

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

God Has a Face

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
December 4, 2022



Have you wondered what God is like? How do you see God?

Luke 2:6-7 (NLT) "And while [Mary and Joseph] were [in Bethlehem], the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them."

John 1:14 (AMPC) "And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honour, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favour, loving-kindness) and truth."

John 1:14 (MSG) "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish."

• Jesus entered our world not like a human but as a human.

"Jesus endured puberty, pimples, hot weather, cranky neighbours. God became human down to his very toes. He suspended the stars and ladled out the seas, yet he suckled a breast and slept in hay." Max Lucado Because of Bethlehem

• Jesus came to identify with us and to help us.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT) "This High Priest [Jesus Christ] of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

John 14:8-9 (NLT) Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."⁹ 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?"

Hebrews 1:3 (NLT) "The Son [Jesus] radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honour at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven."

• Jesus took on your face in the hope that you would see His.

Big Idea: Come to Christ boldly to find the mercy and grace you need.

• Mercy – not getting what we do deserve.

• Grace is getting what we don't deserve.

"All the promises of God are yes and amen in Christ Jesus." 2 Corinthians 1:20

"We have been given every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

"We have been given grace upon grace, in Christ Jesus." John 1:16

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT), The Amplified Bible Classic (AMPC), and The Message Bible (MSG).



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

God Has a Face

#1 of 4 - December 4, 2022

- 1) Last week we talked about generosity from Exodus 35:4-29. What has God been saying to you through this message? What were you able to apply from this message?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read John 1:14 and Hebrews 4:15-16. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about this passage? What do you observe in God's commands and the response of the people?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does it mean for us as we seek to reflect our generous God? What does it mean to give freely and willingly with a generous heart?
- 6) Read John 14:8-9 and Hebrews 1:3. What do these passages reveal about Jesus' identity? What implications does this have for us?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What specific action step is God asking you to take in light of this teaching? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



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