

*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

- Do you tend to believe what people say or do you tend to be skeptical?
- What does a person have to do for you to consider them trustworthy?

## DISCOVER

Read Exodus 34:6-7.

The Hebrew word translated as “faithfulness” or sometimes “truth” in Exodus 34:6 is the noun **emet**. Emet and its related words (verbs or adjectives, etc. with the same root) occur 329 times in the Hebrew Bible. As a verb, it means “trust” or “faith.”

Read the following verses that contain **emet** (or one of its related forms) and discuss what this adds to your understanding of the word.

- Exodus 17:8-13<sup>i</sup>
- Exodus 18:19-21<sup>ii</sup>
- Deuteronomy 32:4
- Genesis 42:18-20<sup>iii</sup>

Read Psalm 36:5-6

- If “faithfulness” were not an attribute of God, how would this change our relationship with him?

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and 15:5-6

- What did it mean for Abraham to believe (find God trustworthy) the LORD?

- What evidence did Abraham have to support his belief? See Romans 4:18-25.

## DEEPEN

Read 2 Samuel 7:15-16.<sup>iv</sup>

- What does the LORD promise David?
- 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?”<sup>v</sup>

Read Psalm 89:1-4, 28-34, 39, 49.

- What happens to Israel to cause doubt regarding the LORD’s faithfulness to his promises to Abraham and David?

Read Matthew 1:1.

- How does Jesus fulfill God’s promises to Abraham and David?<sup>vi</sup>

## SO WHAT?<sup>vii</sup>

Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13

- How do these verses keep us from presuming upon God’s grace and faithfulness?
- How do these verses keep us from losing hope?
- How would you help a friend who tells you God let him down and now he’s struggling to trust him?

- What helps you be assured that the LORD is faithful to you?

**PRAY**

- State how the LORD has been faithful to you – “The LORD is faithful, he \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you LORD.
- Pray for a friend or family member who is struggling to see the LORD’s faithfulness.

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<sup>i</sup> *emet* is found in v.12 as “steady.”  
<sup>ii</sup> *emet* is found in v.21 as “trustworthy”  
<sup>iii</sup> *emet* is found in v.20 as “verified” Note: faith is not blind trust, but based on what is known. See also Exodus 4:8-9; 19:9.  
<sup>iv</sup> “endure” is a form of *emet*  
<sup>v</sup> How else could God judge? Lightning bolts, hail ...  
<sup>vi</sup> Jesus is the greater Abraham who leaves heaven and through his life, death, and resurrection extends the blessing of God to the nations. Jesus is the greater David who

Prayer Requests

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conquers sin, death, and the devil, and who will return to establish his kingdom over all nations.  
<sup>vii</sup> SO WHAT questions remind us that the goal of studying the Bible is not more information, but life. Jesus says he comes to give us life, abundant life (John 10:10). The Word calls for a response. We can respond to the Word many ways. We can repent, believe, trust, pray, give thanks, share, meditate, forgive. What is the LORD calling you do to in order to live an abundant life with him?