

Go Deeper . . .

Use these questions for further study individually or in a small group

The 2nd Word: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image or any form of anything that is in heaven above or earth below. . .” Ex 20:4-6

Read Exodus 19:9-11 and Ex 24:9-18

Based on these passages, what does God look like?

Why is it significant that the people saw the *presence* of YHWH yet did not see YHWH himself as he is?

What is the “correct” way to depict such a God?

What is the “wrong” way to depict such a God?

Read Deuteronomy 4:9-24

Why does Moses repeatedly emphasize that they “saw no form?”

What is the danger of the people forgetting that they saw no form?

Does this still apply today? If so, how?

There are many images and metaphors used for YHWH-God in the Old Testament, including the following:

Shepherd (Ps 23:1)	Potter (Is 64:8)	Rock (Ps 78:35)
Father (Dt 32:6)	Creator (Dt 32:6)	Mamma Bear (Hos 13:8)
Gardener (Is 5:5)	King (Ps 47:7)	Fortress (Ps 18:2)
Cyprus Tree (Hos 14:8)	Fountain (Jer 17:13)	Healer (Ps 103:2-3)
One (Dt 6:4)	Winged (Ps 17:8)	Gives Birth (Dt 32:18)
Fire (Dt 4:24)	Laughing (Ps 59:8)	Shield (Ps 18:2)
Fortress (Ps 18:2)	In Labor (Is 42:14)	Sleeping (Ps 44:23)
Not Sleeping (Ps 121:4)	Sun (Ps 84:11)	Ruler of All (2Chr 20:6)
A Smoking Pot & Flaming Torch (Gen 15:17)	Light (Ps 27:1)	

Which of these images do you find compelling? Which do you find comforting? Which do you find uncomfortable? Explain.

Why is it important to take all of these images seriously?

Why is it important to hold all of these images loosely?

How do these images and metaphors help us learn about God?

Read John 4:22-24. Jesus defines God as “spirit” (non-material/not embodied). If God is spirit what does this mean for how we should understand God’s form?

Read John 1:18 & 1Timothy 1:17.

Has anyone actually seen God the Father?

Why is it important for us to humbly hold on to this truth?

How can examining our image of God (how we picture God) help us move toward greater maturity in our journey of discipleship?

Video Resource: [bibleproject.com/explore/video/image-of-god/](https://www.bibleproject.com/explore/video/image-of-god/)

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