

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

So if God is real, what is he like? What kind of person is he, what does he look like?

- Ask the young people to choose a picture that best describes what they think God is like. Have a discussion about their choices.
- Our image of God is usually created by what other people have told us or what we have seen on the TV. God probably isn't a man wearing a dress with a big beard! We can't rely totally on people to get an accurate description of God but we can find this information out from a much more reliable source; the bible. The first book in the bible is called Genesis, which is a description of how God created the Earth. From this and other parts of the bible we know that God is:
- Hide the following verses around a skate park getting the young people to find them, or just read them out;

1) **Genesis 1:1.** God created everything, he is amazingly powerful.

2) **Psalms 139:6.** God is HUGE – the bible uses over 100 different names to describe him and we will never fully be able to understand him.

3) **Revelation 21:6.** God has no beginning and no end, No one created him, he existed before time began, in fact he created time!

4) **John 3:16.** God is loving, he loves absolutely everyone, no matter what.

5) **Matthew 7:7 – 8.** God promises to give us everything we need, he is a generous and providing God.

6) **Psalms 103: 3 – 13.** Draw out the many things the psalmist says about what God is like, particularly focusing on God as like a Father.

- God is three beings in one! The bible describes God as being God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. Christians call this the Trinity. So what does this mean, how can God be three people in one?!
- Skateboard Building Game – For this you will need two skateboards that have dismantled into three parts (deck, trucks and wheels). Split the group into two teams and tell them the first team to build their completed skateboard wins. After this, ask them to look at the skateboard. All though it has three main parts that make it work, it is still one thing. Decks, trucks,

wheels = skateboard. This is the same with God. All though he has three main parts he is still one being. Father, Son, Holy Spirit = God. We're going to look more at this in another session.

- God is our heavenly Father. Some people may have had a bad Father or not have a Father at all. So it is important we look at what a good Father is so we know what God is like. (Split the group into smaller groups and ask them to write down some words/actions that describe a good Father. Feed back to each other and draw out the relevant points about God)
- We're going to look at what Jesus was like and what the Holy Spirit is in a few weeks time. Today we want to get a real idea of the Father part of God.
- VIDEO CLIP – Simpson's. This clip is available on the "Simpson's Classics" DVD called "The Last Temptation of Homer". You need to play a clip from the episode "Homer Alone". It is the part where Homer realises he has lost his daughter and searches and searches until he finds her. Explain that God is like this – he loves us so much he hates that we're not in relationship with him, he searches and searches hoping to find us. (If you can't find this DVD then tell a story about a time you were lost or ran away and how your parents reacted when they found you)
- The Prodigal Son. Read Luke 15:11-32 and explain the significance of the story. God is like a loving Father, he always welcomes us back whatever we have done and runs to meet us when we choose to follow him. You could come up with your own modern version of this story, or play a movie clip. Phillip Yancey tells a modern version in "What's So Amazing About Grace?" (Enclosed)
- Group Work
 - 1) Is your view of what God is like any different now?
 - 2) How would you explain the trinity to people who hadn't been to this session?
 - 3) How does it make you feel to know that God loves you?