

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
"God" (Part 1)
Covenant Group Curriculum, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist
Congregation, Davie, FL

Opening Meditation/Music/Silence/Chalice Lighting (whichever one(s) you choose to do)

Opening Words:

"Why do you go in the forest in search of the divine? God lives in all and abides with you, as well. As fragrance dwells in a flower, or reflection in a mirror, so the Divine dwells inside everything; seek therefore in your own heart. Tegh Bahadur (Sikh source)

"The kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21

Check-in/Sharing

Topic/Reading:

Facilitator: Read this first reading twice, sandwiched around the excerpt from Exodus in the middle, so people can have the imagery sink in.

For God, it seems, is a verb, not a noun, proper or improper;
God is the articulation, not the art...
God is loving, not the abstraction of love...

Yes, God is a verb,
the most active,
connoting the vast harmonic reordering of the universe
from the unleashed chaos of energy.

-Buckminster Fuller

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them? God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."

- Exodus 3:13-14

Questions for consideration:

- What problems are there in making God a noun?
- Moses asks God who God is using the masculine pronoun, but God answers with no reference to gender, what might this mean?
- Fuller says "God is the articulation, not the art.": what's the connection between God and creativity; between God and love?

Likes and Wishes/Feedback

Closing Words:

“Thy eye with which I see God
Is the very same eye with which God sees me.”

- Meister Eckhart

God doesn't make orange juice;
God makes oranges.

- Jesse Jackson

Amen. May you live in blessing.

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
"God" (Part 2)
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Congregation, Davie, FL

Opening Meditation/Music/Silence/Chalice Lighting (whichever one(s) you choose to do)

Opening Words:

"We have seen the highest circle of spiraling powers. We have named this circle God. We might have given it any name we wished: Abyss, Absolute Darkness, Absolute Light, Matter, Spirit, Ultimate hope, Ultimate Despair, Silence. But Never Forget, it is we who give it a name."

- Nikos Kazantzakis

Check-in/Sharing

Topic/Reading:

"The Bible as a whole seems interested not in God as absolute, but as relational; not as static, but as dynamic; not as impassive, but as affected by what we humans do well or ill or leave undone. The philosopher Charles Hartshorne, in his little book, Omnipotence and Other Theological Mistakes, argues that it can still make sense to take about reality in theological terms, but not in terms of absolute power, only in terms of relationship and (often thwarted) love."

- Rev. John Buehrens.

"The human heart seeks the infinite because that is where the finite wants to rest. In the infinite, it (the human heart) sees its own fulfillment."

- Paul Tillich

Questions for consideration:

- What is the difference between talking about God as omnipotent and talking about God as infinite?
- Why do think the author talks about "omnipotence" as a theological mistake?
- Which do you trust more—thoughts about God or feelings about God?

Likes and Wishes/Feedback

Closing Words:

Blessed be you, universal matter, unmeasurable time, boundless ether, triple abyss of stars and atoms and generations;

You who by overflowing and dissolving our narrow standards of measurement reveal to us the dimensions of God.

- Teilhard de Chardin

Amen. May you live in blessing.