

Session 1 - Chart & Lesson Plan: Can the Word "God" Still Have Meaning?

A Crisis of Faith in God	We Care about					Why call this Mysterious Power God?		
<p>1. We can't help but care.</p>	<p>1 being Secure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and the mysterious power that makes us insecure</p>	<p>2 having "up" moments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and the ruler of Time</p>	<p>3 being loved and being loving</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and solitude</p>	<p>4 knowing & doing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and endings</p>	<p>5 thinking well of ourselves</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and guilt</p>	<p>1 Put & Take</p>	<p>2 Naming the Power</p>	<p>3 Fresh means of God talk</p>
<p>Go Round: In one short sentence, what are you hoping for in this course?</p> <p>Have read aloud the first 2 paragraphs.</p> <p>Do a second go-round: Each share which of these cares you care about most: security, "ups," love, knowledge, accomplishment, or thinking well of ourselves?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Let us assume that in this first session no previous study of the text has been done, so each paragraph will be read aloud by someone.</p> <p>1. Have read aloud the last 2 para on page 1. How are you most interested in being secure? What do you do to be secure in that way? What is making you insecure if it is not you? How do you feel about Bultmann naming that mysterious power "God"?</p> <p>2 Read para 1 on page 2 . What "up" moments can you recall? How have you experienced being out of control of the flow of time? And how might this indicate an experience of God?</p> <p>3. Read para 2 on 2 and the quote. Right now, how do you want to be acknowledged and accepted by others? How does solitude sometimes come to you as unwelcome? How is this another clue to the experience of God?</p> <p>4. Read last para on page 2. So which are you concerned about more knowledge or accomplishments? How have you experienced limits to these deep cares? (Here again Bultmann notes this as an experience of God.)</p> <p>5. Read first para on page 3. What are the power words for you in this para? What limitations in this area are most painful to you? (Bultmann notes again that this kind of pain is an experience of God)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>1. Read 2nd para on page 3. How does it suit you that being both put and limited is an experience of God?</p> <p>Read the quote on page 3 and the para following it. How does naming this power indicate your relations to this power? (Explore with the group what various names indicate about our relationship to Reality)</p> <p>Read the rest of page 3 and 4. Which phrase or sentence in this reading is most helpful to you in doing some realistic use of the word "God"?</p> <p>How has this way of making the experience of God personal helped you to see God in every event in your life?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>