

Awe: Awed by His Patience

Exodus 34:6

1. In Exodus 34:6-7 we see a list describing different aspects of God's character. One of the character attributes of God that we don't spend a lot of time on is God's patience, yet the Bible is full of ways God exercises patience. Discuss the patience of God as you consider Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 103:8, Jonah 4:2, and Isaiah 48:9.
2. The Bible tells us God is patience and yet there are times when His patience runs out. How should we think about those times? Consider Acts 12:21-24.
3. God's patience has purpose. What do you think that purpose is? Consider 2 Peter 3:9.
4. Describe a time when you felt impatient. Why did you feel that way and how did you respond?
5. Discuss the statement: *'God's patience fuels our own patience.'*
 - a. How does God's patience towards us affect us? Consider James 1:19-20 and Galatians 5:22-23.
6. How do you think God may be opening up an opportunity for you to let Him produce patience in you? What is one way you can respond to that today? This week?

Study Guide for Leaders

(some additional thoughts on the questions)

1. GOD'S PATIENCE:

- a. *God shows forbearance in his character, decisions and actions. Above all, he waits patiently for people to turn to him for salvation.*
- b. **Ex 34:6-7; Ro 2:4** See also **Ne 9:30; Isa 48:9; 65:2; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; Na 1:3; Ac 17:30; Ro 3:25; 9:22; 1Pe 3:20; 2Pe 3:9**

2. JESUS' PATIENCE:

- a. **1 Tim. 1:16** See also **Mt 17:17** pp **Mk 9:19** pp **Lk 9:41; Jn 14:9; 2Pe 3:15; Rev 2:21**
3. *We often experience a tension when we see the Bible reveal God as patient and as a God who sometimes acts in anger. While this tension is real, it doesn't diminish the patience of God. God's anger is always purposefully timed and perfectly justified. We need to take the whole picture into account about who the Bible reveals God to be and the circumstances surrounding His response to us.*
4. *The Holy Spirit is a present power to produce in us something we don't have and are unable to accomplish on our own strength. For example, patience. Patience is a Fruit of the Spirit; it is something God the Spirit produces in you as you walk with Jesus.*