

GOD VIEWS

Letting God Out of the Box

Take a few moments to think back over the past week. List some of the ways that the fruit of God's Spirit (the character of Christ) was evident in your life—as God lived His life through you.

■ Christ's Character

■ How Visible in My Life

Love

Joy

Peace

Longsuffering

Gentleness

Goodness

Faith

Humility

Temperance

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EIGHT:

GOD-IN-A-BOX

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GOD VIEWS

God-In-A-Box



■ Prayer

After examining the picture above, take a few moments to ask God the following question in a time of quiet prayer.

Father, please show me if I have a secret fear of turning over the control of my life to you—One so big and powerful. Please let me know if I have turned over all of my life to you. Tell me, O God, if there are any ways I have confined you to a small place in my life so that I can be in control of my life instead of you. Then, Father, please fill me with the sense of your presence and with a deep trust that you and you alone have my best interests at heart. Step out of any box I may have made for you and be the huge and magnificent God of my life, all of my life.

If any words or images struck you as being a response from God, you may want to list them below.

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GOD VIEWS

Names, Titles, and Descriptions of God

■ In Class

Take a few moments (during class) and study the different titles for God presented below. Consider sharing the description of God that is most touching for you right now.

■ At Home

During the coming week, spend some time with the list below. Use one quiet time to read the verses where God the Father is referenced. As you read each verse, ask Him to whisper to you about how His name or title relates specifically to you and your relationship with Him. On two other days, do the same exercise with the descriptions of Jesus and then the Holy Spirit.

FATHER

■ Description

A faithful God
A forgiving God
A refuge for His people
A shelter from the storm
An ever-present help in times of trouble
Father of compassion
God Almighty (El Shaddai)
God my rock
God our strength
Great and awesome God
He who blots out your transgressions

■ Verse

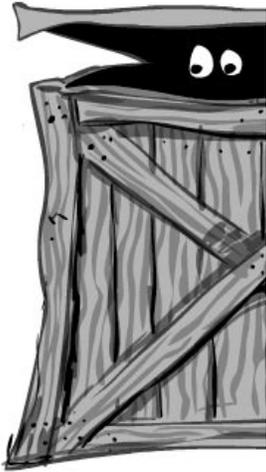
Deuteronomy 32:4
Nehemiah 9:17
Joel 3:16
Isaiah 25:4
Psalm 46:1
2 Corinthians 1:3
Genesis 17:1
Psalm 42:9
Psalm 18:2
Deuteronomy 7:21
Isaiah 43:25

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SON (JESUS)

Anointed one	Acts 4:26
Bread of life	John 6:48
Bridegroom	Luke 5:34-35
Eternal life	1 John 5:20
Shepherd of the sheep	Hebrews 13:20
Head of the church	Ephesians 5:23
Immanuel (God with us)	Matthew 1:23
Light of the world	John 8:12
My friend	Jeremiah 3:4
The true vine	John 15:1
Wonderful Counselor	Isaiah 9:6
Your salvation	Isaiah 30:15

HOLY SPIRIT

Another counselor	John 14:16, 26
Breath of the Almighty	Job 32:8
Spirit of Christ	1 Peter 1:11
Spirit of faith	2 Corinthians 4:13
Spirit of holiness	Romans 1:4
Spirit of life	Romans 8:2
Spirit of God	1 Corinthians 6:11
Spirit of sonship (adoption)	Romans 8:15
Spirit of truth	John 14:17
Spirit of wisdom and revelation	Ephesians 1:17
The gift	Acts 2:38
Voice of the Lord	Isaiah 30:31

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GOD VIEWS

Bible Study

READ 1 KINGS 19:11 -13A; JOHN 3:5-8; AND ACTS 2:1-4

¹¹The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he pulled back his cloak over his face, and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. (1 Kings 19:11-13a)

⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The Wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

When the day of Pentecost came they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

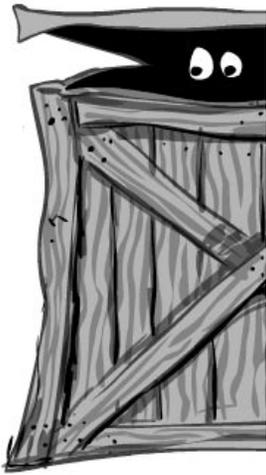
1 What do these passages tell us about God?

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GOD VIEWS

- 2 In the 1 Kings (19:11-13a) passage, we see wind, an earthquake, and fire. Has God presented Himself in these forms before? Please give examples.

- 3 Why do you suppose God chose to reveal Himself to Elijah in a still, small voice?

- 4 When Jesus says to Nicodemus, “The wind blows wherever it pleases,” what did he mean? How does this relate to God?

- 5 After Jesus’ followers were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (a feast to celebrate the first fruits of the harvest), by what “fruit” did they become known?
(Hint: See Acts 2:42-47; Romans 5:8; and I Corinthians 13:1.)

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GOD VIEWS

Transparency

Session Outline

I. INTRODUCTION



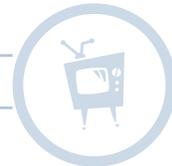
- Welcome
- Prayer
- Review

II. WARM-UP



- Question and Discussion

III. CONTENT



- Video Vignette
- Class Response
- Exercises/Discussion

IV. BIBLE STUDY



- Small Groups or All Together

V. SUMMARY



- Review

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