



Session 8. My Experience of God

1) Welcome

- » How was your week? What's new or noteworthy—something that happened or an idea or discovery?
- » When do you feel closest to God?

2) Presentation of the Theme

While it is impossible to depict God because God is a Spirit, without matter or form, our imaginations demand some kind of picture. Even if we use only words, we still are attempting to depict God. Scriptures help our imagination about God.

The Scriptures often show how words struggle to communicate the fullness of God:

Upon this likeness of a throne was seated, up above, a figure that looked like a human being. And I saw something like polished metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed on all sides, from what looked like the waist up; and from what looked like the waist down, I saw something like the appearance of fire and brilliant light surrounding him. Just like the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day so was the appearance of brilliance that surrounded him. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. -Ezekiel 1:26-28

Does anything in Ezekiel's account of his experience of God resonate with you? What do you think of the words that he has to use to describe his experience?

From the US Catechism:

"Revelation is the self-disclosure of the living God. God shows himself by both great deeds, as narrated for us in Scripture, and by words that illumine the meaning of these deeds. ... In Revelation, the tremendous gulf between God and the human race is bridged. ... The process of Revelation, which took centuries to unfold, reached its magnificent fulfillment in the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ" (p. 13).

3) Discussion and Sharing

- » Think for a moment of Bible verses you might know. Which one is a favorite for thinking about God?
- » Imagine you were talking to a seven-year-old child. What words would you use to describe God to this child?
- » How has prayer affected the way you think of God?

4) Questions

What questions do you have about the ways you feel you have experienced God? Here we can also explore the uses of our images of God.

5) Catholic Factoid

In the history of Christianity, certain kinds of music seemed to capture something of God's mystery. Monks, for example, would chant psalms. Gregorian chant, fostered by Pope Gregory (who died in 604), was a style of singing that allowed music to take on a fluid form. Musicians today try to capture spiritual feelings as well.

