



THE IMAGE OF GOD

Tabernacle Baptist Church, Penarth
Small Group Study Notes

Contents

The Image of God

Studies on God's character and attributes

	Page
Introduction to Series	3
1 The Creator God	5
2 The Holy God	9
3 The True God	13
4 The Faithful God	17
5 The Human God	20
6 The Sovereign God	23
7 The Missionary God	27

Introduction to The image of God

First of all, a confession! I did not write these studies!!! With Christmas fast approaching and because of the burden of work at Tabernacle I was concerned that I would not have time to properly prepare the Bible Studies for the beginning of 2010, so I cheated. I have brought together a number of studies from other sources, and with some of our own material put together this booklet. I hope that you will enjoy other people's material enough to forgive me! The bulk of the material is taken from a booklet called "God in all his fullness" by Krish and Miriam Kandiah which was prepared for Bible Studies at Spring Harvest in 2006. Other material has been gleaned from a Bible Study book called 'In the image of God' by Trevor Partridge, Phillip Yancey's 'Reaching for the invisible God', Eugene Peterson's 'The Contemplative Pastor' and John Stott's 'The Cross of Christ.'

The studies seek to address an age old problem: how do you see God? What sort of image do you hold of him? Is it accurate and reliable, and how does it affect the way you relate to your loving heavenly father who is also the creator of all things? One thing can be said with absolute certainty about your image of God—it is completely inadequate. This is not meant as a criticism of your view, but rather an acknowledgment that God, in all his fullness, is beyond human understanding. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9)

However, Paul reminds us that in Jesus we see the image of the invisible God. (Colossians 1:15) If we want to begin to understand the creative God of Genesis, the Holy God of Deuteronomy, the vengeful God of the Old Testament, the God of Grace in the New Testament or the God who is coming to earth again at the end of time, then we need to read our Bible through the perspective of knowing Jesus.

In order to know God more and become more like the person He wants us to be, we need to commit ourselves to learning about God's character and nature as it is revealed to us in the scriptures. All our debate and discussion, philosophy and thinking, disagreements and reading cannot bring us close to knowing God if we

do not seek him first in the Bible. As we prayerfully search for God in the pages of the Bible the Holy Spirit will lead us to glimpse more of the truth of Him and deepen our relationship with Him. As C.H. Spurgeon once said in a sermon in Southwark, London:

"The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.

There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity...No subject of contemplation will tend to more humble the mind, than thoughts of God... But while the subject humbles the mind, it also expands it. He who often thinks of God, will have a larger mind than the man who simply plods around this narrow globe...The most excellent study for expanding the soul, is the science of Christ, and Him crucified, and the knowledge of the Godhead in the glorious Trinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity."

Following Spurgeon's cue, these studies will try to explore the magnificence of God through seven snapshots from the Bible that look at different aspects of the nature of God.

Roger Grafton

STUDY 1: THE CREATOR GOD

Read Genesis Chapter 1, verses 1-31 together.

ABOUT THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Genesis is a book in two halves. The first eleven chapters describe the origin of the universe, the creation of humanity and the introduction of evil into a perfect world and its consequences. After telling the story of Noah and the Flood, the first section ends with humanity aiming to make a name for itself by building a tower to heaven. God brings judgement by confusing their languages.

The second half of Genesis from chapter 12 recounts God's creation of Israel; how he took an insignificant, childless, elderly couple and made their name great through founding a nation that would eventually bless the world.

Genesis provides the answers to some of our deepest questions, such as 'Who am I?', 'What are we here for?', 'Why is there suffering?' and 'What is God's plan for the universe?'

1. God is described as creating the entire universe simply by speaking. In verse 16 we are told, 'He also made the stars.' How do you feel as you reflect on God's creative power?
2. Look at what God does on the first three days of creation and on the second three days of creation. What parallels can you find?

