



Isn't God an Angry God?

Discussion Guide

August 20, 2017

Exodus 34:6-7 and John 1:18

1. Have you ever met someone who always seems upset and angry? Share how you felt while you were around this person.
2. Why might someone have a “mental picture” of a God that always seems upset, and who has a constant scowl etched on his face?
3. How might believing that God is an “angry God” – always upset and scowling – influence the way you relate to this sort of God?
4. In Exodus 34:6-7, God reveals key truths about who He is and what He’s like to Moses. Read these verses together. How do these verses challenge the notion that God is an “angry God”?
5. What examples do you have that reinforce what we see about God in Exodus 34:6-7? (His compassion, His grace, His love and faithfulness, His forgiveness, etc?) As you think of examples, consider other truths from Scripture and examples from your own life.
6. God *is* loving, and He is also holy and just. Why is it important to keep all of these truths about God in mind as we relate to Him? What might happen if we only emphasize ONE of these, and neglect everything else we know about God?
7. Now read John 1:18. Summarize this verse in your own words.
8. How does understanding that Jesus “makes God known” impact the way you think about who God is and what He’s like?
9. Respond to the following statement: “People who aren’t Christians will often form their view of God based on what they see in Christians.” Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
10. Take a few minutes to consider your own view of God. Here are a few questions to help you as you do this: Is God always “scowling” in your mind? Is your view of God more narrow than what you see in Exodus 34:6-7? When you think of God, do you think of Jesus? Read Exodus 34:6-7 one more time, and grab ahold of 1-2 truths of God you’ve been neglecting - truths about God that you need to keep front-and-center in your mind this week.
11. If you’re a Christ-follower, imagine that people are forming their view of God based on what they see in you. What does that mean for the way you live your life practically, and for the kind of relationship with God that you’re showing others?
12. **Challenge:** Memorize John 1:18: “No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.”