

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"MOSES FACE SHINING" | EXODUS 34 | PASTOR BRIAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What are events or situations that cause people to "glow"?

"Two New Tablets" - (Exodus 34: 1-9)

As Moses and the people come back to God to restore their relationship to Him, God "descends" and tells Moses about who He is instead of what the people have done or need to do. What does that say about God? How should that affect our focus?

"The Covenant Renewed" - (Exodus 34: 10-28)

As God renews His covenant with the people, He promises "an awesome thing I will do with you." What does this say about God's forgiveness? How does that effect the believer's view of their future?

"The Shining" - (Exodus 34: 29-35)

Moses' face shines from meeting with God, showing that God's glory was to be reflected in His people. What keeps people from reflecting God's glory? What are ways to overcome those obstacles?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

This whole chapter shows restoration, as Moses prepares tablets and goes up to meet with God after all the people rebelled and God comes down and reminds Moses of His character and His promises and standards. The result was Moses shining with God's glory and a renewed relationship with Him. Do you believe you can have a renewed relationship with God and reflect more of His character? Take time to seek Him and ask Him to shine through you.

Moses Face Shining

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Lar: Harvest. C@R. REAL. Fostering Hope.
- B. Slide6 Israel Trip: Just a reminder for anyone interested in going to Israel in 2022, Deposits are due by Nov.3. Please contact **Coral Travel** directly for all deposits, all details are listed on our events page.
- C. Partners: Next Sun we will have both **Steve Gumaer & Brad Hazlett** from Partners R&D who will share about what is happening in Afghanistan & w/the Ro.
- D. Prayer:

II. Slide7 Intro: Moses Face Shining

- A. Last week we read, that Moses asked God to “*please show me Your glory!*”.
 1. God responded to Moses, there are **limits** to what you could see, as you are merely a man, *a sinful man*. So you cannot endure the **direct sight** of My glory, but you can survive *a passing glance of My Goodness*.
 2. We see what God did (came down) *but more importantly we hear this week what God said*.
- B. And what He said, I’m not exaggerating, we have *the most important verse* in the bible. Wait, how can we know that? because it is repeated some **20+ x’s**.
- C. Slide8 Read vs.1-9

III. Slide9a TWO NEW TABLETS (1-9)

- A. (1) Two tablets - Not an iPad & a Kindle, but *the original tablets*.
- B. Which you broke - not so much as in *a fit of rage*, but in a picture of them already breaking the covenant.
 1. This now is a picture of **restoration**. Remember God made the 1st ones, and now Moses is told to cut the 2nd ones. (both written by *the finger of God*)

2. I imagine then that the 2nd one's were *a little different*. Maybe a reminder of *God's restoring grace*.

C. (5) *The Lord descended* - *God must come down!* (even though Mo made it to the top)

1. God is a great God, & no matter how high we reach, *He still has to stoop*. For us to have an encounter w/God at all, requires His infinite *condescension*.

D. *In the cloud* - visible manifestation of the invisible God. Moses wanted to see God, *but rather* than telling us what he saw, the Bible tells us what he **heard**.

E. Then God explained the meaning of His name^(33:19) by listing some of *His perfections*

1. He told Moses about *His compassion and grace, his patience and love, his faithfulness and forgiveness*.

2. *This is what God wanted Moses to see*: the *goodness of His divine nature*. And in a way, this was also *His glory*. *For what is the glory of God?* It is the weightiness of His being, the totality of His perfections.

F. *Moses wanted to see God*. So God said, *“All right. Come up here and I’ll show you who I am. But if you really want to know me, it’s not about seeing what I look like - it’s about knowing my infinite perfections, especially as I display them in the salvation of sinners.”*¹

1. So God preached *His Word* to Moses, proclaiming *His Sacred Name* and announcing *His sovereign attributes*.

2. *This is what we need as well*: not so much to see what God looks like, *but to hear the true words* that God has spoken about Himself.

