



Why Can't We Actually See and Touch God?

Supplies

- Bibles*
- flashlight
- construction paper*
- transparent tape*
- warm water in a travel mug or thermos

Easy Prep

- Cut a very small hole in the construction paper, then tape the paper over the flashlight.
- Test your water to make sure it's not so hot that it would burn kids.

Set It Up

Say: **Raise your hand if you've ever seen a bush on fire but not burning up.** Pause.

Say: **Hmm...we know the Bible is true, so we know Moses saw an amazing sign that God is real, but none of us has seen that sign. And even Moses, who saw amazing signs and miracles, didn't see God himself.**

So why can't we *actually* see and touch God? Let's dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: **If you wish you could physically see and touch God, you're not the first one! Moses himself asked to see God. Let's check it out.**

Read Exodus 33:18-23.

Ask: • **God said, "No one may see me and live." Why do you think that is?**

Say: **So Moses *kind of* got to see God...but not really. He didn't get to see God's face. God said no one could see him and live. Let's do some experiments to see why that might be true.**

Look at a Light

Say: **I'm going to turn on a flashlight. Most of the light is covered, but you'll see a small hole. Stare at it until I turn it off, and then blink and look at the wall.**

Turn on the flashlight, and allow 30 seconds for kids to stare at the light. Then have them blink and look at the wall.

Ask: • **Describe what you're seeing as you look at the wall.**

Say: **Even though you're not looking at the light anymore, you're still seeing it. That's a scientific phenomenon called *afterimage*. Looking at the light for so long temporarily made part of your eye less sensitive, so you saw a dark spot afterward.**

Now, that's just from looking at a tiny part of a flashlight.

Ask: • **What have you heard about looking at the sun?**

Say: **You saw how looking at a flashlight damaged your vision for just a little bit. But if you were to look at the *sun* for very long, you could do permanent damage to your eyes. That's because the sun is too bright and powerful for us to look at directly.**

Ask: • **How does that help you think about what might happen if you looked directly at God's face?**

• **Even though you can't look at the sun, how does the sun help your vision?**

Say: **Like the sun, God is too powerful for us to look at. God *made* the sun and hung it in the sky! Looking at him is too much for us to handle! But we don't have to look at the sun to see its power. Whenever we look around us on a sunny day, we're appreciating the power of the sun to light up what's around us.**

Ask: • **What do you see around you that shows God's power or greatness?**

Say: **God is real. We can't see him directly, but we can see him at work. Let's do another experiment that helps us think about the sun.**

Feel Warm Water

Get out the warm water, and let kids each stick a finger in it.

Ask: • **What temperature do you think this water is?**

Say: **Just for scale, a nice temperature for bathwater is around 100 degrees (37 Celsius). A pot of boiling water is 212 degrees (100 degrees Celsius), and it would burn you to touch it. The hottest your oven can get is around 500 degrees (260 degrees Celsius), and that would really burn you!**

Ask: • **Based on those temperatures, how hot do you think the sun is?** Have kids line up in numerical order of their guesses, smallest to largest.

Say: **The correct answer is, the sun is 9,941 degrees (5,505 Celsius). That's way, way, way hotter than anything on earth.**

Ask: • **What do you think would happen if you tried to touch the sun?**

Say: **We can't touch the sun, even if we could get close enough—we would die! It's just too hot and powerful for us to touch. But we still get to feel the sun, like when we feel its rays warming us on a chilly day. In fact, it can even burn people from far away by giving bad sunburns! That's how powerful it is!**

I don't know about you, but I've never wished I could look at or touch the sun. I know it's too hot and powerful for me to handle! And you know what? God is even *more* powerful. He's too much for us to see and touch! But he does give us ways to experience his presence that we can handle. Just as we can experience the sun without looking at it or touching it, we can experience God without seeing or touching him. We can see him at work around us, and we can feel the warmth of his love, because God is real.