

# What does God look like?

Deuteronomy 4:15-18 You saw no form of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below.

Deuteronomy 4:11-12 You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice.

2Samuel 7:22 “How great you are, O Sovereign LORD? There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.

Exodus 33:19-20 And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

What is the reason God, in Deuteronomy 4:15-18, warns the Israelites not to make an idol that “looks” like anything? \_\_\_\_\_  
God exists but we can’t see Him. Sometimes creation reacts when He is close.

What happened in Deuteronomy 4:11-12? \_\_\_\_\_

They definitely heard: \_\_\_\_\_

Here’s a quote from The Shack as the writer has God describe himself:

“I am what some would say ‘holy, and wholly other than you.’ The problem is that many folks try to grasp some sense of who I am by taking the best version of themselves, projecting that to the nth degree, factoring in all the goodness they can perceive, which often isn’t much, and then call *that* God. And while it may seem like a noble effort, the truth is that it falls pitifully short of who I really am. I’m not merely the best version of you that you can think of. I am far more than that, above and beyond all that you can ask or think.”<sup>1</sup>

Does this quote agree with or contradict Samuel 7:22? \_\_\_\_\_

Even though it is impossible for people to grasp who God really is He wants to be known. His name, Jehovah, actually means “God who reveals himself.” What is the problem God has doing this from Exodus 33:19-20? \_\_\_\_\_

From Hebrews, 1:1-3, how did God reveal Himself in the Old Testament?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Then, in the New Testament, how did God reveal Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 1:1-3 says Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

A *representation* is an object that sounds, acts, talks, thinks, like something else.

Even though we cannot see God we learn a lot about him by reading the Bible and studying Jesus. The things we learn about who He is are called His attributes.

Isaiah 6:1-5 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

Titus 6:15-16 —God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.

1John 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

John 4:23-24 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Many prophets describe visions of actually seeing God.

Read Isaiah 6:1-5. How does Isaiah describe God? \_\_\_\_\_

How does Isaiah describe the seraphs? \_\_\_\_\_

Notice that Isaiah doesn’t describe God at all but he does give a detailed description of the seraphs.

Frequently, as in Titus 6:15-16 and 1 John 1:5-7, God is most simply described in human understanding as \_\_\_\_\_

Trying to picture God in our minds can really stretch the imagination. In fact, recently it has been suggested by some that using ones imagination in prayer can lead to a better understanding of God. Our imagination can help understand the context or add a richness of detail by filling in the blanks of a scene described in the Bible. An example would be the disciples waiting in the upper room (John 20:19-29). We can imagine the room, their worried expressions, maybe a table and an oil lamp, the locked door. However, the proponents of the current *imagination movement* actually teach that using ones imagination will lead to new revelations of truth and the realization of one dreams. This can quickly go beyond the teaching of the Bible if we let our own desires and experiences impact what we believe as *truth*.

In John 4:23-24 Jesus plainly states that God is a \_\_\_\_\_ and that He must be worshiped in \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_ .

What practical advice does Romans 12:1-2 offer as *spiritual* worship?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the benefit of following this advice? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the simple advice given in Proverbs 3:5-6? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some ways that a Christian *acknowledges* God in their daily life?

# Lesson Plan: What does God look like?

## The Goal:

The goal of this lesson is to help young teens begin to understand the abstract idea of an *invisible* God. We want to open them to the idea of a relationship with “God the Father” beyond the more concrete idea of God the man Jesus. Follow this lesson with my lesson on God’s attributes.

## Preparation:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.  
Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you’d like to bring up.

## Pre-Lesson Activity:

Read the Bible passage Exodus 33:12 to chapter 34:71-7, and chapter 34:29-35.

## Leading the lesson:

Have a kid read the first set of verses. Make sure they understand all of the words and the meaning of the verse. You may have to restate the verse in your own words.

Ask the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers. If your group is younger teens have them fill in the blanks. If your group is mainly High School age just use the questions as discussion starters.

The Quote from The Shack: I have purposefully ignored the authors portrayal of God as an older Black woman. While this writing style has its place as literary license, it stretches the bounds of sound doctrinal teaching. However, the statement is Biblically sound and succinctly states one of the issues that arise from people trying to understand an unfathomable God in human terms.

## Summary:

Spiritual worship does not necessary have to include a supernatural component as eluded to in many Pentecostal services today. Worship does not need to included speaking in a *prayer language* or being *slain in the spirit*. End the lesson by discussing how worship can be lived out in plain ordinary human actions.

## Take Prayer Requests:

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Ask them about their concerns from the previous week.  
Write down specific concerns so you can follow up with them.