3. What are the significant differences between the description of the creation of human beings and the rest of creation?
4. What does it mean that humanity is made in the image of God (v26)? Which of the following is closest to the truth?
 - a) We physically resemble God
 - b) Our personality mirrors God's
 - c) We are gods
 - d) We represent God
5. Who is made in the image of God? How should this affect the way we treat people from differing cultures, economic backgrounds, sexualities and abilities?
6. Was Adolph Hitler made in the image of God? What about Stalin? Sadaam Hussein? What about the 9/11 terrorists , murderers or other 'bad people'? What implications does your answer have about the way we should feel about such people?
7. Some would read verses 27-28 as a mandate for us to exploit planet Earth, others believe that we are to care for the planet above human life. What do you think?

8. There is a man standing on a ledge fifteen floors up. Below him a crowd has gathered. The man cries out, 'What is the point of life?' How would you reply?

SCIENCE VERSUS RELIGION?

It seems that increasingly there is tensions between science and religion as creationist Christians and atheistic scientists seem to go 'head to head' over the origins of the universe. It is easy to forget that the Bible is not a scientific text-book written to explain the 'how' of creation but rather a revelation of the character, person and nature of God. Conversely, scientific books deal with empirical evidence and methods, and do not have the tools to answer deep philosophical and theological questions. Christians and scientists who battle it out over creation are arguing from different premises, and are unlikely to ever reach any agreement. This makes it an almost worthless argument!

In fact, Christianity has provided the intellectual framework in which science has flourished. Atheistic scientists have no reason to expect the universe to be rational or intelligible but pursue scientific investigations in faith, expecting there to be answers. Christians have always believed that God created the universe and therefore we could learn about him through investigating the Scriptures and the creation.

Another reason for Christians to feel nervous when approaching Genesis 1 is that even the Christian community is divided over whether the Genesis account is a literal description of God's creation of the world in six 24-hour periods or whether it is a literary device. Some evangelicals believe that God used evolution for his ends, while others dismiss this as worldly compromise. There remains a great deal of debate in these circles. However, all Christians are united in the belief that God is the ultimate Creator of the universe.

9. Divide the group into two and ask one side to build a case for six day creation and the other to argue for the literary interpretation of Genesis 1.

10. Your neighbour believes that the universe exists by pure chance and evolution. What questions would you ask them to try to open their mind to another view?

11. When you look in the mirror, how does knowing that God created you change the way you view yourself?

FOR FURTHER STUDY ALONE

Read Romans 1:18-23. Think about how you see God's invisible qualities, eternal power and divine nature through the world God has made. List them below and use them as a basis for prayer and worship in your own quiet times.

STUDY 2: THE HOLY GOD

Read Exodus Chapter 33, verse 12 to chapter 34 verse 14 together.

ABOUT THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Exodus describes Israel's exit from Egypt. Despite God's blessing of Egypt through his servant Joseph in the book of Genesis, Exodus begins with the nation of Israel in slavery, facing ethnic cleansing, as the order is given to execute a whole generation of male babies. God rescues Moses and calls him to lead his people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Although Israel left Egypt overnight, the process of getting Egypt out of Israel took forty years. This indescribable transformation of a nation in preparation for the Promised Land is recorded in great detail in Exodus. God demonstrates his incredible patience with a nation that seems to do nothing but grumble, doubt his sovereignty and even worship a false god.

God's holiness is particularly emphasised in this book. When Moses is called by God at the burning bush, he is commanded to remove his sandals as he is on holy ground. The law of God is given from God's holy mountain and calls his people to be holy as God is Holy. The intricate design of the tabernacle also centres on the presence of God in the 'Most Holy Place'.

1. Leadership is often described as the loneliest job. Scanning over the previous chapters of Exodus, discuss why Moses might have found leading the nation of Israel particularly lonely.

2. In his loneliness, Moses craves the presence of God (33:14-15). What reasons does Moses give for asking to see God's glory? Where do you go when you feel lonely? How does Moses' example challenge us?
3. How do we use the word 'glory' today? How does God describe his glory in 33:19-20? Why does Moses need to be protected from God's glory?
4. In C S Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Lucy famously asks if Aslan is tame and is told 'He is not tame but he is good.' Some Christians are over-familiar with God. Others relate to God only with a sense of fear and terror. Which trap are you most likely to fall into? What can we do to fear God and yet enjoy intimacy with him?
5. How does God describe himself in 34:5-7? Which of these characteristics do you find most comforting and which is most challenging?
6. How does Moses react to this vision of God's glory? What is the significance of what he asks for? What is God's promise to Moses?

