

God Is Our Perfect Father

Lesson 3: God's Image

Vocabulary:

skinny	exactly	flame	to shiver
perhaps	reward (n)	model (n)	coal
to seek	upright	to glow	protection
to dwell	ability	bronze	sword
to gaze	throne	furnace	feather
temple	wool	to shake	wing

Discussion:

When you think of your father or a person who has been like a father to you, a picture comes to your mind. He has a face with eyes, ears, a mouth, and a nose. His hair is a certain color. Maybe he's tall or short, **skinny**, or large. **Perhaps** his arms and legs are strong.

Take a minute to describe your father or someone who has been a father to you.

In the Old Testament, David, a prophet and king in the tenth century B.C.E., said this:

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I **seek**: that I may **dwell** in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to **gaze** on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in his **temple**...My heart says of you, "Seek His face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek (Psalm 27:4-8, NIV).

Did you know that God has a face? What do you think it means to seek God's face?

It may be difficult to imagine what God looks like. Perhaps we think that knowing what God looks like is impossible because He is a spiritual being and we are human. Yet the Bible tells us **exactly** what God looks like! In fact, David even says that to see God's face is a **reward** if we do what is right: "The **upright** will see His face" (Psalm 11:7, NIV). Jesus also told his followers that the **ability** to see God is a spiritual gift, or blessing, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8, NIV).

Close your eyes and imagine God's face. What do you see?

Daniel the prophet describes God's clothes, His hair, and even His **throne** in this passage:

As I was looking, thrones were put in their places, and the Ancient King sat on His throne. His clothes were as white as snow. His hair was as white as **wool**. His throne was made from fire, and its wheels were made from **flames**. A river of fire flowed out from in front of the Ancient King. Millions of people were serving Him...(Daniel 7:9-10, ERV).

What does this passage teach us about God?

Perhaps you can see God on His throne or in a big chair, but you can't imagine His face. Mother Teresa once said, "I have no imagination. I cannot imagine God the Father. All I can see is Jesus" (Spink). Seeing

the face of Jesus, Mother Teresa *was* seeing the face of God. Hebrews 1:3 says that Jesus is the exact representation of God because he is the Son of God. A *representation* is a copy or **model**, such as a photograph or a painting. So, we can look to Jesus, God's Son, to understand better how God looks, thinks, feels, and acts. Revelation 1:13-16 describes the Son of God in heaven in this way:

He was wearing a robe that reached down to his feet, and a gold cloth was wrapped around his chest. His head and his hair were white as wool or snow, and his eyes looked like flames of fire. His feet were **glowing** like **bronze** being heated in a **furnace**, and his voice sounded like the roar of a waterfall...His face was shining as bright as the sun at noon (NIV).

What does this passage teach us about God's appearance through Jesus?

God's eyes are like flames of fire! Think about the sun, the greatest ball of fire.

Why do you think God's eyes are like the sun?

The Bible says that Jesus's voice is like the sound of a waterfall. Find that sound online or imagine that sound in your mind. Close your eyes and listen.

Describe what you hear. How does that sound make you feel?

Proverbs 5:21 says, "The Lord clearly sees everything you do. He watches where you go" (ERV). God's eyes are like the sun's light that reaches every part of the earth. Hebrews 4:13 says that God also sees deep into our minds and our hearts. He sees what we are thinking about Him. He knows all our thoughts. He knows the deepest hurt of our hearts, our questions, our confusion, our doubts, and even our thoughts that are unhealthy or wrong. He knows that we need to heal, and He has the words to heal us.

How does it make you feel that God knows your deepest hurts, questions, confusion, and doubts? Explain.

How do you think God can help you with your unhealthy or wrong thoughts? Explain.

David talks about God's nose and mouth when he says, "The earth **shook** and **shivered**...They shook because He was angry! Smoke came from His nose. Burning flames came from His mouth..." (II Samuel 22:8-9, ERV). Here God was angry at David's **enemy** Saul because Saul was mean to David and tried to kill him. God becomes angry when people hurt His children. He will reach down and protect us.

Write down how you want God to protect you. Share one way. How does God's **protection** make you feel?

Revelation 1:16 says this about God's mouth: "He held seven stars in his right hand. A sharp two-edged **sword** came out of His mouth" (ERV). A two-edged sword is sharp on both sides. Ephesians 6:17 says that the Word of God is the sword of God's Spirit. Hebrews 4:12 says that the Word is sharper than any double-edged sword because it judges our deepest thoughts.

