

what do I believe?

My first cry in the human world is followed by gurgles and burps, "dada" and "mine," then more and more words that express who I am. Among the words that speak myself are faith words. These express my dreams, my purpose in life, my understanding of God. Today, nearly six thousand days after my first sound in the human world, what do I believe?

- Check the statements of belief you could make.
- _____ I believe the sun will come up tomorrow.
- _____ I believe it is all right to step on cracks.
- _____ I believe my house will be there when I get home tonight.
- _____ I believe the mechanic who fixes my brakes knows what he is doing.
- _____ I believe schools would be better if grades were abolished.
- _____ I believe organized, citizen pressure groups are necessary to make corporations responsible for the environment.
- _____ I believe my friends would stick up for me if I got put down.
- _____ I believe my parents care about me.
- _____ I believe I can make a difference in the future of the world.
- _____ I believe something or someone very alive must have caused all living things to be.

In small groups of four or five discuss the following questions:

What order do you see in the progression of these statements of belief? How is believing the sun will come up tomorrow different from believing in God? How far down the list did you check? If you stopped checking statements part way down the list, explain your reasons for stopping. If you checked all the statements, explain why.

who is God to me?

To be open to the possibility of God today is like going to a giant masquerade ball. The only person there is God. But he wears a thousand faces. He has an identity for each person who thinks he knows who God is. Some of the identities are attractive and inviting, while others cause problems.