

INVENT

Divide your youth group into smaller groups of eight to 10. Describe the situation below and give each group 20 minutes to finish their task. At the end of the allotted time, have the group all meet together and compare their responses.

You find yourself in a new civilization in which everything is the same as our world is now, but there is no Bible, no God, no religion, no church, no religious history. You have been selected by your government to create a God that will have the proper attributes that will cause people to worship. This God should represent everything that you think will be attractive and yet at the same time, explain things like natural disasters (flood, earthquake, etc.), sickness, suffering, and evil.

Questions to help you as you invent God: What is its name, if any? Where does it live? Is it visible? Will your God make any demands on people? How do you worship it? Any rewards or punishments? What does it look like? Is there more than one? Does it have any bad attributes? Just let your imaginations run wild and attempt to invent the perfect God that will attract the most people.

The discussion should then compare the invented God with the God of the Bible. The following questions could be included in the discussion:

- Why is God so mysterious?
- Why did God leave so many unanswered questions?
- Why doesn't God make himself visible?
- What are the most difficult things about God to believe?
- What things would you change about God if you could?