

**Who Is This God?**

**Monday, 8/31/09 – Read Genesis 12:1-3 & Isaiah 49:1-6**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: This summer we have been thinking about BELIEVING IN GOD. This week we finally turn to the question: Who is this God that the Bible invites us to set our heart on and entrust our life to? Who is this God and what is this God like? ... This week we'll consider some of the Bible's most important answers to that question. ... The two readings for today remind us (1) that God calls humans into service and (2) that the scope of God's concern (and the scope of our faithful service) is universal. Like Abraham we are called to be a blessing for "all the families of the earth" -- so that God's salvation "may reach to the end of the earth." ... Specifically, how has God called you to be a blessing for others?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday, 9/1/09 – Read Exodus 20:1-3**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Who is this God? First, this is a God of liberation and freedom -- a God who found the Hebrews as slaves in Egypt and led them to freedom. Second, God reminds the people that, when they set their hearts on anything other than this God of liberation, then their lives will be enslaved. They are to have "no other gods"! ... What is it that you are tempted to "set your heart on"? Money, the stock market, financial security? Family? Friends? The nation? The church? ... These are all good things. Yet none of these is finally God. Very specifically, what are those "other gods" that you sometimes find yourself setting your heart on? Write them down, and talk to God about them in your prayer today.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday, 9/2/09 – Read Psalm 139:1-18**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Who is this God? It's easy to think of God as the creator, as the One who is present in the grandeur and majesty of galaxies and stars. But sometimes it's hard to feel God's closeness to us, individually and personally. Psalm 139 celebrates the intimacy of God -- God's tender closeness to us, to each one of us. ... When have you experienced God as close and personal? Remember the experience and make some notes for yourself about what that was like for you.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, 9/3/09 – Read Amos 2:6-8 & Matthew 25:31-46**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: What is this God like? ... Consistently the Bible describes this God as One who has intention, purpose, will. God has an agenda. God wants something. And a big part of God's agenda is how we humans care for the vulnerable, the marginal, the poor. Israel's "great sin," according to prophets like Amos was the treatment of the poor -- like taking a poor person's clothes as collateral for a loan. And Jesus in his grand parable says that the way we treat the "least of these" is the way we treat him. ... How does your own believing in God shape the way you treat "the least of these"? Be as specific as you can.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, 9/4/09 – Read Ephesians 2:8-9**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Who is this God? What is this God like? ... The central conviction of all the Bible is that God is a God of GRACE -- unmerited, unearned favor and love. It is the nature of God to love unconditionally. This does not mean that God is oblivious to behavior or performance -- but it is the conviction that right behavior naturally flows out of the experience of being loved by God. Does this seem right to you? When has being loved enabled you to live well?

---

---

---

---

**Saturday, 9/5/09 – Read Romans 8:28**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

A Question to Answer: Who is this God we believe in? The Bible portrays this God as the creator of a world in which bad things happen -- a world in which people suffer, even good people, even innocent people. But the Bible is also convinced that God is never disengaged. Check your Bible's footnote to today's reading. A fully legitimate alternate reading is: "in all things God works for good." In all things, even bad things, God is working for good. Is that your experience? Have you seen God working for good even in the bad times of your life? Jot down some of your own examples.

---

---

---

---

**Sunday, 9/6/09 – Read John 3:16-17 & 1 John 4:7-12**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

A Question to Answer:

---

---

---

---

*My Faith Journal*, August 30, 2009

Believing in God #6, Last (*For Now*)

## **So Which God Is It You Don't Believe In?**

### **Review**

HOW we believe is as important as WHAT we believe ... love.

DOUBTING some belief is not the same as DISTRUSTING God.

Believing in God helps us & requires us to be who we are – **human!**

Believing in God is believing IN a person as much as it is believing THAT something is true or false.

### **Which God do I NOT believe in?**

### **The God the Bible invites us to SET OUR HEARTS ON.**

Exodus 20:1-3

Genesis 12:1-5a

### **What action do I intend to take this week?**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*