G. *Slide9b(6,7)God’s Name stands for His entire being*. It is His nature. It is who He is

H. *So here we have the most important verse in the bible!*

1. *And we have King David* who refers to it, and the prophet **Joel**, and **Jonah** uses it *irritated at God & His attributes*, **Hosea**, **Nehemiah**, different **Psalms**, and others.

¹ Ryken, P. G., & Hughes, R. K. (2005). Exodus: saved for God's glory (p. 1041). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

2. **Slide9c** The words that God first spoke to Moses became **Israel's confession of faith**, ***the people's working definition of God**. Also found in: Ps.40:11, 57:1-3, 69:13-14, 85:4-10, 86:5, 89:23-26, 103:8, 108:3-5, 115:1, 145:8, Hos.4:1. Nmb.14:18, 2Chron.30:9, Neh.9:17.

3. **No one who casts themselves wholly on the Name of God as revealed on Sinai, will be put to shame.**

I. **Slide10** The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful (compassionate) and gracious (rather than giving us what we deserve, he gives us something that we don't deserve, the free gift of his grace), **slow to anger** (patience, *not volatile*), and **abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness** (loving-kindness), **7 keeping steadfast love for thousands** (or to the thousandth generation), **forgiving** (to lift or carry) **iniquity and transgression and sin** (or *wickedness, rebellion & sin*; 3 categories of unrighteousness).

1. **Transgression** (rebellion) is **the most defiant of sins**. John Mackay defines it as a **"willful violation of the terms of the covenant, involving not merely disobeying a rule or regulation, but betraying the relationship one has with the covenant King."**

2. **The point?** God is willing to forgive **any** and **all** kinds of sin.

a) These characteristics explain why, despite Israel's apostasy with the golden calf, **why God will forgive and renew the covenant**. [**have you been forgiven?**]

J. **I'm not going to read** vs.10-28.

IV. **Slide11 THE COVENANT RENEWED (10-28)**

A. (10) NLT *The Lord replied, Listen, I am making a covenant with you in the presence of all your people. I will perform miracles that have **never** been performed **anywhere in all the earth or in any nation**. And **all** the people around you will see the power of the Lord - the **awesome** power I will display for you.*

B. (27,28) We also note that once again Moses was face-to-face with God for **40 days and 40 nights**, neither eating bread nor drinking water.

C. **Slide12 Read** vs.29-35

V. **Slide13a THE SHINING (29-35)** *don't think Jack Nicholson*

A. THE GLORY OF GOD

B. The people were afraid to come near him - The people ran off like rabbits scampering away from the headlights of an oncoming car.

1. I think is amazing about this is *the people were not even looking at the glory of God*. All they could see was the **afterglow** of the reflection of God's glory *in the face of a mortal man*.

C. Why was Moses shining? Because he had been with God. What does this tell us about God? He is Glorious!

1. Remember from last week, *So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord*. 2 Cor.3:18 nlt

D. Slide13b THE GLORY OF GOD'S MEDIATOR

E. In Moses' experience, the presence of the Lord was *not inconsequential or without impact*. Moses discovered that to speak to the Lord face to face had repercussions!

F. The Hebrew *literally* says, "*the skin of his face sent out horns.*"

1. Slide13c This explains why *medieval and Renaissance artists* typically depicted the prophet with horns on his head. **But the expression actually refers to rays of light**. Moses had *a halo of glory*. Dazzling beams of light were shining out from his face.

G. His face shown as a woman *glows* when a child is inside her. So a Christian should *glow* in having the God of the universe living inside of them.

H. Slide13d Moses the Incandescent Prophet. (*definition: emitting light as a result of being heated*)

1. In this case Moses was *emitting light as a result of* being in the glorious presence of God, **and** as a result of his exposure to *divine radiation* ... thus he glowed. (*Kel's glowing SB lids. I have to stand & hold them next to the light*)

I. Exodus has been revealing the glory of God in the salvation of sinners. At each stage of Israel's redemption, God's divine majesty was displayed with more dazzling brightness.

