



March 9, 2025

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Exodus 34:6-7

Introduction

Who is God? Most of us can recognize on the surface how important a question that is, yet if you were to ask the average person around the world, you would get wildly different answers. To be sure, if you were to ask even the average person in a Christian Church, you would almost assuredly get a surprising amount of variation. This week, Kevin Sneed begins a five-week series borrowing heavily from John Mark Comer's book, "God Has a Name" and begins an exploration from Exodus 34 about God's Name and how He describes Himself to Moses.

Key Texts:

Exodus 34:6-7; Exodus 3:13-15; John 1:1-14

Icebreaker

Does your name have a meaning and if so, what is it? (If you're not sure, some others who do know may go first if you want to choose to search the internet for your name's meaning.) How well does your name align with who you feel you are?

Bonus Question: God often chose to change a person's name in the Bible (e.g. Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Saul to Paul. What do you feel would good a name for who you are or who you wish to become?

Discussion Questions

1. A.W. Tozer once said, "What comes to mind when you think about God is the most important thing about us..." In this week's message, Kevin explained that psychologically speaking, people have a tendency to ascribe their own perceptions of themselves onto God, (e.g. whoever we voted for is who God would have voted for, whatever we love is what God would love, whatever we get angry about is what God would get angry about, etc.) Are there ways you might be projecting your own values, opinions, or emotions onto God? How can

we ensure that our understanding of Him is shaped by Scripture rather than personal bias?

2. **Read Exodus 3:13-15 together as a group.** In this text, Moses wants to know what to tell the Israelites about God and who God is when he is sent to free them from slavery. God says, “I AM who I AM.” How do you understand God’s statement, ‘I AM who I AM’? What does this reveal about His nature, and how do you think the Israelites might have understood it?
3. **Read Exodus 34:6-7 together as a group.** In this powerful scene, God has placed Moses in the cleft of a rock and passed by Moses so that he could see God’s backside, but while He does, He begins to proclaim His real name, and describe His character. Have you ever considered the proper name of God (YHWH or Yahweh)? What emotions or thoughts come to mind when you think of God as Yahweh rather than just ‘God’? How does knowing His personal name impact your relationship with Him?
4. This week, Kevin emphasized that we understand not just God’s Name (YHWH), but that we also understand that Jesus is YHWH in human form (incarnate). How does that reality change the way we might view the Father? How does that reality change the way we might view the Son?
5. Many people’s experiences with their earthly parents shape how they see God as Father. Have you noticed this in your own life or in others? How does Scripture help us see God as He truly is?
6. In the Bible there is an interesting tension between knowing and using the name of God, YHWH, and not taking the name of God in vain, i.e. using it frivolously or irreverently. How do you think we as Christians can be mindful of the person of God, His Name, and His character, while also guarding against any inclination we might have to be irreverent? How can we honor God’s name in our daily lives—both in our speech and in how we represent Him?

Key Takeaways

- God is a relational being who desires intimate connection with His people
- We often project our own beliefs and characteristics onto God rather than knowing Him as He truly is
- Jesus is Yahweh in human form, revealing God's true character
- God invites us to know Him personally, not just as a distant authority figure
- Our view of God significantly impacts our relationship with Him

Notes