7. How would you respond to someone who said: 'God is behaving like a power-hungry dictator when he asks for obedience and like a jealous boyfriend when he asks for exclusive loyalty?
8. One day we will see God face to face (1 Cor 13:12). After studying Moses' encounter with God, how do you feel about this prospect?

GRACE OR LEGALISM?

Over the ages the church has often swung between emphasising God's grace and his holiness. Sometimes emphasising God's grace has led to a disregard for personal holiness; conversely focussing on God's holiness has often led to legalism.

In the difficult middle path we need to recognise that God deserves nothing less than our total allegiance and wholehearted obedience. However, we need to be firmly rooted in the truth that our relationship with God is solely based on God's free gift of grace, not on our achievements.

9. In recognition of God's grace to you, think of something gracious you could do for a friend this week. For example: bake a cake for your next door neighbour, offer to babysit for a family at church, send a postcard to somebody you have lost touch with or give them a ring.

10. Based on today's study, what would you say to people who say the following:

'I am too bad to become a Christian. I could never measure up to God's standards.'

'I don't need to become a Christian. I live a good life and help others whenever I can.'

FOR FURTHER STUDY ALONE

Read the following accounts of people who see God's glory in scripture. What similarities do you notice? Use these passages as a starting place for you to pray that you might experience God's presence in a new way.

Moses in Exodus 3 Isaiah in Isaiah 6: 1-13
John in Revelation 1:12-20

STUDY 3: THE TRUE GOD

Read Deuteronomy Chapter 6, verses 1 to 25

ABOUT THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

This is the last will and testament of Moses. Standing on the brink of entering the Promised Land, Moses spells out the implications of the law one more time (Deuteronomy means literally 'second law'), knowing that he will not be making those final steps with the people he has led out of Egypt and through the wilderness. Moses realises that the people will struggle with the transition from being a nation on the move to being an established in a land, and that they may be tempted to forget God. The encouragement to remember God is a key theme in this book. Moses also knows that they will come across people groups who worship other gods, and so he pleads with them to remain faithful to the one true God.

Deuteronomy has a pivotal place in the Bible. The Old Testament prophets continually call people back to obey the laws in this book and Jesus himself, when facing his epic spiritual battle with the devil in the desert, quotes from this book to ward off and ultimately defeat his tempter.

Similarly to the Israelites, we too are becoming settled in an affluent and multicultural society and so we need to hear Moses' challenge to us to not put our confidence in our circumstances but to continue to trust the one true God.

1. What are the main challenges facing Christians today that are unique to this generation? What new challenges do you think the next generation will face?

2. Material wealth is a big feature in God's promises to Israel during the Exodus. God had brought the nation of Israel out of slavery through the wilderness and finally into a land that is rich and materially blessed. Should we claim this as God's will for us as Christian individuals, as a Church or as a nation?

3. Moses highlights two dangers for the settlers in the Promised Land (v10-19). What are they and in what ways are they relevant for us today?

4. Moses is eager to equip the people to face these challenges. What strategy does he use in verses 1-9? What does he emphasise and what practical suggestions does he make?

5. Verse 4 is known as the Shema (the Hebrew word for 'Hear') and still forms part of the Jewish daily prayer routine. Discuss why it says 'The Lord is one.' Does it mean:
 - The Trinity does not yet exist?
 - There is only one God?
 - Everyone worships the same God?
 - The God of the Promised Land is the same God who led them from Israel?
 - God is the only object of worship?

6. Play a game. Divide into two teams. Which team can make the longest list of popular songs containing the word 'Love' in the title? What do these songs tell us about our culture's understanding of the word 'love'? How does this compare with the command to love God in verse 5?

7. In verse 6 Moses is referring to the Ten Commandments (also in the previous verse.) List the different ways these commandments are to be integrated into our lives (v6-9). Which of these are directly relevant for us today? Which do we need to rediscover in our culture?

