Describe God  
Exodus 34:6-7  
There's a story about a kindergarten teacher who asked a boy what he was drawing. Without pausing to look up, he said, "A picture of God." The teacher smiled and responded, "But nobody knows what God looks like." The boy carefully put down his crayon, looked her squarely in the eye, and declared, "After I'm finished here they will."

The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy!  
I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. **7**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.”  
Exodus 34:6-8

Expressions of God's Nature  
**1. He is Compassionate and merciful**  
At first, that may sound redundant… like saying that something redundant and repetitive  
feeling and an action  
God felt his people’s pain and then he acted on their behalf.

a fresh spring of water  
hiking near Lucerne desert, found spring

putting bandaid on kids  
hugging them.  
If we teach them compassion, they can learn to see the problems of the world as opportunities to help rather than burdens that hinder.

Write cards to others  
talk kindly about others  
praise their good deeds  
Volunteer as a family

**2. He is Slow to Anger**His anger is a easily triggered  
He is patient  
1. Delayed explosion / delayed gratification  
2. Slow down, we often are angry when in a hurry  
3. Hold all things loosely  
4. Think before you speak

Because I love my kids, I am angry at anything I see destroying them. If I see them lie or do something that I know will hurt them, it makes me angry because I love them.

• People says, “Oh, you know, God is love” as if that means he never gets angry at or judges sin.

-his love does not preclude anger at sin, but it does make him slow to it

**3. He is Loving**We find him constantly reaching out to love people who don’t love him back…   
How you see God determines more about your life and relationships than any other thing.

• If you see God as angry or distant, you’ll feel fearful and insecure

• If you see God as an angry tyrant, you’ll become an intolerant bigot.

When and if you come to know God as love, however… it will give you a joy and a freedom and a fullness that will redefine you and all your relationships, and transform you into a loving person, the kind of person you always wanted to be.

Hosea: God was trying to reveal his nature to Hosea. He says, “Hosea, you and I have given our hearts to people who will utterly reject us. We are going to spend our time and effort going after them. Until you experience that, Hosea, you’ll never understand how my heart works.”

Jonah: That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. Jonah 4:2

Amazing love, how can it be  
Stay attentive to the needs of those around you  
 - mother in law (bike seat)  
Do little things  
Say thank you, please manners  
1 Corinthians 13

**4. He forgives**  
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.” Ex. 34:7

FORGIVE AND NOT EXCUSE THE GUILTY  
  
Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.  
Joel 2:13

If they repent! Forgiveness is for the repentant. The refusal of forgiveness is for the unrepentant.

The child will not be punished for the parent’s sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child’s sins. Ez 18:20  
  
Ezekiel talking about a repentant person.  
Exodus is talking about unrepentant  
The sins add up, the natural effects. Sin worsens

Jesus Christ came into the world to confirm that God is just who he said he was. He are asked to become like Jesus.