



Seeing God Part 1 – Show Me Your Face
Pastor Joseph Zwanziger
02.26.2023

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Exodus 33:11-23, ESV]

¹¹ Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. ¹² Moses said to the Lord, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" ¹⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight,

and I know you by name.” ¹⁸ Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” ¹⁹ And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” ²¹ And the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

“God isn’t playing hide & seek, but hides Himself in order to reveal Himself to those who will seek after Him”

“Face” = paneh^: face, appearance, presence

[Exodus 33:20, ESV]

But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.”

“Humans interact with God through sight. Because of God’s holiness and human sin, the face of God cannot actually be seen by people. Yet because of God’s mercy, he allows Moses “to see” his back (Exod. 33:23), and God’s presence with his people is described in visual terms: “you, O Lord, have been seen face to face” (Num. 14:14). People are to “taste and see” the Lord’s goodness (Ps. 34:8). To “see” God’s goodness is to see his glory (i.e., his sovereign mercy and compassion, Exod. 33:18–19). Seeing God’s glory causes humble worship”

- William Mounce

[Exodus 33:18-19, ESV]

¹⁸ Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” ¹⁹ And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

[Psalm 19:1, ESV]

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Why Do I Want to See God?

1. You were made for it
2. Because it changes everything

[Matthew 5:8, ESV]

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

"Pure in heart should not be restricted to moral, still less sexual, purity; it denotes one who loves God with all his heart, with an undivided loyalty, and whose inward nature corresponds with his outward profession."

- R.T. France

"Purity in heart refers to moral uprightness... a lifestyle characterized by pleasing God"

- Craig Blomberg

[Psalm 36:9, ESV]

In your light do we see light.

[Jeremiah 29:13, ESV]

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

HOW DO WE SEE GOD?

1. Purify your heart

[Exodus 33:20-23, ESV]

²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

[1 Corinthians 10:4, ESV]

For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

HOW DO WE SEE GOD?

2. Hide in the Rock (In His Word, In His Presence, and In His House)

Key Points

1. Purify your heart
2. Hide in the Rock

Applications for the Week:

1. This week intentionally set time aside to seek God through prayer, worship and reading the Bible. Ask Him to purify your heart and make Jesus the “rock” of your life.

Discussion Questions:

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase "seeing God"? What does it mean to you?
2. Why does God hide Himself in order to reveal Himself? How does seeking Him play a vital part in seeing Him?
3. Why do you think God does not answer every prayer we pray? How might that benefit us?
4. In what ways has God revealed Himself through His glory, in creation, to us personally, and through His Church?
5. In what ways have you seen God or has God manifested Himself to you? How did that impact you?
6. How does seeing God's glory cause humble worship?
7. What does it look like to “purify our hearts”?
8. Pastor Joseph said, “You were made to see God.” What can limit you from an encounter or a revelation of Him?
9. What are some practical steps we can take to see God and experience His presence?

Group Action:

As a group, attend Pursuit Night at your campus on Thursday evening. Visit www.tfh.org/news for your campus Pursuit service time.

