

Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon **The Names of God: El Kana and El Emeth**

(For Personal Study, Review, Meditation and Mid-Week Group Discussion)

El Kana ("Jealous God")

1. What are some things over which we are easily jealous? Why does jealousy creep into our hearts?
2. What's the biggest difference between our jealousy and God's jealousy?
3. Read Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:23-24 and 5:9. What does the Bible mean when it describes God as jealous? Why is jealousy one of God's character traits?
4. One example from the Old Testament where God demonstrated that he is a jealous God is what he did when the Philistines captured the ark of the Covenant and placed it in the temple of Dagon (1 Sam. 5:1-7). Can you think of other examples of God's jealousy from the Old Testament?
5. Mary provides an excellent example of someone who loved Jesus most of all. Her actions showed that Jesus was at the center of her heart's affections (Jn. 12:1-1-8). In what way(s) did her actions convey her devotion and love for the Lord?
6. Read Romans 1:18-31. For what do people exchange the truth of God? What do you notice about the progression of idolatry in this passage?
7. Who or what is at the center of your attention? Is it God? What can we do to help ensure that God stays at the center of our heart's affections?

El Emeth ("God of Truth")

1. *Emeth* is a Hebrew noun that occurs 127 times in the Old Testament. The OT writers use it to refer to truth, faithfulness, steadiness, reliability, peace and stability.¹
2. Read Numbers 23:19. Contrast this description of God with the way in which people regularly behave. Why is the description of God in Numbers 23:19 so refreshing?
3. In contrast to God, how is Satan described? (Jn. 8:44) What are some lies of Satan that we still believe today on a regular basis?
4. How are the names *El Emeth* (God of Truth) and *El Kana* (Jealous God) related? Why does *El Emeth* give God the right to be *El Kana*?

¹ Brown, Driver, & Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1906), 54-55.