



## Mega Transitions - Studies in 1 Samuel: What is your Version of God?

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### Message to Conversation Guide

#### Discussion Questions

1. Everyone has a version of God.
  - We can derive our version of God from what people tell us, our personal biases or from culture's views of God.
  - Where is the only place we can get a true version of what God is like?
2. Discuss the possibility of having the wrong version of God in our minds and the rarity to having a balanced view of God.
3. In the OT people around Israel, and Israel as well, would sometimes make gods out of wood and stone. How was that practice similar to our tendency to fashion God according to what we want him to look like? **Isa 44:9-20**
4. **Wrong View of God # 1: We are the center of the Universe and God serves us.**

#### **1 Sam 5:1-5**

5 After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. 2 Then they carried the ark into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon. 3 When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. 4 But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained. 5 That is why to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon's temple at Ashdod step on the threshold. NIV

#### **Phil 2:9-11**

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

*in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God, the Father. NIV, 2011*

5. The downside of making us the focus of God rather than us focusing on God is that it leaves us empty and depressed. Discuss the parables below that challenges us to pursue God with all that is in us.

**Matt 13:44-46**

*44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. NIV, 2011*

6. **Wrong View of God # 2: God is a God of love and not a God of justice or righteousness.**

**1 Sam 6:19-20**

*19 But God struck down some of the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they looked into the ark of the Lord. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the Lord had dealt them. 20 And the people of Beth Shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of the Lord, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?” NIV, 2011 (see **1 Sam. 6:13-18**)*

7. How do the verses below underscore the idea that the NT teaches about the righteousness of God and that it is not just an OT concept?

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**

9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. NIV

**Acts 17:31**

31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” NIV, 2011

**Rom 1:18-20**

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. NIV, 2011 (also see **John 3:17**)

