

### **Where Do I Meet God?**

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Using our own powers of observation,  
reason,  
and sound thinking,  
we can come to know God.

We can be sure of God's presence  
because we can see the works  
that God has done:  
the creation of the world  
and of us humans.

But we can also come to know God  
because God has chosen to freely,  
generously,  
and lovingly

reveal the divine heart to us.

God has, in a word, given us a glimpse of mystery,  
the divine plan of loving goodness,  
formed and carried out through history.

This divine plan culminated in Christ,  
through whom all we need to know about God  
was fully revealed.

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The Constitution on Divine Revelation  
from Vatican II tells us about this.

“It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom,”  
the Constitution says in article 2,

“to reveal himself and to make known  
the mystery of his will,

which was that people could draw near  
to the Father,

through Christ, the Word made flesh,  
in the Holy Spirit,

and thus become sharers in the divine nature.”

## What God Wants

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God wants to communicate the divine life  
to us, the people God created.  
This makes us all sons and daughters of God!  
God wants us to be able to respond  
to the divine voice within us  
and to know God's heart.  
This makes it possible for us to love others  
far beyond our natural capacity.

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The Constitution on Revelation  
goes on in article 2:  
“The pattern of [God's revelation to us]  
unfolds through deeds and words...  
The deeds ... confirm the doctrine and realities  
signified by the words...  
and the words, for their part,  
proclaim the deeds  
and bring to light the mystery  
they contain.”

In this way, God slowly communicates  
Himself to us,  
preparing us by stages to accept the revelation,  
down through history,  
culminating in Jesus Christ.

As we said in the introduction,  
God speaks with us as friends.  
What a fantastic divine gift!

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The Scriptures use figurative language  
to help us understand all this.  
From the beginning, the text teaches,  
God showed us  
what the divine heart was like.  
God invited us to intimacy  
and placed within us the seeds of divine life:  
grace,  
love,



God  
wants to  
communicate  
the divine  
life to  
us.

justice,  
and goodness.

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When we failed to love God in return,  
God's desire to dwell within us  
did not wane.

In fact, God kept offering salvation,  
redemption,  
and eternal life.

Throughout history, this desire to be close to us  
has never ceased.

Our Eucharistic prayer at Mass  
echoes this when we pray,  
“When through disobedience  
[we] had lost your friendship,  
you did not abandon [us]  
to the domain of death...

Time and again  
you offered [us] covenants....”

### **The Covenant with Noah**

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Sin became a reality in the human race,  
but God stayed with us.

Scripture speaks of the covenant with Noah  
after the flood.

It describes how God responds to us.

God speaks to Noah and to us:

“As for me, I am establishing my covenant  
with you and your descendants after you,  
and with every living creature that is with you,  
the birds,  
the domestic animals,  
and every animal of the earth.

I establish my covenant with you ... this is the sign:  
I have set my bow in the clouds  
and it shall be a sign....”

## GROUP OR PERSONAL PROCESS

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*How do you reveal yourself to others? Name the words and the deeds you might use to show someone else who you really are. Compare this with how God approaches us.*

*Think about all of creation, the people around you, and teachings passed from generation to generation about forgiveness, mercy, and love. What have you come to know about God through all these signs?*