

Future Fire
Questions and Observations for Life Groups

Exodus 34:1-9

In this chapter we read of Moses' seventh and final ascent up Mt. Sinai. This time he is to go alone and bring his own tablets of stone (Yahweh provided them the first time). This passage describes something of a covenant renewal between the people and Yahweh after the disaster of idol worship described in Exodus 32.

Reading and Understanding the Passage

In your group, read aloud Exodus 33:12-34:16.

Discuss these verses together. What questions do they bring to mind?

Assuming someone in your group missed the teaching last Sunday, explain Yahweh's dilemma with regard to forgiveness. Why can't God simply forgive his people?

The Glory of God's Character

On Sunday we saw the contrast between the glory of God's lovingkindness and the glory of God's justice. Read again Exodus 34:6-7. Why are both God's grace and his justice glorious?

Reflect on the following quotation from Jen Wilkin: "The Scriptures find the justice of God a virtue to be extolled, not a blemish to be concealed."

Read and reflect on Psalm 9:5-10 in concert with the Wilkin quote above.

Jesus and Our Forgiveness

On Sunday we discussed the word *propitiation*, found four times in the English Standard Version of the New Testament. Read each of these references together: Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; and 1 John 4:10. What does it mean to say Jesus was the propitiation for our sins?

How should this comfort those of us who are deeply troubled by the sins of our past?

Worship and Response

Recall the response of Moses to his experience on Mount Sinai: he bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped (Exodus 34:8). Spend time as a group worshipping God in prayer. Make every effort not to ask God for anything. Simply praise God for the gift of our forgiveness in Christ.