

Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

Discuss

1. What image of God or Jesus did you have in your mind as a child? How would you describe your image of God or Jesus now?
2. Why did Isaiah's depiction of God as an angry God make sense to the people to whom Isaiah wrote? How did this image match with the ancient world's understanding of the gods?
3. How would you summarize Jesus' depiction of God? What stands out to you about what Jesus said and taught about God?
4. On many levels, the Bible reveals God in stages, culminating in the person of Jesus. Why is this progressive revelation of God necessary? Why doesn't God comprehensively and fully reveal himself from the first page of the Biblical record?
5. Do you think our understanding of God is still developing and evolving? Why or why not?
6. In what ways is the picture of Jesus as the good shepherd a more accurate depiction of God than the image of God with arm raised and fist clenched?
7. In your own mind, do you tend to see God more as an angry God or as a God of compassion and love? Why do you think you envision God the way you do?

