

HAS ANYONE SEEN GOD?

As we begin our series on *Glimpses of God*, we will look at the question, “Has anyone seen God?” Our hope is that in the midst of conflicting messages and confusion in our culture, we can guide you to seeing God as He truly is.

The Foundation for seeing God.

A direct source of information.

2 Peter 1:20-21 NLT ²⁰ Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, ²¹ or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

A reliable source of information.

Luke 1:1-4 NLT ¹ Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. ³ Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴ so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

A comprehensive source of information.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

The Fragmentation of our view of God

Romans 1:21-23 NLT ²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

Fragmentation through cultural biases

Fragmentation through family dysfunctions

Fragmentation through false teaching

The Fulfillment of the representation of God

John 14:9 NLT Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?"

Seeing a God who is just and holy

Seeing a God who is merciful and caring

The Fruition of our knowledge of God

Receiving Him and having a relationship with Him

John 1:12 NLT But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Representing His character to others

1 John 4:12 NLT No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.