

All are Called

A Vocations Resource from St Albans Diocese

Part 4 — Images of God



Introduction

The Bible – especially the book of Psalms – is full of many images, descriptions and titles for God. We read that God is a Rock (Psalm 18.2), a Shepherd (Psalm 23.1) and a Provider (Psalm 104.1). Each of us will have images that mean a lot to us. Those that mean the most are often a clue to what our calling is.

If, for you, God is above all a caring parent, then your calling might be to care for others. If you think of God primarily as the Creator, then your vocation could be to protect our planet's ecosystem. Again, if you see God chiefly as a righteous judge, then you may feel called to bring sinful people to repent.



Activity

Find pictures of God (or Jesus) from different parts of the world and different times in history. These might include Michelangelo's portrayal of God as the Creator from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the Isenheim Altarpiece painted by Matthias Grünewald, or Willis Wheatley's *Laughing Christ*. As you look around, you will find many different images.

Which of these pictures speaks to you? Which do you struggle with? How might your favourite images point to the vocation God has for you?



Bible Study

Read Exodus 34.4-7, Job 38.4-11, Isaiah 49.14-16 and Revelation 1.12-16

What do these various Bible passages tell you about the nature of God? Which do you find resonate most for you? Which do you struggle with? Why?



Video

Watch the video that accompanies this study.

What struck you from the video? Why? How do each of these people understand God? How does that understanding shape their sense of calling? How do you think of God? How might that affect your vocation?



Next Steps

Start making a list of the images, descriptions and titles of God that you find as you read the Bible.

Write down one thing you are going to do as a result of this study.