



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Exodus 34	Title:	Love and Holiness
Author	Ps Jadene Ng		
Summary of Chapter	Moses went up to Mt Sinai to receive a new copy of the covenant after the first stone tablets were destroyed when the Israelites worshipped the golden calf. They are also reminded of what they needed to do to remain faithful to the Lord.		

Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
<p>6 <i>The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.</i></p> <p>7 <i>I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations."</i></p>	<p>God revealed Himself both as the God of holiness and love. He did not tolerate sin and rebellion because that affected the entire family, even to the next few generations. That is the effect of our sin and God wants us to not excuse it but to face it with His mercy. In fact, God is infinitely more merciful and compassionate. His unfailing love and grace extend to many more and far more generations of His beloved people than the effects of sin when we confess and receive His forgiveness. Many Christians see God as an angry God ready to punish us at the slightest provocation. On the other hand, some of us see God as so loving and kind that He will easily overlook wrongs we have done, especially if we hide them deep enough. We forget that God is both loving and holy.</p> <p>For the longest time, I saw God mostly as a fierce holy-living enforcer. I did not really understand our faith as a relationship with a loving heavenly Father. When I failed, I knew I could ask God for forgiveness but I found it hard to forgive myself. I spent much time reminding myself what I did wrong and berating myself. But I realise more and more, the incredible and amazing love of God. Even after the Israelites committed the terrible sin of rebelling against Him, His love was so much more than His anger at their rebellion. And it is because of His love and care for us, that He wants us to realise that when we sin against Him, we are hurting ourselves, our families and others. So now, in times of communing with Him and throughout the day, I've learnt to think more about God's love and compassion. When I've done wrong, I know that I not only can confess my sins, I can receive forgiveness, release my guilt and find His freedom to move on. In Christ, we can experience His power to overcome our greatest weaknesses and sins. It is still a process but I've grown more thankful each time I meditate on His unfailing love! God desires that we come to Him and be reconciled with Him and be restored in fellowship with Him.</p>

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	Do you find it difficult to forgive yourself even after confessing your sins to God? What can you do to begin releasing your guilt to Him?
Youth:	God is both holy and loving. Which aspect of God do you find yourself unable to relate to and what is one thing you can do to have the right perspective?
Child:	What do you do when you have done something wrong? Share with your parents and pray together with them that you will admit it and choose to seek forgiveness.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Father, we are grateful for Your compassion, mercy, unfailing love and faithfulness. Thank You dear Lord Jesus for the reconciled relationship we can have with our loving God. Holy Spirit, enable us to always admit honestly when we have sinned and receive Your power to overcome our sins.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.