



Look Again Preston Morrison

Focus We have all heard “seeing is believing,” but what if what we’re seeing isn’t reality? What if the way we are viewing God is not really the way God wants us to view Him? If we find that we have an incorrect perception of who God is, then it’s time to look again. The way we view God will affect the way we know Him, and the way we know God will influence the way we make Him known. God wants us to know Him for who He really is: it’s time to look at God again.

Fun What’s your favorite summertime memory? Do you prefer to travel or stay home during the summer? Please share.

Review Key Scripture: Mark 8:22–25

- **You think God is boring.**

1 Samuel 2:2; Psalm 65:5, 99:5

As we grow in our walk with God, we’re able to see Him more clearly. By seeing God more clearly, we realize that God is not boring. He is holy and mighty. God is the maker of heaven and earth, and as we look again, we won’t be able to resist worshipping Him with awe.

- **You think God is distant.**

Psalm 139:17–18

God is omnipresent, which means He is everywhere at one time. What is impossible for man is possible for God. If we feel like God is distant, often it’s because we changed our position or we’ve turned away from Him. To repent means to change direction or to have a change of mind. By repenting of any hidden sin, we can look again and change position so

that we are facing God again. God is unchanging and unmoving. If we feel like He has moved, look again and move back toward God's love.

- **You think God is angry.**

Proverbs 6:16–19; Isaiah 57:16; 1 John 4:7

God hates sin, but He loves the people He created. God is love, and He loves us. If we feel like God is mad at us, then it's time to look again and discover that He is love and He loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins. To fully receive God's provision of love, we simply have to repent for our sins. Look again ... God is love.

Group Dynamics Idea

Developing leadership gifts in the members of your group is always a good idea and shows them you care about their personal development. Take interest in their gifts and strengths. Prayerfully ask God how you can help to develop them. For instance, if you have people in your group with teaching or speaking gifts, ask them to lead the discussion during a specific time. Think outside of the box and get excited for how God is going to develop you as you develop your group!

Discuss

1. Why do you think seeing God more clearly is the key step in growing closer to Him? Share with the group.
2. Read Mark 8:22–29. What are some of the ways the enemy tries to make us feel like God is boring, distant, or angry? Explain.
3. Why do you think Satan tries to keep us from knowing and seeing God for who He really is? Share an example.
4. Think of a time you thought you understood a situation clearly and later realized you were completely wrong. How did it make you feel? If you're comfortable, share with the group.
5. Read 1 John 4:4–11. What are some practical ways we can make sure we're seeing and knowing God for who He really is? Explain.

6. Quiet yourself. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about seeing and knowing God? Ask the Holy Spirit if you need to look again at any aspects of God's character to see Him more clearly. Ask God to help you know Him better and more intimately.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- To know God more accurately we need to look again.
- God is not boring. He is the creator and when we see Him more clearly we will be in awe.
- God is not distant. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
- God is not angry. God is love and He desperately loves us.
Everywhere we go God's love is already there waiting for us.

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word. Please guard my heart and keep me from deception. Help me hide Your Word in my heart so I can know You more. Please give me strategy to be faithful to reading and living according to Your Word and help me to always keep my eyes on You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip

Although you need to be sensitive to people who are not comfortable opening up, try to intentionally draw things out of others as you discuss. As you're vulnerable with your own life and story, it will cause others to feel safe to share their lives as well. Lead by example and be courageous!