

***Metaphors of Faith (1 John)***

1 John 1:1-4, 5–2:2; 4:1-6, 7-21

**Key Verse:**

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11

***Images of God****Understanding descriptive phrases.**You will need:*

- † Bible
- † Pencil
- † Ball
- † Fork

*Instructions:*

1. **Our God is such a great, big God! God is so amazing and so awesome that our words are too small to describe God well. Instead we use images or word pictures that help us to imagine what God is like.**
2. Invite the group to sit in a circle. **I am going to pass around some different items. As you receive the item, I want you to tell me what it is like. For instance, instead of saying “This is a pencil,” I want you to say, “This is like a rocket ship.” We are going to try to not copy ideas, so if you hear**

**someone else say your answer, try to come up with a different idea.**

3. Pass the pencil around the circle and give everyone a chance to say what it is like. Follow with the ball and the fork.
4. **You all have great imaginations! Just because we said something was “like” something else (give an example that they used), does that mean that the object actually IS that other thing? No, of course not. That is just like how we think about God. In our Bible readings in 1 John, we hear that God is light, but is God actually light that comes from the sun or a lightbulb?** *[No.]*
5. **When you hear a word picture in today’s reading, hold it in your imagination, and think about what it might be telling us about God.**
6. Optionally, you can find metaphorical language in the Bible passage and review them with participants before the reading.