Close your eyes and think about some of your deepest thoughts. Are there any thoughts that you want God to heal?

Are there any thoughts you would not want God to see? Write those thoughts.

God wants to heal our unhealthy and wrong thoughts. If we turn to God and ask Him for help, He will help us as we learn and take into our hearts His Word and follow His teachings.

We learn from the prophet Isaiah that God has long arms and good ears when he says, “Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear” (Isaiah 59:1-2, NIV). Psalm 91:4 even says, “He will cover you with His **feathers**, and under His **wings** you will find refuge” (NIV).

Did you know God has arms and even wings? When you try to imagine His arms and wings, what do you see?

Describe how you would feel being covered and protected by God’s wings?

In Revelation 4:3, God is sitting on his throne and around Him is a rainbow filled with clear colors.

Describe the most beautiful rainbow you’ve seen. When you imagine the rainbow around God’s throne, what do you see?

David often prayed that God’s “right hand” would save him (Psalm 60:5).

When you imagine God’s hand, what do you see?

We learn a little more about God when we read Revelation 4:3, which says, “The One on the throne was like jasper and carnelian” (NIV). Jasper and carnelian are beautiful stones. Jasper can be found in different colors, including light brown, tan, red, black, and cream. In fact, artists actually use jasper to create human faces because some of the colors of jasper look so much like human skin of different races. Carnelian is usually dark red, like blood. When the Bible says that God is like jasper and carnelian, it can mean that God has the image of flesh and blood of all races – just like us!

We know that God is not flesh and blood because He is a spiritual being. Yet, why do you think God might *look like* flesh and blood? Hint: What is our relationship to God the Father?

When we have children, our children usually look like us. They have our eyes, our nose, or our mouths. In the same way, God created us to be His children. Yet, *He* is not made to look like *us*. *We* are made to look like *Him*! God came first. He is the Father and we are the children. Genesis 1:27 says, “So God created humans in His own image. He created them to be like Himself” (ERV). Therefore, we too are made to look like jasper and carnelian. We are all different races with different skin color, just like God. We too have a face with eyes, ears, a nose, and a mouth. We have hair on our head and a body with arms, legs, hands, and feet, just like our perfect Father!

Why do you think God would make us to look like Him? Try to think of as many reasons as you can.

How does it make you feel that you look like God, your Father?

We have all been lost on this earth and looking for our perfect Father. We would know our parents in a crowd of people because they look like us. As our Father, God wants us to know Him too! He wants us to feel close to Him. God created *us*, His children, to look like *Him* because He wants to feel close to us as

well. Our relationship with God our Father isn't just about us and how we feel; God has feelings too! He too desires to love and be loved by His children. Isn't that amazing?

Why do you want a close relationship with your parents or children? Explain.

Why do you think God wants to have a relationship with you personally? How does that make you feel?

How do we build relationships? What makes you feel close to people?

What are ways that we can build our relationship with God, our perfect Father?

If we decide to build a relationship with God through spending time with Him daily and learning how to obey Him, then we can become His true children. He will be our Almighty God, but He will also be our true Father. We can go to Him any time and He will listen to us. We can enter heaven some day and rest in His arms and under His wings. This is what our heavenly Father longs for and desires for us.

Do you want God to be your perfect Father? Do you want to be His child? What will you do this week to get close to Him?

This Week:

Write in your journal:

1. In prayer, praise your perfect Father for His eyes, His ears, His voice, His feet, His arms, and His wings. Tell Him how you want Him to use each part of Himself to help you in your life and in the world around you.
2. Hebrews 4:12 says that God will judge our thoughts and attitudes. This week, write down any thoughts, attitudes, actions, and hurts you want God to heal. Start reading a book in the Bible, such as *Matthew*. Ask your Father to help you and show you verses that will help you. Write the verses in your journal, review them every day, and follow them. Watch God change your heart!
3. For some of us, we have had a bad experience with our real fathers. God has the power to change us and our fathers! Watch the movie *I Can Only Imagine*, starring Michael J Finley to see the transforming power of God over a father and his son.

Notes

Spink, Kathryn, *Mother Teresa: An Authorized Biography*, (New York: HarperCollins, 2011), print, 70.