

*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

- The President calls and says you can be the ambassador of any nation. Which nation do you choose and why?

DISCOVER

Read Exodus 34:6-7.

The Hebrew word for transgressions is **pesha** (verb: pasha). It refers to the ways people violate or betray the trust of others. It is sometimes translated as “rebellion” or “trespasses” in older translations. In Greek it is **paraptoma** which describes stepping outside the bounds of God’s law. To transgress is to intentionally disobey God, to break the covenant.

Read Jeremiah 2:1-3.

- What images does the LORD use to describe his relationship with his people as he led them out of Egypt? What do these images teach us about the LORD’s heart for his people?

Read Jeremiah 2:4-8.

- After a promising beginning, what goes wrong?
- Three groups earn special mention. Why these groups and what did they do wrong?ⁱ

Read Jeremiah 2:9-13; 29.

- What does the LORD find so appalling about Israel’s response to his love?
- How does verse 13 show that Israel’s error was not merely a mistake or an oversight but an intentional breaking of trust with the LORD?ⁱⁱ

DEEPEN

Read Romans 5:8-11.

- How does Paul describe the people for whom Christ died?ⁱⁱⁱ
- What does it mean to be reconciled in a relationship? How does reconciliation meet the need of the transgressor?^{iv}

Read Romans 5:12-18

- How are Adam and Christ similar?^v
- How are Adam and Christ different?

SO WHAT?^{vi}

- What difference does it make to see your sin not only as breaking a law, but also as betraying a trust relationship?
- Why do we turn from springs of living waters to drink from muddy holes in the ground?

- What does reconciliation add to your understanding of what it means to be made right with God?
- How can being reconciled to Christ open opportunities to be reconciled to others?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.

- What does an ambassador do?
- What might the ministry of reconciliation look like in your life?

PRAY

ⁱ *shepherds* = leaders

ⁱⁱ *cistern* = a hole dug to hold water

ⁱⁱⁱ *weak; ungodly* = anti-god, shaking the fist in God’s face; *sinner; enemies*

^{iv} Though his people have broken trust with the LORD, he remains trustworthy and through the death of his Son reconciles his betrayers.

^v Both Adam and Christ represent humanity as the heads of a covenant. We are either “in Adam” or “in Christ.”

- Give thanks that you have been reconciled to God in Christ.
- Pray for one person who needs to know the reconciliation that is found in Christ.
- Pray for opportunities to serve as an ambassador of the kingdom of God.

Prayer Requests

^{vi} 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 to do to live an abundant life with him?