

## The Glory of God

Exodus 33:12-23

## Read Exodus 33:12-23 Together:

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' <sup>13</sup> Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." <sup>14</sup> And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. <sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

<sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." <sup>18</sup> Moses said, "Please show me your glory." <sup>19</sup> And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." <sup>21</sup> And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, <sup>22</sup> and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

- ? What is the context of this passage? What has recently taken place in Israel's journeys?
- ? What is Moses facing as God's appointed leader of Israel?
- ? What does the Hebrew word translated as "glory" in verse 18 mean?

## Read Exodus 34:6-7 Together:

(These verses describe God passing by Moses and allowing Moses to see his glory.)

- ? Does God simply "pass by" Moses?
- ? Why does God repeat himself, saying, "The LORD, the LORD"?
- ? How does God describe himself (his glory)?
- ? Discuss the importance of God's mercy, grace, steadfast love, and faithfulness in your life as a believer.
- ? How can God forgive iniquity, transgression, and sin, yet "by no means clear the guilty"?
- ? Describe your understanding of God's glory in light of his own description of his glory.