1. He revealed His glory: in the burning bush, in all the signs/wonders he performed in Egypt, in the fire and smoke on the mnt Sinai, and in the self-disclosure of His name at the beginning of our ch. But here at the end of ch.34 God revealed his glory in the person of the mediator, as new rays of divine glory shone from Moses' face.
- J. Why do you think Moses covered his face from Ex.34? Paul says, not only because the people were *scared of his glow*, but so people couldn't see it fading away!
1. 2 Cor.3:13 *unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.*
 2. But God never meant for it to stay, it was supposed to fade before the abounding glory of the gospel.

K. Slide13e THE GLORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE *us*

- L. We also see something here about ourselves. Moses was a man like us. When we see Moses' glorious face we see a significant truth about our salvation. God is able to glorify sinners, thus giving His glory to any person who *meets with Him* by faith.
1. No one who meets God by faith is ever the same again, because when we see God as He is, we become like what He is.
 - a) In the same way that the moon shines with the light of the sun, the glory of God shines from us. God made us to be glorious!
 2. Ps.34:5 *David said, Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.* The glory comes from looking at God (not yourself)
 - a) It is so easy to get lured into a *performance-based Christianity*, always looking at ourselves to see how we are doing spiritually.
 - b) It is also a waste of time worrying *what we look like to others*. Instead, we should be looking to Jesus. Only then can we reflect His glory to others.
- M. So, to shine we need to spend time w/God, it's the only way. This was true for Moses. He was only radiant when he had been with God.

1. Eventually the glory began to fade, *like a flashlight getting low on batteries*. In order to shine, Moses needed repeated exposure to the *divine radiance* of God.
 - a) *The same is true for us*. If we are not meeting w/God, His glory in us begins to grow dim. If the light came from us, we would not need to meet w/God, but the light comes from Him. So we need to *go to him* to get *spiritually recharged*

N. Slide13f THE GLORY OF GOD'S GOSPEL

O. The last thing we see in Moses' face is *the glory of the gospel*. Listen for the comparison between **the law** of Moses and *the gospel of Jesus Christ*.

1. 2 Cor.3:7-11 *Now if the ministry of death* (that brought death), *carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.*
 - a) How much more glorious, then, is **the gospel** of Jesus Christ. The gospel is the *good news* of eternal salvation through *His death on the cross and His triumph over the tomb*. This *good news* is a ministry of **God's Spirit** who alone can give us faith in Christ.
 - b) The glory of the OT Law was temporary and finally faded away, but the glory of new covenant grace grows *brighter and brighter*.
 - (1) Slide14 Augustine commented, *that whereas the law is only "a step to glory," the gospel is "the summit of glory."*

P. Slide15 **End:** Last song

Q. **Abel's Story:** a family in our church *Victor and Alicia Castro*, & their son *Abel* (36)

1. Abel had MS & MR. He died this last Sunday while watching our service online. On Wed night when I talked with Victor and Alicia they said **Abel loved to worship**. He would have his wheelchair in front of their flat screen enjoying the worship time. (also expressed their thankfulness for our whole *online ministry*)
2. **But** one other thing **Alicia** said was, instead of having memorial service is inviting family & friends to simply come w/them to church to come **worship**. **But** she also said that Abel's favorite song was, *I can only imagine*.
3. In asking Romulo if he could play it this Sunday for Abel (& mom/dad) he said, *That song is so special to me and very hard to get through. Our church heard it for the 1st time when I played it back in 2002. It was also the very 1st service I've ever led at CM.*
4. It also ties into our message this morning, *Surrounded by Your Glory what will my heart feel.*

R. Keywords: Covenant, Glory, God, Goodness, Gospel, Grace, Love, Mercy, Patience, prophet.