

The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:6-7

OPEN

- When you're angry, do you tend to be a stuffer or a spewer?
- Suppose you're angry but not in a place you can say anything about it directly. How might people pick up on the fact you're angry?

DISCOVER

Read Exodus 34:6-7.

slow to anger literally means “long of nose” When Potiphar heard his wife's accusation about Joseph, “his nose burned hot” (Genesis 39:19). A patient person is said to be “long of nose” because it takes a long time for their nose to get hot (Proverbs 19:11).

- What makes the LORD angry? See Proverbs 6:16-19.
- Why do you think these sins make the LORD angry?ⁱ

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27 and 12:1-14.

- Where do you see evidence the LORD is “slow to anger”? Consider: how many of the Proverbs 6:16-19 sins does David commit? How many of the Ten Commandments does David break?

- After repenting David describes his experience of hiding his sin in Psalm 32:1-5. Where in the story do you see the LORD's “heavy hand” (Ps 32:4), i.e., what off ramps did the LORD provide to the sinful path David was on?ⁱⁱ
- “Slow to anger” does not mean “never angry” (Exodus 15:7). If a person is never angry, what else is lacking?ⁱⁱⁱ
- What risk does the sinner face because the LORD is slow to anger? See Psalm 10:11; 94:3-9; Romans 2:4-5.

DEEPEN

Read Romans 1:18-32

- What does the LORD do to express his anger? See v. 24, 26, and 28.
- What does it mean for God to “give them up/over” or “abandon them” to their sin? How might this still be an expression of the LORD being “slow to anger?”^{iv}

Read 2 Peter 3:9-10.

- What would you say to someone who sees God's slowness to anger as reason to keep on sinning?
- What would you say to someone who sees God as primarily angry, out to get sinners when they mess up?

