

# WHO IS THIS GOD ANYWAY?

1. How would you feel in the following situations?  
You've just been told you can never have a close relationship with God.

You've just been told you can never again attend church.

You've just been told you are wasting your time on this Christian stuff.



2. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being totally true, 10 being completely untrue), how true is this statement for you?  
My relationship with God is the most important relationship I have.

3. Circle the **three words** that best describe God, in your opinion.

|            |                |             |             |
|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Personal   | Liberating     | Kingly      | Feeble      |
| Healing    | Mysterious     | Blameless   | Honest      |
| Eternal    | Holy           | Accepting   | Pure        |
| Strong     | Controlling    | Merciful    | Patient     |
| Angry      | Punishing      | Passive     | Influential |
| Humorous   | Unapproachable | Cruel       | Kind        |
| Remote     | Sinless        | Restrictive | Unaware     |
| Just       | Giving         | Worthless   | Demanding   |
| Loving     | True           | Protective  | Critical    |
| Caring     | Friendly       | Good        | Sovereign   |
| Unchanging | Involved       | Forgiving   |             |

4. When do you feel closest to God?

5. The prophet Isaiah provides us with a rich description of God. Read the two descriptions in the passages from the Bible—one that describes God and one that describes false gods—then write out what each one says to you.

Isaiah 44:6-8

Isaiah 44:9-20

## THIS WEEK

What is God like? Who is he? The Bible says that no one has seen God (John 1:18), yet the Bible is filled with metaphorical descriptions of him. This TalkSheet will help your kids explore their concepts of God and learn to see him through a biblical perspective.

### OPENER

Ask for two volunteers to help you introduce this topic. One person should stand away from the group facing the whiteboard or a large piece of newsprint. This person is the artist. The other person, the interpreter, should stand facing the group with their back to the artist. Give the interpreter an object like a light bulb or a coat hanger. The interpreter then explains the object to the artist in such a way that they can accurately draw a picture of it. The interpreter can't look at the artist and the artist can't look at the interpreter. Talk about how this sort of abstract drawing is like our concept of God. We have not seen him ourselves, but we have formed a picture of him through what we have read and heard.

### THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. This activity lets kids examine how significant their relationship with God really is. How would they answer each of these questions?
2. The phrase "personal relationship with Jesus Christ" isn't in the Bible. Yet people talk about a personal relationship with Christ in personal metaphors of a friend, a family member, and a spouse. What does it mean to your kids to have a personal relationship with God?
3. How do your kids see God? What words do they use to describe him? You may want to make a master list of these words—then ask why they chose these words. Where did they get these impressions from?
4. People's views of God affect how they view life. If they see God as unapproachable, then they won't take prayer seriously. If they see God as critical, then they'll be hard on themselves. Let volunteers read their completed sentences, then discuss how our thoughts about God affect our actions.
5. Ask the teens to share the different things they learned from the prophet Isaiah about the one true God and false gods.

## THE CLOSE

Challenge the group to rethink their view of God. Some people have distorted views of him that limit what God can do in their lives. He commands people not to worship idols, but to focus on him and his power. Pay attention to the views that your kids have. Why have they formed these views of him? What have their parents or teachers taught them about God? Do some of them lack trust in God because of poor relationships with parents? Point out that every person has a unique relationship with God—because everyone relates to him differently!

Close in a time of prayer and encourage your kids to take a few moments with God alone. The best way to understand and get to know God better is to spend some time with him. What are some ways that your kids can get closer to God?

### MORE

- Take this discussion further into the Bible. Ask the kids to pick and read five Bible stories. Read the stories with the group and have them write down five new things they learned about God. Explain to them that they can get to know more about God on their own time—doing just the same thing! Getting to know God better means spending time with him!
- Consider doing a more in-depth Bible study with your group or a group of your kids. There are several Bible studies for high schoolers by Youth Specialties, including *Creative Bible Lessons in Psalms*, *Talking the Walk*, and *Downloading the Bible*, including *A Rough Guide to the New Testament* and *A Rough Guide to the Old Testament*. For more information, visit [www.YouthSpecialties.com](http://www.YouthSpecialties.com).