LOOKING CLOSELY AT WHERE GOD'S LAW SHOULD BE

On our hearts: Reading God's word must not just be an intellectual exercise, but should affect our emotional life and our deepest being

On you children: Passing on the faith is a family responsibility

On your lips: Bible study is not just an individual pastime. We need to be discussing it with others; both believers and non-believers

On you hands: Many Jewish people take this literally and tie boxes containing parts of scriptures to their hands, foreheads and door-frames. A more reasonable translation of this passage would be that we are to let God's word completely inform and influence our works, thinking and homes.

On you foreheads: We should be studying and meditating on God's word continually, letting it affect all our thinking.

On you doorposts: We need to remind ourselves of God's laws whenever we enter our house and engage in family life, or when we leave our home to engage with the world.

8. Thinking back to your own childhood, who influenced you most spiritually? What could you do practically to pass the faith on to the next generation, in your church or your family?

9. Whilst in conversation, somebody comments, 'All this fuss about different religions – there is only one God.' How does this make you feel? What would be a tactful and helpful way to reply?

FOR FURTHER STUDY ALONE

Read Luke 4:1-13. How does Jesus use God's Law in Deuteronomy to protect himself from the lies of the devil? How might you use the scriptures in a similar way to clothes yourself in the armour of God?

STUDY 4: THE FAITHFUL GOD

Read Psalm 103 together

LOOKING AT THE PSALMS

The book of the psalms is a collection of songs, expressions to God of prayer and praise. They often convey professions of faith and trust, and are mostly written by David, whose life is recorded in 1 and 2 Samuel. Because the psalmists expressed their feelings and emotions in their writings we can easily relate to them. They teach us about our inner selves and inspire us in our personal relationships with God. They point backwards to historical events, forward to the coming of Jesus and to God himself.

1. What would you say to someone who says 'I struggle to feel like praising God on a Sunday morning – I often feel tired, stressed out by what has happened in the week and preoccupied with planning Sunday lunch'?
2. In verses 1-2 David starts off by talking to himself, encouraging himself to praise God. Dr Martin Lloyd Jones has said:

'Have you realised that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? You have to take yourself in hand. You have to address yourself, preach to yourself, question yourself. The essence of the matter is to understand this self of ours, this other man within us; has got to be handled.'

How do you feel about this quotation? When was the last time you

needed to give yourself a good talking to?

3. If you had not become a Christian how do you think your life would have been different? What are you most grateful to God for?

4. In verses 1-5 David recounts his blessings, making a list of all he has as a result of his relationship with God. Rewrite his list in your own words.

5. In verses 6-8 David moves from personal praise to directing others to praise God. He does this by remembering how God revealed himself to Moses. This is a direct quotation from Exodus 34 which we looked at in study 2. Close your Bibles and see how many of the seven characteristics of God you can remember, then compare them with the ones mentioned in Psalm 103.

6. The centre of the psalm in verses 8-12 focuses on God's love towards us. he had mercy on us and does not treat us as our sins deserve. How did God ultimately forgive our sins and remove them from us?

7. Which of the group members can remember the name of their great-grandparents? What will our great-grandchildren, or great-nephews and nieces, remember about is? How does this make you feel?
8. Read verses 13-18 again. How can these verses comfort and encourage us?
9. The psalm began with David commanding his own soul to worship God. In verses 19-22, the awesome scope of the praise God deserves is highlighted. How should this picture of the universe praising God redefine our view of praise at a service?
10. David begins and ends the psalm motivating himself to praise God. However, this public psalm was also recorded to motivate others. Think of practical ways to stir up spiritual passion in your life when you are feeling apathetic. How can we follow David's lead and help one another to stay passionate for God?

FOR FURTHER STUDY ALONE

Read Job 40:1-42:6. This passage parallels Psalm 103 by focussing on God's greatness, as opposed to Job's own insignificance, and God's love and faithfulness. Is this what you do in times of trouble?

STUDY 5: THE HUMAN GOD

Read John Chapter 1, verses 1 to 18 together

LOOKING AT THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John was an eyewitness of Jesus' life and was referred to as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'. He writes his gospel to Greek-speaking Jews around the world to convince them that Jesus is the Son of God and that true life can only be found through relationship with him.

John's Gospel is unique as he does not draw on the same sources as the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). John borrowed the everyday language of the Greeks and courageously and radically used it to explain to his readers the significance of Jesus' coming to earth.

