

WHO IS GOD?

by James P. Reeves

PURPOSE

To emphasize the importance of studying about God.

PREPARATION

Prepare copies of the Let's Imagine handout in the Opening section. Each person will need paper and pencils.

Have an overhead projector or chalkboard, chairs and a blindfold.

Arrange the chairs in the meeting room.

OPENING

This creative project is useful to get young people interested in studying about God.

Divide into small groups of four to five. Describe the following situations and give each group 20 minutes to finish its task.

Let's Imagine

Situation: Let's imagine you and your crew are on a spacecraft traveling through space charting the galaxy. You happen to meet another spacecraft during your flight through the stars. The meeting is friendly and positive. Modern technology has provided you with a device that allows you to speak to your new space friends in their language and they in yours. During your conversation they explain to you their search for a new God and

they pose the question, "Who or what is God to you?"

Your task for the next 20 minutes is to explain God to these creatures and friends. Remember, they know nothing of earth and its history, so avoid using Bible jargon and phrases common to earth people.

- How do you explain God's name or names?
- Can you see God?
- How does God communicate and how do earthlings communicate with God? (Remember that our word "prayer" means nothing to these creatures, so how do you explain prayer?)
- Do you fear God?
- How do you worship this God?

THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

Reunite the group and have the young people share the concepts of God.

How similar or different is this God with the God we know in the Bible? Did you have to stretch your thoughts any to use non-biblical words or phrases?

On the basis of your work, why do you think it might be important to study about God?

Explain to the youth that it has been said, "There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of divinity."

Continue to explain we improve ourselves as we think about who God is and what he is like. We can also explore the recesses of our minds through contemplation of God.

Ask and discuss means to improve oneself, self-image or attitude in life, by getting to know God better.

Present this illustration on the importance of studying about God: Blindfold a volunteer and walk him or her about the room. Explain that to disregard a study of God would be like going blindfolded through life, tantamount to being without direction. Life is a waste without this knowledge, because God made this world and to know how to function in it requires a knowledge of the one who made it.

On the blackboard or overhead write these five steps to get to know God:

To Know God

- God has spoken to us through his word, the Bible, which gives us his plan of salvation.
- God is Lord of all creation. He made all we see and rules over all. We are his creation and should worship and adore him.
- God is our Savior. He rescued us from our guilt and sin by sending his son to die for us on the cross.
- God is one in three persons. God the Father purposed the redemption of the world. God the Son secured it at the

cross. The Spirit helps to apply this truth to our lives.

● Our walk in God's spirit means responding to God's revelation in trust and obedience. We should worship him, pray to him, serve others for him, and follow his desires for us to do his will. We must live our lives as God reveals it from his word.

RESPONSE (OR CLOSING)

Ask the youth to bow their heads, close their eyes and think about these two questions:

How well do I know God?

How well would I like to know God?

After a brief pause, ask the youth to think of ways in which they can better get to know God.

After an appropriate amount of time, say, "Let's pray about that desire right now, you pray quietly and I will pray aloud."

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Off the Shelf and Into Yourself, by Terry Hall, Victor Books, P.O. Box 1825, Wheaton, IL 60187.

Knowing God, by J.I. Packer, InterVarsity Press, P.O. Box F, Downers Grove, IL 60615.

Break-Through, by Jay Keeler, Zondervan/Campus Life Book, 1420 Robinson Road, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

God's Book for God's People, by John R.W. Stott, InterVarsity Press, P.O. Box F, Downers Grove, IL 60515.