



BiG iDEa: God is a verb. His presence and goodness compels me to respond.

Growing Deeper this week...

Popular culture often portrays God as a mystery, a myth or a monster. But to those who experienced the resurrection of Christ, God is a real being to behold. The Scriptures have a lot to say about who God is in the "I Am" statements made by Jesus. Take some time throughout this week to read and reflect on what God's word says on the subject from the Bible passages below. Some questions are provided for you or a small group of friends to provide focus for your reflection. Before your start: Breathe, pray, ask the Holy Spirit for help.

Identify

Popular culture often portrays God as a mystery, a myth or a monster. Who is God to you?

Read

Scriptures to grow by... Exodus 3:1-5, 13-14, 1 John 1:1-4, John 8:1-11, 56-59, Mark 10:18, Proverbs 12:4, Genesis 19.

Reflect

1. What words, phrases or ideas stand out to you from the Bible readings you read today? Why do you think God may be leading you to consider with regard to Jesus being exactly like the God of the Old Testament?
2. How do these words, phrases or ideas connect with your everyday life? What do they lead you to think or to do?
3. Is the fact that evil exists and that both good and bad things happen an indication that God is not good? Why or why not?

Respond

Moving forward... On Sunday, Doug quoted Archibald MacLeish who expressed his trouble with the tension of God's goodness through a character in his play, *J.B.* who asserts, "If God is God He is not good, if God is good He is not God; . . ." As he sees it, God can be good, **or** God can be powerful, but He cannot be both. In your opinion, is that the truth about God? Is this an irreconcilable tension? What might you want to ask Jesus about this?