



What is God Like?

Activities



Do those in your group see 'God' as just an energy force or a Personal God? What sort of questions do they have about God? Select and adapt the materials accordingly.

Aim/s

- To consider different views of God
 - To understand God as best as we can
 - To create a sense of awe
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Visual

Show images of stars, mountains etc. or look at the real thing! Aim to inspire a sense of awe.

YouTube Video clip on the size of the universe. www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKTu6B4Rgek 2.33 min

Music

Play songs or clips that include descriptions of God. Use as worship or background music to activities or as a separate activity where they pick out words and phrases that describe God. Some suggestions below but focus on ones they already know where possible.

- Indescribable: Chris Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK4NqGqmVt8>
- Immortal invisible: Walter Chalmers Smith https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlbnP4_vj18
- Yesterday, today and forever: Vicky Beeching <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjOLDaSfIHQ>
- Awesome God (Your Voice) - Vicky Beeching <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8szGofz5ZxU>
- Defender of this Heart
- From Everlasting to Everlasting
- Have we made our God too small? Doug Horley
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vILv5EX6QQ8> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr6cyahsivg>

(Changes: David Bowie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl3vxEudif8> - people change)

Games

Charades / Articulate

Write words or phrases that describe God on cards. Players take it in turns to either mime a word or explain it without using that exact word.

Tumbling towers

This game involves removing pieces of wood from a tower without knocking the whole tower down. It links with Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds and the problem of why God allows evil people in the world: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

True/false quiz

To respond they could raise their hands, stand/sit, or move to the left/ right of the room.

1. God is an astronaut who visited this planet thousands of years ago. True/false
2. God is a powerful force that created the universe and left it to run on it's own. True/false
Colossians 1:17
3. God is a powerful and relational being. True/false
4. God lives in heaven and we cannot meet him until we die. True/false
When you search for me with all your heart you will find me. Jeremiah 29:13
5. God knows our thoughts and feelings. True/false
LORD, you know my thoughts before I think them. Psalm 139:2
6. God is always invisible. True/false
7. If we were to look on the face of God, it would kill us. True/false
True: But you cannot see my face, because no one can see me and live. Exodus 33:20 NCV
8. God is with us even when we feel like we are in hell. True/false
Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend into heaven, You are there. If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.
Psalm 139:8 NKJV
9. God has a sense of humour. True/false
Jacob named his youngest son 'Benjamin', which means 'son of my right hand', but many of his descendants in the tribe of Benjamin were left-handed. Judges 20:15-16.
Jesus made jokes; some do not translate from Aramaic as they are puns, but he did tell one about a guy who built his house on sand!
10. It is impossible for us to understand God. True/false
Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding. Judges 13:18;

How can we know what God is like?

As God is a Personal Being who wants to be in relationship with his creation, he has revealed something of what he is like in different ways. Can you think of any of those ways?

His Actions: What actions of God reveal him to us?

Dreams and vision: Can you think of anyone who has experienced these?

Prophetic messages: Can you think of anyone who has experienced these?

We 'see' or view with our eyes. Psalm 19:1

We 'see' or understand with our minds. Psalm 19:7-8

We 'see' or sense with our spirits. Psalm 16:11 and Psalm 27:4

How can we describe God?

He replied, 'Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding.' Judges 13:18

We cannot describe God accurately because he is beyond anything we have ever seen or experienced, so we use simple comparisons with things that are within our knowledge.

Human comparisons

Print out the [separate activity sheet](#) or the Bible verses from below and provide pens or highlighters. Ask them to pick out the human terms used to describe God, and then decide what characteristics they are telling us about God.

Isaiah 66:1-2

Hebrews 4:13

Jeremiah 18:15-17

Isaiah 49:16

Genesis 6:6

Numbers 6:24-26

Isaiah 40:10-12

Exodus 33:18-23

Comparisons in Nature

What do these comparisons with nature tell us about God?

- Sun & shield: Psalm 84:11
- Fountain of life, light: Psalm 36:9
- Refuge, strong tower: Psalm 61:3
- Eagle hovering over young: Deuteronomy 32:11
- Hen gathering chicks: Matthew 23:37
- Fire: Hebrews 12:29
- Light: Revelation 21:23

Psalm 18:1-15

- How does the Psalm 18 poem use nature and human terms to describe God?
- What does it tell us about how David, the writer 'sees' God?
- If God arrived in ALL His power, what would happen to the earth?

Spider Chart Activity

How do you think of God?

- Energy Source
- Intelligent spirit?
- Personal, relational being?
- Moral nature?
- With or without emotions?

Use the spider chart activity on the [separate sheet](#). Perhaps start with what they know or believe themselves at this time. The Bible verses can then be used as prompts if helpful. Encourage them to think about why they believe what they do.

Application

- Do you have any personal experiences that back up your view of God?
- What impact do you think it has on your life believing that this is who God is?
- Are we like God in any ways?
- How can we share God's character in our lives?

Discussion Teasers

Perhaps let them vote for which ones they most want answered as you may not have time for all of these.

1. Is God male, female, both or neither?
 2. Can God really do anything at all?
 - Can he make a rock too heavy for him to lift? Can he make a square circle?
 - Does God always get what God wants?
 - Why does he not stop all the suffering in the world?
 3. Why is the link between God's power and his moral nature so important?
 4. If God is everywhere, how can God be both near and far away?
 - How was Cain banished from his presence?
 - If God dwells in unapproachable light, how can we 'come in' to his presence?
 - What does it mean to 'come into' the presence of God?
 5. If God is invisible, how did Moses speak to him 'face to face'?
1 Timothy 1:17; Exodus 33: 7, 9, 11, 18-20
 6. Does God really know everything?
If God knows our choices before we make them, do we still have freedom of choice or is it pre-determined? Does he ever get surprises?
 7. Does God ever change?
 - What does it mean when we say that God is unchangeable?
 - Does he ever change his mind?
 8. Does God have emotions?
 - Which emotions do you think he has?
 - How does God's love / anger / jealousy differ from ours?
 - What does it mean for us that God has these emotions?
 - What emotions do we have that he does not? Fear, guilt
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Reflection

Prayer station with post it notes

Write down something you are thankful for about God.

Write down something you would like to know more about God.

Craft station

Draw a set of images to depict different aspects of God.

Design your own superpower.

Prayer

Lord God,

You are beyond understanding but help us to understand you better.

Help us to 'see' you more clearly.

May our spirits be more open to connecting with your Spirit and to receive warmth and love from your Presence.

May we always be in awe of you.

Amen

Further resources

'Is a Blue Whale the Biggest Thing There Is?' Robert E. Wells. This book looks at the size of the universe.

Who Made Me? Shirley Tulloch describes the creator by comparing him with the special features of various animals in this beautifully written book for younger children. She does not use the word 'God'

Reboot: no question off limits: <https://www.rebootglobal.org/>

Sources and Further reading

See leader's notes

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