

Exodus 34

Mercy Meets Justice

Aug 31, 2025

☀️ **Family Devotional:**

God's True Character (Exodus 34:6–7)

When Moses asked to see God's glory, God answered by describing His character. He said He is merciful, gracious, patient, loving, faithful, and just. These aren't just things God does—this is who He is.

That's really good news for us. Sometimes we think God is quick to get angry when we fail. But here He tells us the truth: He is patient with us, loyal in His love, and full of grace. At the same time, He takes sin seriously. If God ignored sin, the world would stay broken and unfair. But instead of leaving us in our guilt, God sent Jesus. At the cross, Jesus took our punishment so we could experience both God's forgiveness and His justice.

Because of who God is, we don't have to hide our mistakes or run away in fear. We can come to Him, knowing He delights to show mercy. And because He has been merciful to us, we can reflect His love, patience, and kindness to others.

For Young Kids (ages 4–7)

☞ **Simple Focus: God is kind and patient**

Question: God says He is patient and full of love. Can you think of a time when someone showed you kindness or patience? How can you show that to someone else this week?

For Older Kids (ages 8–12)

☞ **Simple Focus: God's forgiveness and justice**

Question: God forgives sin but also cares about justice. Why do you think both forgiveness and justice are important? How does Jesus help us with both?

For Teens (ages 13–17)

👉 Simple Focus: God's character shapes our lives

Question: Exodus 34 says God is merciful, gracious, patient, loving, and faithful. Which of these qualities feels hardest for you to reflect in your own life? How can trusting Jesus help you grow in that area?

For Adults

👉 Simple Focus: Living in the tension of grace & truth

Question: God reveals Himself as both merciful and just. How does understanding this shape the way you handle conflict, forgive others, or pursue holiness in your own life?

🙏 Closing Prayer

"Merciful and gracious God, thank You for showing us who You really are. Thank You for being patient with us, forgiving our sins, and keeping Your promises. Thank You most of all for sending Jesus, who makes a way for us to be near You. Help us to trust Your mercy when we fail, and to show Your love and patience to others this week. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Activity: "God's Character Chain"

Supplies: Paper strips (or index cards), markers, tape/stapler

1. Write the words that God uses to describe Himself in Exodus 34 on separate strips of paper:
 - Merciful
 - Gracious
 - Slow to anger
 - Abounding in steadfast love
 - Faithful
 - Just
2. Go around the family circle. Each person chooses one word and shares either:
 - A time they've seen God show this to them, or
 - A way they can show this to others.
3. After sharing, link the strip into a paper chain. Keep adding links until all words are connected.
4. Hang the chain somewhere visible for the week as a reminder: God's character holds us together!