

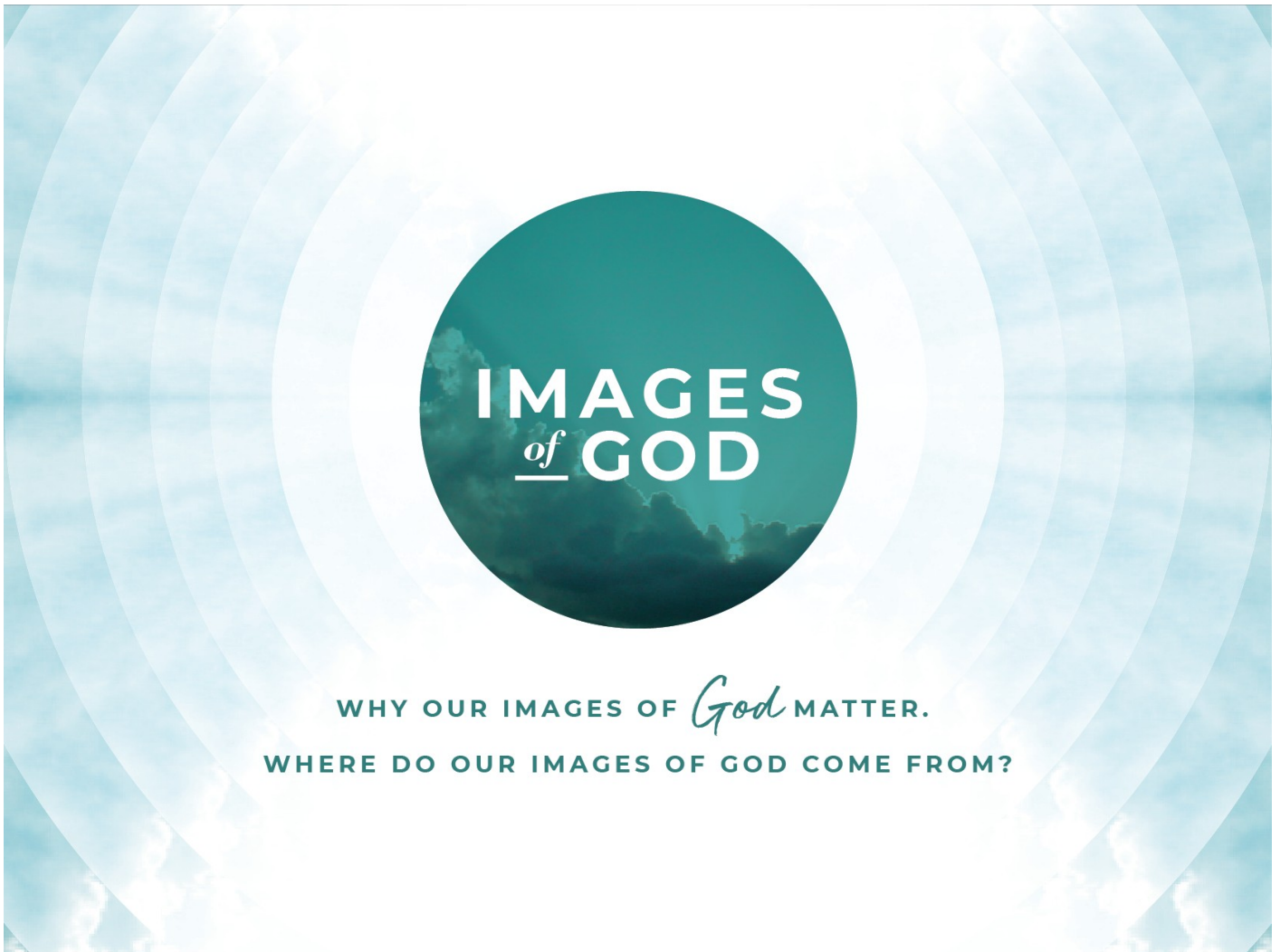
York St Small Groups

Sermon Based Studies

SUNDAY 7 June 2020

**Distorted images of God:
How do you identify them?**

Romans 12:2



These studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday sermon and also to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing.

To listen to this message again please head to the York St Website or download from iTunes.

Webpage: yorkst.com.au



GETTING STARTED

Q1. When you think of your earliest memories of faith, religion, and/or church, what do you recall?

Q2. Can you picture a good memory? What about a bad one? If you're new to faith, what was it that drew you to Jesus?

INTO THE WORD

Q3. Read 1 John 4:7-21

Often our perception of God can be distorted by the way we were taught about scripture in our formative Christian years. One of the identifiers is that God is a loving and just God; if there is not love then chances are that it's not God. How could you use this to test your thoughts? What do you think would make God hate something? Why is there hate?

Q4. Read John 1:1-18

Another indicator of a distorted image of God can come from a separation of the God of the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament. What could cause this?

GOING DEEPER

Q5. Read Romans 12:1-2

God calls us to a life long journey of ‘renewing our mind’ towards God’s will. It’s not that we have it all wrong, but that at times we need to ‘realign’ our thoughts, emotions, actions and lives with God’s will. Romans 12 speaks to this in detail, but our image of God will impact the attitude in which we carry out God’s call on our lives. What’s your attitude when you serve God?

Tim challenged us on Sunday to:

- *Listen* to what may not be a correct image of God
- *Reflect* on where that could have come from
- *Renew* by spending time in scripture looking into that image.

How can you both personally and as a group look at these images in a way that helps you ‘renew your mind’?

Pray

Dear loving Father,

Help us to see you as you are, and in doing so, help us to see ourselves the way you truly see us. Help us to accept your love and as we draw closer to you, help us share that love with those around us. May our lives reflect to others the character of Christ as your spirit flows through us.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.