



The Name

Exodus 34:6-7

“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the **compassionate** and **gracious** God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Bryan started a new sermon series, “The Name”. Over the next four weeks, we will be looking at what faith is in the real world and who God is in the real world. We’ll be focusing on Exodus 34:6-7, where God describes Himself and what this means for us. Today, we’ll be looking at God’s compassion and grace.

Why do these verses matter?

- Who God is has profound implications for who we are
 - We act in accordance of what we believe about God
 - So we need to have a correct understanding of who God is
- Our theology shapes our worship
 - If we don’t know who God is, then who are we worshipping?

When God proclaims his name, he reveals his character

- God’s name, YHWH, first appears in Exodus 3 (Moses and the burning bush)
- God tells Moses, “I am who I am”
- We can trust in his character to never change, and trust God to be what he says he is

The Character of God:

- Compassionate: a feeling word
 - God hurts for you, rejoices for you, feels your pain
 - He is a relational God who responds to you
- Gracious: an action word
 - Grace is receiving something you are not worthy of
 - The cross is the ultimate act of grace
- **God *feels* our pain and *acts* on our behalf**

Our Response:

- Repent
- Be compassionate and gracious

DISCUSSION

Reminders for small group leaders:

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!
- Set aside a time to pray for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
- Regularly recap how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
- The teaching happened on Sunday at church. The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?
- Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.

RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?
- What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?
- How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?

Questions

Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss or make up your own!

Getting to know you:

- What are some characteristics about yourself?
- What are some characteristics about God that first come to mind?

Into the Bible:

- Who God is has profound implications for who we are.
 - What does this mean?
- We act in accordance to what we believe about God.
 - How have you created God in your own image in order to make him fit your needs or lifestyle?
 - How can we get a correct understanding of God?
- Read Colossians 3:12. What is compassion and what does it look like to live it out in your life?
- How is God a compassionate God? Can you think of examples in the Bible or in your own life?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:9-11. How has God's grace impacted your life?
- Read Luke 15:17-24. The son repented and returned home, and was shown grace and love.
 - What does true repentance look like?
- What are ways we can be compassionate and gracious to others? Is there someone specific God is calling you to be compassionate and gracious to?
 - Think of ways you can put this in action this week

PRAY

- Pray that you can gain a correct understanding of God's character and that our lives reflect that
- Pray that God can use you to show compassion and grace to others
- Pray that God will convict you to repent and recognize our sins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

College:

- Epic large group is on Thursday at MU13

All church:

- Girls' Night Out is on November 16th, 6:30pm in the welcome center
- November 24th is Baptism Sunday. If you're interested, email andrea@grantavebc.org
- Thanksgiving food boxes are due on November 24th If you're interested in helping a family in need, sign up and pick up a box at church.