

“El Kana: The Marvelously Jealous God”
Sermon Notes

What kind of God keeps giving himself to rebels?

Who is he? (vv.1-9)

How does he do it? (vv.10-16)

Differently (v.10)

Exclusively (vv.11-16)

The living God is marvelously jealous for his people.

Next Week: “YHWH-Shalom: The LORD is Peace”

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of June 26th – July 2nd

Context

How does the flow of the Exodus story set up God's self-revelation in this passage? Consider especially 2:23-25, 15:1-2, 19:4-8, 32:7-14, and 33:12-19.

How does God's description of himself in 34:6-7 help us to understand his description in 34:14?

Observation

What are some of the repeated words and themes in Exodus 34:10-16? How are these ideas related to jealousy, even in human relationships?

Compare Exodus 34:11-16 with Exodus 20:4-6. In addition to jealousy, what do these two passages have in common? Do those common themes give you hints about what God's jealousy is like?

Meaning

What does fallen jealousy look like? What are some of its key characteristics? What does it require of others? Have you seen examples in real life?

How is God's jealousy different from fallen jealousy? What does he require, and why? Have you seen examples of godly jealousy in human relationships?

Read Psalm 86. What in this psalm sets God apart from "the gods" (v 8)? What kinds of things does he do that people don't even imagine their made-up gods doing?

Application

What is something new you learned about El Kana, the Jealous God?

Does this passage help you to see God's jealousy as good news? Does it shift the way you relate to him, or the way you see him relating to you?

Whether in the Ancient Near East or in 21st century America, what do people hope their idols will do for them? What are some of the things people are willing to give up in order to get that return from their idols?

Do you find that you try to deal with the living God in the same way that people commonly deal with idols? If so, in what ways?

How does God relate to his people in ways that are different from invented gods?