1. 'Bill is thinking about moving house. He wants to think strategically about where he lives, to maximise his usefulness for God's work. He could move to a predominantly Asian area but is worried that he wouldn't fit in. He could move downtown but is worried about street crime. He could move to an upper-class area but is worried about becoming a snob.' What lessons can Bill learn from Jesus' coming to earth from heaven?
2. What sacrifices do you think Jesus made by becoming human? What do you think motivated him? You might find help in Philippians 2:1-11.

3. Remember back to the first study on Genesis 1:1-3. What similarities do you notice between that passage and John 1:1-5?

4. Read John 1:1-5 and John 1:14. Substitute 'Jesus' where it says 'the Word' in verses 1-5 and then write down all the different things these verses claim about Jesus. Which of these is the hardest to understand?

5. Read John 1:6-9. What was John the Baptist's role? How do you respond to someone saying: 'Christians are narrow-minded bigots for believing that everybody should believe in Jesus and that he is the true light for all people'?

6. What do verses 10-13 teach us about how to become a child of God?

7. How could these verses help someone who says: 'I must be a Christian as I was brought up in a Christian home'?

WHO IS JESUS?

People today still struggle to accept that Jesus was truly God in human form. This passage is one of many that clearly state who Jesus is. Other passages include Hebrews 1:1-4, Colossians 1:15-20 and John 5:19-27. Although Jesus never said 'I am God', he clearly claims direct access to the Father, the ability to forgive sins and to be worthy of worship. The Jewish leaders understood his claim to be God and executed him on a blasphemy charge.

C. S. Lewis famously offered three possibilities. Jesus could have been a lunatic, who thought he was God but was deluded. Alternatively Jesus was a liar, deliberately pretending to be God to deceive people. The only other possibility was that Jesus was truly Lord and was telling the truth.

8. Having understood that God became human' like us' and that Jesus is God, the following story helps us to realise that Jesus is uniquely able to sympathise with us in every situation. How does this make you feel?

9. Compare this picture of the human God with that of the faithful God we looked at in the last study. How can both pictures help us in our prayer life?

FOR FURTHER STUDY ALONE

Jesus was both man and God. To what degree was he fully God and fully man? How could he be both at the same time? When you pray, which do you find most helpful to imagine? How should we pray in the light of Jesus' true nature?

STUDY 6: THE SOVEREIGN GOD

Read Acts Chapter 4, verses 23 to 31 together

INTRODUCTION TO ACTS

Acts describes how Jesus continued his ministry on earth through his church and the Holy Spirit after he has ascended to heaven. It is the follow-up to Luke's gospel, written by a doctor who meticulously investigated the life of Jesus through eye-witness testimonies (Luke 1:1-4).

The book describes the explosion of Christianity throughout the world 'beginning in Jerusalem' and ending up at 'the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

There is a strong emphasis on the Holy Spirit equipping the church to proclaim the message of Jesus, even in the face of severe persecution and suffering. This book helps us to communicate the Christian faith in a number of different settings. We need to learn from the early church how to be faithful to the gospel and yet adapt how we present it in a variety of contexts.

1. The disciples have just healed a crippled man in the name of Jesus. Acts reports that, because of this miracle and Peter's address to the crowds, the number of Christians grew to five thousand, and Peter and John were imprisoned. Can you think of times in your own life when boldness for the gospel and blessing in ministry have gone hand in hand with persecution?

2. 'Eva became a Christian in miraculous circumstances and saw many of her friends also come to faith at her baptism a few weeks later. However, when she was suddenly made redundant at work, she stopped coming to church, saying that she could no longer believe in a God who would allow this to happen.' To what extent can you sympathise with Eva's predicament?

3. What would be a typical summary of your prayers? How long do you spend focussing on who God is, what he has done in the past, Scripture and personal requests? How does this compare with the believers' prayer in this chapter?

4. The believers begin their prayer by recognising who God is. What aspects of God's character do they praise and why? Which of our earlier passages does this remind you of?

5. How should beginning our prayers with the words 'Sovereign Lord' affect what we ask God for?

6. We have seen in previous studies how remembering God's faithfulness in the past inspires our faith. How is this true for the early Christians?

