

Simple Faith is simply easier preached than lived. Human reality pushes so hard against the teachings of the Bible that we struggle to really trust in the God of the Bible. So much so that our natural human tendency is put God in a box that we build out of the materials of our experience.

I. Box of _____

- “But God, the world you created simply cannot work like that...”
- (Hagar and Sarah Genesis 15-16)
- (Exodus and the Red Sea)

II. Box of _____

- “But God, we know reality, and reality says this cannot happen...”
- (Widow of Zarephath I Kings 17: 8-16)
- (Widow of Nain Luke 7: 11-17)

III. Box of _____

- “But God, we have never seen you work like this before...”
- (Paul the Preacher to the Gentiles Act 9 ff.)

IV. The God of Scripture

- As if the actual stories of the Bible were not proof enough, let me add that the God of Scripture defies our categories
- Eccl. 11: 5 – “You cannot understand the work of God...”
- In fact, the scriptures can be said to clearly make this point that God is not “Box-able”
- (macro: Creation, Exodus, Salvation)
- Micro: Burning Bushes, Red Sea, Water from Rock, Limitless Oil and Flour, the Dead Raised, Power in Service, and on and on it goes...)
- A god that we can fully explain and comprehend is a no God at all!
- A God that we keep boxed is handcuffed by our lack of faith in Him!

V. Set God _____

- Your God is too small!
- You have built him out of human experience and limited knowledge of his scriptural revelation
- When you study the God of scripture, you realize that He is beyond our constraints
- Your faith soars as you know the God of the Bible can truly do anything
- We can settle down and trust in this God who is beyond our comprehension!

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Describe the last time you were truly shocked or surprised by something.
2. Does God ever surprise you? Can you relate an example?
3. Do “God surprises” shake your faith or strengthen your faith?
4. Study Luke 1: 11-17. Did Jesus really just do that? What does that teach us about him?
5. What can we learn from I Kings 17: 8-16?
6. Do we limit what God can do by our lack of faith in him?
7. Do we imagine that if it doesn't make sense, it can't be God? Is this what the Bible teaches us based on the scriptures we just read? Take a moment and read Ecclesiastes 11:5.
8. Brainstorm together ways that we can avoid putting God in a box.
9. Spend some time in prayer together thanking God for who he reveals himself to be in the scriptures and ask him to increase our knowledge of him as well as our faith in him.