

# CONVERSING WITH GOD

This session focuses on the topic of our relationship with God. Please do the activities and share with one another as much as you are comfortable. It is hoped you will be open to new information and be reaffirmed in what you already understand. May this be an enjoyable experience for both of you!

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## **Opening Prayer:** (from Jeremiah 1:6-9)

I then said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a child.”

But the Lord then said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a child’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,” says the Lord.

Then the Lord put out His hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

“Now I have put my words in you mouth.”

## WHO IS YOUR GOD?

A. **BELOW** are a number of possible definitions of God. Some you have heard already and others are probably unfamiliar to you. **Put a check mark in front** of any of the definitions you agree with:

### GOD IS...

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the only person who loves me for myself                       | <input type="checkbox"/> a lawgiver whose commands urge me to do right.                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the computer that programmed the universe                     | <input type="checkbox"/> a being the human race will evolve to.                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a puppeteer who manipulates people like toys.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> a ruler whose power is freedom and love rather than force.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a creator who believes all of creation is very good.          | <input type="checkbox"/> an idea created by past generations to explain the world.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a father who loves his children selflessly.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> the peace that will rule when all persons are brothers and sisters. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> someone who forgives the mistakes I make.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> the perfect one who says I am sinful and makes me feel guilt.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a being so beyond me that words fail to describe him.         | <input type="checkbox"/> the one who cares that I try to become Christ-like.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an eccentric being who created the world and forgot about it. | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a being who gave me life.                                     | _____  |



Now go back through the list and **CIRCLE** the phrases that you like best.

With the aid of those phrases you circled, write your definition of God:

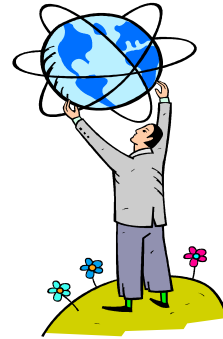
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The task of writing a definition of GOD may be very difficult.

It seems when we deal with God, we have to go beyond the usual concepts and words we deal with normally in life. God is too big for our simple definitions; that's why it may be hard to find the right words to define God.

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THE NEXT REQUEST might seem strange to you, yet it can tell us a lot about our understanding of God. Loosen up your ordinary images and think of God in unusual ways:

**Please answer the following questions and share them with your partner**

1. When you think of God, what COLOR do you think of and why?
2. What kind of music do you think of when you think of God and why?
3. If God had a voice, what would it sound like?
4. When do you feel closest to God and why?
5. When in your life did you feel most 'holy'?

These kinds of questions can be not only fun and interesting, but enlightening as well. They give us not just a definition of God, but something better than that – a sense of God, almost a feel for God's presence. USING ALLOF THE INFORMATION YOU JUST DEVELOPED, PICTURE IN YOUR MIND... **GOD**.

## TAKING A LOOK BACKWARD...

*How about taking a step back to your early childhood?*

*Discuss your answers to the following questions with your Faith Partner.*

1. Who was your best friend when you were five?
2. How did you spend most of your time together?
3. Are you still friends today?



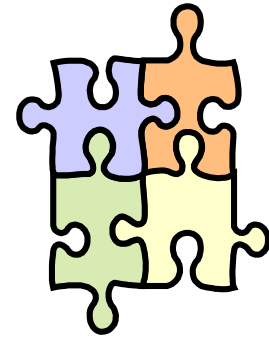
4. If not, why is this?
5. Who is your best friend today?
6. How did you and your best friend first meet each other?
7. What kinds of things do you talk about?
8. What kinds of things do you do together?
9. Do you think you will still be good friends in five years?
10. What might prevent you from remaining friends?
11. What can you do to increase the chances of your friendship growing stronger?

1. Please complete Exercises 1 and 2 by yourself.
2. Then, add the totals from each column of Yes, No and Maybe.
3. Finally, discuss you response to each question in both these exercises.  
Please reflect and share why you circled some or all of the answers you did.

