

Hello My Name is God:
I AM Patient
Sermon #4, Exodus 34:6

Main Point: God is slow to anger, giving us time to change.

Getting to Know You

1. In general, are you a person who gets angry slowly or quickly? What makes you angry?

Getting into the Book

Read Exodus 34:6-7

2. What are some synonyms for the word "patience"?
3. Of the people you know, do you think most of them believe that sin kindles God's anger?
 - a. If yes, why?
 - b. If not, what do they think is God's reaction toward sin?
 - c. What does Exodus 32:8-10 say about this?
4. What are some examples of God's anger burning slowly (His patience)? (Leader, let the group answer unprompted, then turn to the following passages)
 - a. See Genesis 15:13-16 about the Canaanites (Amorites)
 - b. See 1 Peter 3:18-20 about Noah
5. How should we respond to God's patience?
 - a. Don't mistake God's patience for permission.
 - i. Read Romans 2:4-6
 - b. Do respond to God's patience with repentance.
 - i. Read 2 Peter 3:9
 - c. Do respond to God's patience with holy living.
 - i. 2 Peter 3:13-15
 - d. Do know that God's patience will run out.
 - i. Acts 17:30-31
 - e. Do know that Jesus absorbed God's anger toward my sin.
 - i. Romans 5:8-9

Getting out There

6. As a Christian, what is one area of your life where you are thankful for God's patience toward you?
7. What would you say to a person who says "I'll turn to God later. Right now, I'm having too much fun!"?

Pray

Praise God for being slow to anger. Praise Him for His patience toward you as you follow Him imperfectly. Pray that people will come to repentance in response to God's patience.

Bonus Exercise

Work on memorizing Exodus 34:6-7 together.

"Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.'"