

What is Our Relationship to God?

Intro: Back in the nineties there was this song that became very popular on the radio, but I hated it. It wasn't because it was a badly sung song. It wasn't because it wasn't my style. I hated the song because of its theology. The song said, "God is watching us from a distance." On the other hand, there are a lot of people who think this is the reality of their faith. On yet another hand, Buddhism teaches that the ultimate relationship to God is to merge, to become one with, to lose oneself in the Godness. Some religions teach that God must be appeased with appropriate behaviors such as the right number of prayers, etc. The question is, what does the Bible say and what do you believe about your relationship with God? That's the task for this week - to decide what you believe (and perhaps check out if that's just an opinion, or whether it's a core belief that you are practicing!) and then to articulate that belief with a friend, relative, associate, neighbor, or coworker.

What the Bible Teaches: Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

Look at the image of our relationship to God in each of these Scriptures. Talk about the implications of each metaphor.

John 10:11-12; John 1:12-13; Galatians 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 12:49-50; John 15:8; John 15:15

What other images about God are you familiar with? Use a Bible Index (concordance) to find specific verses or passages that illustrate that image.

In the midst of a personal crisis, which of these images of God anchors your faith? Why?

What I Believe: Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about your relationship to God. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

“What is Our Relationship to God?”

Write your final response here: _____

Articulations: Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

Therefore: Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.