### HOW MUCH TRUST IN PEOPLE DO YOU HAVE?

<u>Read each question. Circle your answer.</u>	Yes	No	Maybe
1. Would you discuss a personal problem with your best friend?	Y	N	M
2. Would you share a secret with your brother or sister?	Y	N	M
3. Would you lend your favorite CD's to any person who asked?	Y	N	M
4. Would you forgive someone who apologized for starting a rumor about you?	Y	N	M
5. Would you accept a ride with a stranger?	Y	N	M
6. Would you tell you parents you smoked you smoked at a party (when they've forbidden this)?	Y	N	M
7. Would you talk to your parents about a sex problem or question?	Y	N	M
8. Would you talk to a teacher about something that is bothering you?	Y	N	M
9. Would you tell you best friend s/he has bad breath?	Y	N	M
10. Would you fall in love easily?	Y	N	M
11. Would you doubt your friendship if you didn't hear from your best friend in two days?	Y	N	M
12. Would you be afraid to give your best friend constructive criticism?	Y	N	M
13. Would you believe a compliment if you received one?	Y	N	M
14. Would you tell someone about something you are very ashamed of?	Y	N	M

HOW MUCH TRUST IN GOD DO YOU HAVE?



	Yes	No	Maybe
1. Would you talk over a personal problem with God?	Y	N	M
2. Would you feel God's love even after you did something wrong?	Y	N	M
3. Would you believe that God cares about your life?	Y	N	M
4. Would you feel that God cares about you when you're feeling down and depressed?	Y	N	M
5. Would you feel forgiven of your sins if you received the sacrament of reconciliation?	Y	N	M
6. Would you have gotten all the way to Jesus if you'd been in Peter's Place?	Y	N	M
7. Would you turn to the Bible for some comforting words in a stressful time?	Y	N	M
8. Would you turn to Jesus in prayer for a family member who is sick or in trouble?	Y	N	M
9. Would you talk to a priest of some other adult in a ministerial role about a problem you were having?	Y	N	M
10. Would you turn to God for guidance in making a difficult decision?	Y	N	M

**Adding up your responses and sharing your totals might help you to see yourself more objectively as a trusting or mistrustful person. There may be parallels in your trust in people and your trust in God. What do you think?**

**Many things can happen during our lives that cause us to hesitate trusting in some people. One thing is certain, however, we can always place our complete trust in God. Ask God in prayer to help you trust in Him more. God's love for us is unconditional and everlasting.**

## Looking at the Present...

The older we get, the more responsible we are for our friendships with others to deepen. A commitment of time, energy and compromise are all necessary for healthy relationships to flourish.

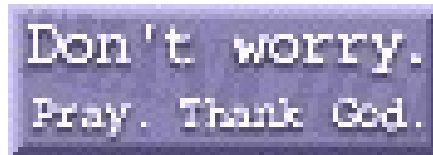
**What are qualities for a true friendship to survive and last a long time?**

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The qualities you listed are probably many of the same qualities needed to deepen our friendship with God. God continuously invites each of us to deepen our relationship. The way to respond to the Lord's invitation of friendship is prayer.



## PRAYING TO GOD

The traditional Catholic definition of prayer is THE LIFTING OF ONE'S MIND AND HEART TO GOD. A second definition is TALKING AND LISTENING TO GOD.

**However we define prayer,** there is always the turning to God and becoming aware of God's presence in our lives and in the world.

**When we pray we can,**

1. Share with God our deepest fears, hopes and dreams.
2. Turn over to God our cares and needs.
3. Ask God to forgive our sins and failures.

**What do you bring to God in your Prayers?**

**The WHEN, WHAT and HOW of PRAYER...**

Together, please LOOK UP THE PASSAGES in The New Testament give next to each question. This will tell you how God, through messengers, want us to respond and act on these questions.

**When is a good time to pray, and how often?** (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

**How should we pray and what might we pray for?**  
(Matt. 6: 9-13 and 1 Tim. 2:1-4)

**Does God always hear our prayers?** (Matt. 7: 7-11)

**Does prayer always get positive results?** (Mark 14: 32-42)

**TIME FOR PRAYER...**

We develop a strong relationship with God in prayer when we pray whether we feel it is easiest if you choose a specific time of day when you are least likely to be pre-occupied or distracted.

**GOD IS WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU, HIS BELOVED CHILD.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Please pray together the prayer Jesus taught us... *Our Father, who art in Heaven...*

**Thank you for taking time to share your faith and feelings with one another.  
May the Holy Spirit continue to word within you to help you grow spiritually.**

COMMIT TO THE FUTURE...

NEXT MEETING DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE \_\_\_\_\_ WHO WILL CALL TO REMIND \_\_\_\_\_