



What's a God Box? It's your mixture of language, ideas, images, experiences, feelings, stories, history that comes to mind when the "G-O-D" idea comes up or the name is heard.

What we know about your God Box.

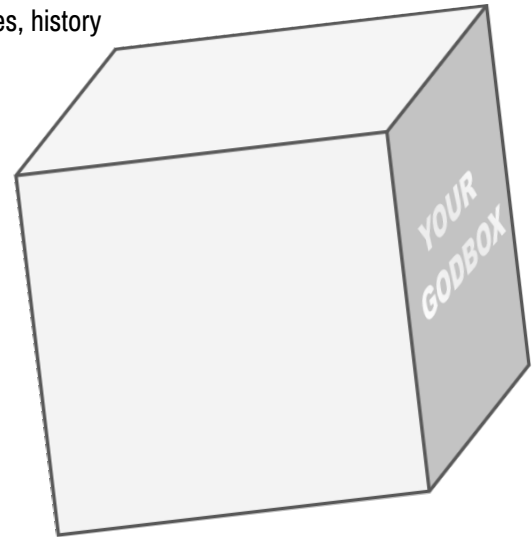
You HAVE ONE.

And it's TOO SMALL (and ALWAYS WILL BE.)

"The limits of my language are the limits of my world." Ludwig Wittgenstein

Words are VEHICLES to help you express what you grasp about the 3rd Strand.

Words are also PRISONS limiting how you understand the 3rd Strand.



Ways to keep your God Box growing as you grow.

Your God Box - USE it, don't LIVE in it.

Anthropomorphism - "HUMAN SHAPED" This is understanding what something other than a person feels, thinks, or does by imagining what it would mean for a person to feel, think, or do it. *Poetically rich, technically flawed.*

Then Elohim (God) said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness." Genesis 1.26

Don't JUDGE your or someone else's God Box.

Comparison is a DISEASE not a MEDICINE.

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'
Mark 13.1-2

Two ways of using your God Box

- o Stand at the outer edge and gaze INWARD. *admiringly! Get comfortable with and reinforce what you've created.*
- o Stand at the outer edge and gaze BEYOND. *Hungrily! Cut a window in a wall to see more, get ready to push a wall down!*

What's the purpose of your God Box? Not to CONTAIN God, but to be a PLATFORM from which to see what's next!

To grow your God Box,

- o TRY it.
- o TEST it.
- o SHARE it.

Don't hide from your God Box's FLAWS and don't get too attached to its STRENGTHS.

HOMEWORK - Do some exploring of your God Box by talking about what is in it with someone else. Maybe your Group. Share what you see in your box as well as how you feel about those contents and what is important to you about them. It is also a good week to do some journaling about what you are discovering. Be in control of your God Box, don't let it be in control of you, that way you can keep it growing.



ROAM (Read, Observe, Apply, Meditate) through these readings this week. While the images of God are many and complex in the Bible, we've made God a lot more concrete than it does. Here are some readings to stretch your God Box. **Exodus 3.1-15** (Origin of name Yahweh) - **Ezekiel chapter 1** (note "something like" repeating) - **Luke 24.13-35** (Is it Jesus?)