

Hello My Name is God:
I AM Forgiving
Sermon #7, Exodus 34:7

Main Point: God forgives all sin, for all time, of all who trust Christ.

Getting to Know You

1. So far in this study, which of God's attributes (sovereignty, compassion, grace, patience, love, faithfulness, forgiveness, justice) have you spent the most time thinking about throughout your week? Share a specific example.

Getting into the Book

Read Exodus 34:6-7

2. What are some synonyms for the word "forgive" which help magnify its meaning? (Note: the word translated as "forgives" in this verse means to "lift, bear up, carry, take away. ~ *Brown Driver, Briggs, Hebrew Lexicon*) See Exodus 19:4 for a word picture.
3. What words are used to list what God forgives? Why do you think God used three different words to describe what He forgives? (Note: iniquity = straying off the path; transgression = willful defiance; sin = missing the mark)
4. What pictures of God's forgiveness are given in the following verses? Psalm 86:5; Psalm 103:12; Psalm 51:7 & Isaiah 1:18; Micah 7:18-19.
5. What are we told to do in order to receive God's forgiveness? See 1 John 1:9.

Getting out There

6. According to Wayne Grudem, a biblical definition of "justification" is "an instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight." ~ *Systematic Theology, p.723*
 - a. How does 2 Corinthians 5:21 give evidence for this definition?
 - b. If you have trusted Christ, how does this truth impact your thinking about your standing before God?
7. Talk about each comment one at a time. How would you respond to a friend who says,
 - a. "I don't need God's forgiveness. I'm not that bad!"
 - b. "God would never forgive me for all the terrible things I have done!"
 - c. "I ask God to forgive me of my sin, but then I end up doing it again. How many more times will He forgive me?"
 - d. "I know God has forgiven me, but I can't forgive myself."

Pray

Praise God for His marvelous forgiveness in Christ! Ask for His help to live in the freedom of His forgiveness and the boldness to tell others about it.

Bonus Exercise

Work on memorizing Exodus 34:6-7 together.