

EASTER CAMP 2018 – REFLECTION STARTERS: IMAGES OF GOD

What particularly captured your attention in the talk? Revisit it. What stirs in you? Where in your body do you feel a reaction? Let the word or idea that you have noticed expand, play, poke into your life, draw you close. What else is rising as you allow it space? Listen to your own inner voice responding. In whatever way you understand the Divine, allow the presence of 'God' to be part of your explorations.

Pay attention to your sense of Divine, with you or far from you. Consider:

Colour	Texture	Temperature	Voice/Sound	Smell
Flavour	Place in your Body	Size		Facial expression (or lack of)

What name for God is right for you, today? Can you enter prayer with God today using that name?

Re-enter the Easter Story, paying attention to where YOU experience God. What is God like for you in this story? Where are YOU in the story? Is God watching? Waiting out of sight? With the disciples? With the soldiers? With the women? On the cross? [There is no 'right answer' – if you come back this afternoon you might find that, for you, God is in a different place.]

Focus on a particular image of God – either one you are attracted to, or one you are repelled by, or one you would love to experience but feel distant from. **Enter into the story of Easter** accompanied by THIS God. What do you notice in the story? What do you notice in yourself? What desire stirs in you? Is there an image of God that is dying for you? Be open to what might rise in its place. Is there an image of God that is being reaffirmed? Be open to how you might travel Easter, and life beyond, with this image?

Focus on a particular image of God – one you are attracted to, or one you are repelled by, or one you would love to experience but feel distant from. **Take a walk with THIS God** – metaphorically or literally walking, around camp or through your life. Dialogue. Listen.

What might you say to: A God You Don't Believe In? A God You Wish Were True? A God You Hold Dearly?

What might (this?) God have to say in return?

Do a 'timeline' of your faith journey, noting key events, people and understandings. Perhaps consider your life as a river, beginning small and with many tributaries feeding in along the way: What (or who) has fed in? What bends and backwaters has your life-water travelled? Particularly notice what God was like in different phases. What is God like now? Are there earlier images you have lost and would like to re-encounter? Are there earlier images that cling to you, that you would like to shed?

Choose any bible passage. What is God like? What attracts you to this God? What repels or disturbs you? What life experience might this sort of God-sense arise out of? Is this the God you know now, or have known in the past, or would like to know? Allow your actual sense of God (your current dominant image/ metaphor/ understanding) to be present with you as you have this conversation.

Take time to look at your life, your priorities and choices, your values joys sorrows hopes fears. Luther suggests our God is 'that to which our heart clings and entrusts itself'. If your life reflects your God, who is this God? What sort of presence is acting as 'True North' to guide the compass of your life? Is this the God you wish to serve?

- If so, take time to celebrate the shared journey you are on – where is the growing edge for you in serving your God?
 - If not, how can you orient yourself towards a different centre? Who would this be?
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With someone you trust: take turns telling each other about The God You Believe In. What truths do you hold onto about the essential nature/ character of God? Listen to each other carefully, paying attention to images of God in the description. Do this before reading the second question.

Describe your spiritual life to each other. How do you come close to God? What is God like when you seek God's presence (or when you find yourself noticing God's presence without looking)? What do you long for in journeying with God? When speaking, try not to analyse what you describe – allow your partner to listen and particularly notice on your behalf what matches the God You Believe In, and what is different.

Imagine your Theology – your Spiritual Experience – your Sense of God – your Life as a Follower of Jesus - **as a house with doors and windows open.** Invite a new image into your House. Sit down and share a cuppa. What do they notice when they look around your House? What do they challenge? What attracts you to them? What repels? Are they here for afternoon tea, or to take up residence? Does anyone have to move out to make room for them?
