



Hill Cliffe Study Guide
Sunday 4 Feb 2024
#5 Forgiving and Just

1. What impacted you most from the Sermon on Sunday?

Exodus 34 (ESV)

*6 “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 **keeping steadfast love for a thousand generations, 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.**”*

2. What is suggested by the numerical contrast between God keeping steadfast love **for a thousand generations** (for those who love Him – see Exodus 20.6), and God visiting, or *dealing with*, the iniquity of the fathers on **the third and fourth generations** (to those who hate him – see Exodus 20.5)?
3. What is God’s purpose in visiting, or dealing with, the iniquity of the fathers on the 3rd and 4th generations? Why is this a good thing?
4. How might we work with God in breaking the generational sins and sinful habits in our family line?

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Some might think that forgiveness of sins is only a New Testament thing introduced by Jesus. But God repeatedly promises forgiveness of sins in the Old Testament to those who confess and repent of their sins and offer the blood sacrifices at the tabernacle/ temple as commanded by God.

See Micah 7.18-19.

5. What enables people today to be forgiven for their sin? – **see Isaiah 53.5-7; Matthew 4.16-17; Acts 2.38-39**– and why are animal sacrifices now no longer required?
6. In Exodus 34.7 God says he will forgive people their sins, but will not clear the ‘*guilty*’. Why will some sinners have their sins forgiven, whilst other sinners will not? - **Please read Romans 2.4-11**
7. Why do you think our God, characterized by justice, is so fully committed to the eradication of sin (and it’s consequences) in our lives, and in his world?
8. How might we authentically reflect God’s forgiveness and justice in our life and relationships?