Explore:
Seeing the Face of God

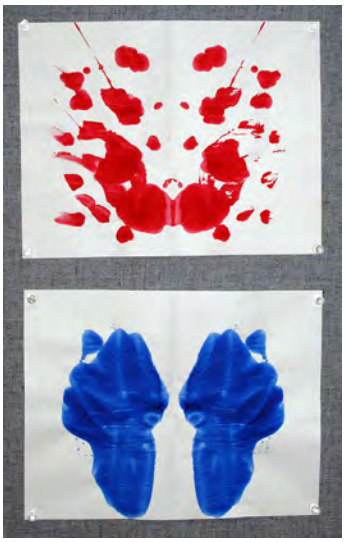
At a Glance:



When Jacob met Esau he was overjoyed at Esau's forgiveness and recognized the face of God in Esau's face. Students will create a random "ink-blot" shape and look for familiar objects in it. Read *The Lord's Qualities* and highlight the qualities given there. Discuss the importance of knowing His qualities so that we can recognize them in others. Conclude by looking at another person's face (or their own face in a mirror) to see the Lord's qualities shining from within.

Supplies Needed for Each Student:

- blank paper
- paint or ink
- paintbrush to splatter paint on the page
- *The Lord's Qualities* page
- pencil, pen, or highlighter pen
- *optional:* mirror



Directions:

1. Distribute blank paper, paint or ink and paintbrushes.
2. Invite students to drop a wet paint blob of ink or paint on to the page.
3. While the paint is wet, fold the page in half to spread the ink, and create an interesting shape.
4. Open the page. Look at the shape. What do you see? Encourage students to take their time and look for any possible things they can imagine or see in the shape of the blot.
5. Trade papers with others and look for shapes.
6. Discuss your responses. Did you and others see the same things—either at first, or eventually?
7. Why do we all see different things? In what way does our experience and knowledge change what we see? (e.g. if a person does not know what a rabbit looks like, would they be able to see a rabbit?)

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Explore: Seeing the Face of God continued

8. The Heavenly Doctrine calls the face "an index and image of the mind" (Apocalypse Explained 688). When Jacob saw Esau's face, he said "I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me" (Genesis 33:10). What qualities of the Lord might Jacob have seen in Esau's face?
9. Distribute *The Lord's Qualities*. This page gives quotes from the Word that give many qualities of the Lord. Read the page and highlight or underline these qualities.
10. Share your favorite qualities with the group.
11. How can we recognize God's qualities in others?
12. When do the Lord's qualities shine through in our lives?
13. Look at another person's face. What expression(s) would best reflect the Lord's qualities? *Optional*: have students look at their own face in a mirror or think of the face of someone they know well.
14. In what ways can knowing more about the Lord's qualities help you see Him more clearly in others?

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The Lord's Qualities

The following quotes from the Word name many of the Lord's qualities. As you read the quotes, highlight or underline these qualities.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
Slow to anger and great in mercy.
The Lord is good to all,
And His tender mercies are over all His works (Psalm 14: 8-9).

I am the Lord who heals you (Exodus 6:7).

The Lord's will is to lift all people up to heaven. For the Lord is mercy itself and good itself, and mercy itself and good itself cannot possibly condemn anyone. A person who rejects good, condemns himself (see *Arcana Coelestia* 2335).

I am the Lord, who makes all things (Isaiah 44:24).

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you (John 14:27).

The Lord is my strength and song (Exodus 15:2).

I am merciful (Jeremiah 3:14).

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold (Psalm 18:2).

I am gentle and lowly in heart (Matthew 11:29).

The face of the Lord, is mercy, peace, and all good (see *Arcana Coelestia* 222).

Charity and innocence are from the Lord alone (see *Arcana Coelestia* 1032.4).

The Lord will give strength to His people;
The Lord will bless His people with peace (Psalm 29:11).

I am the light of the world (John 9:5).

You say rightly that I am a king (John 18:37).

The Lord forgives everyone their sins. Sins are forgiven when a person sincerely repents, refrains from evils, and then leads a life of faith and charity to the end of his life (see *Arcana Coelestia* 9014).

The Lord saves those who do good from Him (see *The New Jerusalem* 155).

The Lord cannot be angry or punish anyone. He is not even able to turn His face away from a person and frown upon him (see *True Christian Religion* 56e).