week to grow in that area of your life?

*Father, to worship in spirit and truth is to worship who You really are.  
Please forgive us for creating a different god in our imagination.  
Thank You for the cross. Thank You for saving our souls. Help us understand  
You more completely. Help us become more like You in our own life.  
Thank You for loving us and letting us get to know You for who You really are.  
In Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.*

**pray**



**SILVERDALE**  
Baptist Church