7. The early Christians quoted Scripture in their prayer. Looking back to David's psalm, they understood that he was prophesying the execution of Jesus. How did this help them face persecution and how can it help us today?

WHO IS IN CONTROL?

The time-old question of God's sovereignty and human freedom has perplexed thinkers throughout history. This passage argues that Herod and Pilate did what God's 'power and will had decided beforehand should happen'. If that is true can they, Judas Iscariot or for that matter any of us be held responsible for what we do?

This incredibly complex question cannot be answered in a few sentences. But it is worth noting that the Bible teaches both that God is sovereignly in control and that humans are responsible for their actions. As far as Herod and Pilate were concerned, they were not robots, simply following instructions – they decided their own actions. But from God's perspective, they were using their freedom in such a way that it accomplished God's purposes. The Bible does not resolve this apparent contradiction but rather asks us to hold in tension both God's kingship and human freedom and responsibility.

8. What is the disciples' main request in this passage and why is it surprising? How does it compare to what we would ask for in the same situation?

9. In this country, we are not under threat of torture or imprisonment for telling others about Jesus. Why do you think the church is nevertheless often timid in its evangelism?

10. How do God's sovereign control of the world and our mandate to tell the world about our faith go hand in hand? Look at Matthew 28:18-20.

FOR FURTHER STUDY ALONE

Look through the Book of Acts, noting the references to the Holy Spirit. What proportion of these also mention evangelism or mission? In Acts, how do the two go hand in hand? How does this compare with the modern church and your own life? How often are evangelistic efforts 'in the power of the Spirit?' and how often are our encounters with the Holy Spirit in the context of mission?

SESSION7: THE MISSIONARY GOD

Read Revelation Chapter 21 together

LOOKING AT REVELATION

Revelation is often treated like a book written in a secret code, but it was written to bless, not bemuse. In his introduction, the apostle John tells us that he has been given a revelation of Jesus to help the church face what is about to happen. In the context of the early church, this was to be extreme persecution and God gave the church a majestic picture of himself to sustain them through times of trouble. The book contains letters, prophecy and a style of literature known as apocalyptic, which sought to reveal what God was doing in history, particularly how he would judge evil and reward the righteous. You can see this style at work in the second half of the book of Daniel. Although this style is difficult for us to understand, an important principle in understanding the Bible is to let straightforward passages interpret the less clear ones. So it seems sensible to look at the gospels and the epistles to give us guidelines for understanding the end of history, rather than relying on the figurative and pictorial language of Revelation. What Revelation does provide are powerful pictures to help us experience God's glory and his kingly rule over history.

1. Divide into two teams. One team has to think of films, books or television shows that describe a positive future for the human race. The other team has to think of examples of negative pictures of the future. Which picture of the future do you think is more prevalent and why?

2. Our studies have taken us on a journey from a garden at the beginning of time (Genesis 1 in Session 1) to the end of time. Indeed God is described as the Alpha and the Omega in verse 6. However, our destiny is not back in a garden but in a city—the New Jerusalem. What are the implications of this and how does it make you feel?

3. God made two people to live in the Garden of Eden. However, by the end of time, it is clear that he is catering for millions of people who will come from every nation (v26). Remembering the last study (Session 6) how has this been achieved?

4. We have also considered God as a human and suffering God (Session 5), who sympathises with us in our difficulties and who asks us to face persecution for his sake (Session 6). What comfort can we find in verses 1-7?

5. According to verse 8, what will happen to those who do not believe in God? Why is this such an unpopular doctrine in the church today? What should knowing this motivate us to do?

6. In session 2 we saw how Moses pleaded with God for his presence to go with them. When God showed his glory to Moses his face shone. How does this passage emphasise the presence of God with his people and his glory?
7. What does the 'glory and honour of the nations' (v26) mean? How does this affect the way we think about certain nations: think of Islamic majority countries like Iraq, relatively insignificant places like Albania, or the world superpower, America?
8. Summarise what we have learned over the past six sessions to show what it means that God is a missionary God.
9. What would you say to the following people?
'I am not looking forward to heaven—I like my life like it is.'
'I am looking forward to heaven—peace and quiet at last.'
10. Which aspects of God's character have become more real to you in these sessions? How has this changed the way you worship, pray and relate to God and others?

