

## Talking About God

Besides your name, what positive words do people call you? What feelings or emotions do you have about those names?

Read Isaiah 66:13 and Matthew 23:37.

Why do you think we don't call God, "Mother" or a chicken, even though they're both in the Bible?

What do these two images tell us about God?

Any image of God is incomplete, as God is bigger than we could ever dare to imagine. However, Scripture gives us many ways to talk about God. Look up the following scripture verses (if available, use a Bible instead of looking up verses on the internet). For each one, complete the sentence: "God is like a \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_." You may have to look at the verses before and after the one listed to complete the sentence. An example is given for the first verse:

### [EXAMPLE]

Proverbs 13:14

- This is not the correct way to do this as there is no right way - just how I would go about answering this first one.
- First, I looked up the scripture: *The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, so that one may avoid the snares of death.*
- Then, I looked for the image: *fountain of life.*
- Next, I tried to decide why this image was used: *hmmm ... if I look at the few verses before, it seems they are all about living a full life if we live it with God.*
- Finally, I can write down my sentence (didn't have to write anything before this on the paper):

*God is like a fountain of life, because God can help us live life to its fullest.*

(Continued on next page.)

Isaiah 17:10

Isaiah 49:15

Isaiah 64:8

Mark 10:35

John 10:11 & John 10:14

Revelation 21:6

Our language about God should be as intentionally diverse and varied as is that of the Bible and our theological tradition. This diversity should be reflected in the language and life of the church. Rather than using only a very small number of terms referring to God (e.g., Father, Creator, Lord, Almighty), we should seek to use the rich pool of imagery found in the New and Old Testaments.

Why is it important for us to use diverse language to talk about God?

Which images of God resonate with you, and why?