



## Summer of Love: Part 1

### Small Group Questions: What Does God Look Like?

© 2016 Seacoast Church. All Rights Reserved.

#### Read

1 John 1:5 and 3:1 and 4:8–9; Luke 12: 6–7 and 15:1–32

#### Reflect

Each of us has a filter—maybe many filters—that can distort our view of God. These filters may be shaped by our life experiences, what others taught or showed us, and by our own feelings and choices. How do you picture God, and why? Have you ever asked a nonbeliever to tell you about the God they don't believe in? Compare him to the one you know.

Pastor Greg identifies three ways God's image is often distorted. Which way have you ever viewed God?

##### 1. Disturbed God

- a. Do you think God has a good reason to ever look at the world and be angry or grieve?
- b. Do you think God is mad at you? Why? Would a vengeful God offer his own beloved son as the complete solution to prevent your eternal separation from him?
- c. How important is it that God gives us the right to choose—whether to love or hate?
- d. How willing are you to confess sin in your life? Do you actively try to recognize it?

##### 2. Disconnected God

- a. Do you see God as uninterested in you? Do you see him as too busy to be concerned? Explain.
- b. Is it hard to believe, let alone say out loud: "I matter to God?"
- c. What lies are you listening to that keep you feeling God is unconcerned? Determine what you will repeat to yourself to refute it.

##### 3. Disappointed God

- a. Do you think God is disappointed in you? Why?
- b. In the Prodigal Son story, who do you tend to identify with the most? Who irritates you? Explain.
- c. Are you worried you must not be doing enough? Or do you tend to give up and self-medicate in ways that may compound the problem?
- d. Are you worried there is too much bad for God to forgive?

What is God really like? In the Prodigal Son story, Jesus reveals several aspects of God's true image.

##### 1. Compassionate God

- a. Do you think God doesn't understand why you're the way you are? Do you believe he's surprised?

##### 2. Engaged God

- a. Look back at your life. Try to recognize the different ways God has relentlessly pursued you.

##### 3. Generous God

- a. Are you still trying to pay for your own sins?
- b. Have you allowed yourself to receive his love and free offer of grace?
- c. Will you let God replace your pictures/filters with his own?

#### Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?