

This week as we consider our beliefs about God, our goal is not to achieve clarity, but to rediscover awe.

Daily Prayer:

Almighty God, may I see You not as I have created You, but may I worship You as You know Yourself to be.

DAY ONE

Read Psalm 97.

Have you ever thought about God as a wild storm? What do you think when you imagine God in this way? Does your heart race a little with excitement? Or do you want to close your eyes and picture Jesus sitting quietly holding a lamb? Do you have a tendency to limit God or do you allow your heart to let Him remain mysterious, uncontrollable and wild? An edgeless God. Will you dare to open your eyes and heart to our wild God?

In C.S. Lewis' book, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, a conversation takes place wherein Mr. Beaver tells the children they must go to see the Lord of the whole wood, Aslan, King of Beasts. Susan asks, "Is he... quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion." "Safe?" asked Mr. Beaver. "Of course he isn't safe! But he's good." Consider reading The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe as a family this week.

DAY TWO

Refer to this weekend's message outline and read 1 Corinthians 13: 11-13; Luke 18:17. What's this difference between being childish and child-like? What do you think Jesus meant when he said we must come as a child? Have you ever watched children as they listen to an exciting and wonderful story being told? Their eyes are fixed on the storyteller and you can sense their anticipation boiling over! Everything doesn't have to make perfect sense to them. They open their minds and take in what the storyteller gives. Have you ever tried to re-tell a story to a child who had memorized another version of the book?

Which way are you more likely to come to God? Do you find yourself telling the story? Do we insist that everything be logical, precise and according to our understanding? Allowing God to be undefinable will multiply our faith. **Prayer:** Though I search for words to describe You, every word I find is inadequate. Be the storyteller of my life and teach me to come to You as a child with wide-eyed wonder and awe.

DAY THREE

The claim which I have since come to propound for Christianity. Not merely that it deduces logical truths, but that when it suddenly becomes illogical, it has found, so to speak, an illogical truth. G.H. Chesterton ~ Orthodoxy

ridiculous



Read Luke 2:1-7. The Christmas story is a children's story. It's actually quite ridiculous. An old woman who'd been unable to have children has a baby. A king is born in a smelly stable. An evil king wants to kill the humble savior. And we haven't even considered the virgin birth! Christmas is full of illogical truths. The infinite God becomes finite. King over all becomes servant to all. The God who doesn't grow weary became tired and hungry.

Consider making a list of the unreasonable things which took place when our creator God became a man. Worship the everlasting God and be in awe that the God that lies in the manger is the same God of Psalm 97.

DAY FOUR

Read John 14:1. Who does Jesus tell us to trust (or believe) in? What's the difference between believing/trusting in God and believing/trusting in a particular belief *about* God? Read Genesis 22:1-12. When Abraham took hold of the knife, was he trusting in God or in his beliefs about God? When things don't make sense, are we willing to trust him nevertheless? Have you ever been surprised by God? Describe a time when God revealed himself to you in a surprising way. Do you expect God to come or to act, but only in certain ways?

When Elijah was waiting for God's presence to pass by (1 Kings 19:1-12), a great and powerful wind came through, "but the Lord was not in the wind." Then came an earthquake and fire. "After the fire came a gentle whisper." Expect God, but make room for Him to come as He chooses.

DAY FIVE

Read Psalms 10:4; Isaiah 55:6-9. All of us have our own unique ways of handling things that seemingly don't make sense. We might begin dissecting, deducing, conferring, proposing, and reasoning until we can finally understand. But if we're not careful, our desire (*or perceived need to have it all figured out*) can lead us to reduce our view of who God is - as we scale him down to our own concepts and understanding. Or maybe we don't even approach the mysteries of God. We might quote "His are above ours" before we have even dived in to see how true that really is! You can hear about how vast the Grand Canyon is but until you stand there looking over it, its *vastness* is merely a descriptive word. Seeing the Grand Canyon doesn't necessarily bring clarity or understanding, but *vast* becomes reality when you see it in front of your own eyes.

If you have internet access, go to the following site and watch the video. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIKhw_o6kzE&feature=related

"From the highest of heights to the depths of the seas," swim in the depths of His reality. We'll always be in over our heads, but we'll never drown.