



## Seeing God as He Really Is Jimmy Evans

**Focus** We cannot get closer to God than our understanding of Him will allow, but when we see God as He really is, we will trust Him completely.

**Fun** Have you ever written a letter to the President or a famous person? Did you receive a response?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Exodus 33:1–5, 18–19, 34:5–7; Hebrews 4:14–16

1. **The Bible tells us that God is good.** We may be good compared to others, but we are evil compared to God.

2. **There are four stages of Moses's revelation of God:**

**Stage 1: Seeing God Through the Eyes of the Past.** Moses's view of God was based on the father figure in his life. We attribute character traits to God based on others in our lives, especially our parents.

**Stage 2: Asking for New Eyes.** Moses asked to see God's glory. He wanted to know God at the essence of His character. God responded by allowing His goodness to pass before Moses.

**Stage 3: A Divine Revelation of the Goodness of God.** The Lord told Moses seven character traits about Himself: merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abounding in goodness and in truth, forgiving, and just.

**Stage 4: Moses became a different man, and three things changed:** his worship, self-worth, and witness.

3. God gives grace in every area of our lives. He provides us mental grace to help us understand anything, physical grace because nothing is a problem for Him, emotional grace allows us to have His personality when we ask for it, spiritual grace to resist the enemy and stand firm for Christ, and financial grace which helps us in our every need.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Celebrate Christmas in July by blessing single parent families with school supplies and gift cards for back-to-school needs. Email [spf@gatewaypeople.com](mailto:spf@gatewaypeople.com) for more information.

### **Discuss**

1. Read Matthew 19:16–17, Romans 3:12, and Matthew 7:11. Who is good?
2. In Exodus 33:5, God calls the children of Israel “stiff-necked people.” How do they continually respond to God for Him to call them this? Why do they respond to God this way?
3. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that we have a High Priest who sympathizes with us. What is the benefit of having someone understand what we have been through or what we are going through (Hebrews 4:16)?
4. What is the one condition to be saved by faith as shared in Ephesians 2:8?
5. Our worship is based on how we see God. What changed for Moses when He understood God’s character (Ephesians 34:8–29)?
6. Pastor Jimmy shared how his view of God was impacted by how his earthly father related to him. How has your view of God been shaped for the good or bad by people in your life?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- You cannot get closer to God than your concept of Him will allow. If you don’t believe God loves you, you’re not going to approach Him and will keep Him at a distance.
- God understands you, and He cares. Every thought He has toward you is good. He will never break a promise to you.

- Your self-worth will entirely change when you see God for who He really is.

**Prayer** Lord, thank You for Your goodness and grace. I want to know You for who You really are and not what I've learned from other's behaviors. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Always be looking for leaders within your group. When you identify someone who would lead well in a group, encourage them and offer opportunities for them to help with the group.