



The God Box | Ryan Wekenman | 5.16.21
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

Describe your dream vacation to take this summer

SHARE

Welcome to Week Four of Wonder! In this series, we are relearning what it means to be in awe of who God is. This week, Ryan talked about letting God break the box we put him in. But before we dive into the sermon, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

How are you currently feeling right now on a scale of 1 to 10? Why did you pick that number?

What was the highlight of your week?

What is one thing you feel like God is showing you in your walk with him lately?

What is one way in which you experienced joy this week?

GROW

Read Luke 5:1-8

What is one thing you've learned about God during this series?

If you've been around church for a while, you've probably heard this story before. But take a moment to read it with fresh eyes. What is one thing that stuck out to you that you haven't noticed before?

Whenever people encountered Jesus in the Gospels, they left inspired to get their life in order. In the story you just read, Peter meets Jesus for the first time. By the end of the interaction, he falls to his feet and says, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8).

Have you ever had an experience like that with God? If so, tell the group about it.

Jesus constantly broke down the boxes we try to put him in!

As Ryan reminded us this weekend, that's the effect Jesus's holiness had on people. They left people in awe. But it wasn't just his holiness it was also his humility! The combination of those two things changed people's lives. The wonder of who Jesus was inspired them to want to get better!

Do you find it easier to pursue holiness or humility? Why do you think that is?

What is one practical way that you can pursue holiness this week?

M O V E

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

As believers, we have the "ministry of reconciliation." Knowing this, how does it change your worldview? How do you view people?

Because of Jesus, we also have become righteous. How does knowing this affect your day-to-day life?

Too often, we stuff Jesus into our "God box," cropping him into our own image or what we think he should be. In our God boxes, we tuck away our worries, fears, insecurities, and doubts from the Creator, who lovingly wants us to hand those items over to Him. We do this

because we tend to think that the same God who created the universe and aligned the stars and the galaxy can't handle our imperfections. We think the same Jesus, who talked a big game predicting his own death later coming through on his resurrection, can't heal our wounds.

In this passage in 2 Corinthians, Paul the apostle reminds us that we have something the world doesn't: the ministry of reconciliation. Through Jesus, we are now reconciled to God, giving us all the more reason, we can relax and find peace in this life. Why? Because we "regard no one from a worldly point of view" (verse 16). We no longer see life from a temporary position but an eternal worldview. Our identities are secure, which propels us to walk confidently in our purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission, reconciling others back to their Father.

The same God who parted the Red Sea for the Israelites can do the same for you. The same God who rescued the Israelites from slavery has already rescued you. The same Jesus who calmed the storm will calm ours as well. The same Jesus who walked out of the tomb to leave the grave behind did so we too could walk out of our graves.

In what areas of your life have you placed God in a box?

Jesus is alive and sits on the throne. God still holds the universe together. Knowing this, what are some steps of faith you need to take today?

PRAY

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

TO GO

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. - Hebrews 4:17