







Small Group/ Reflection Notes

	08-09-2024	No other gods	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> If you buy a coffee or tea, how do you have yours? <input type="checkbox"/> How do you explain/ describe these different types of café drinks? <input type="checkbox"/> Americano? <i>[coffee]</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Cappuccino? <i>[frothy coffee]</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Espresso? <i>[small, strong coffee]</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Latte? <i>[milky coffee]</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Mocha? <i>[choccy coffee]</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Tea? <i>[not coffee]</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Hot chocolate? <i>[still not coffee]</i>		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> What are some of the big questions (objections) some people have about God? <input type="checkbox"/> Is there such thing as <i>God</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> Are there lots of gods? If so, which one? <input type="checkbox"/> If there is God, why is there so much suffering/ chaos in the world? <input type="checkbox"/> Mm <input type="checkbox"/> How do you respond to them?		
 Read	Exodus 20:1-3	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> v.2 : Why does God self-identify as, 'I AM'? See Exodus 3:1-5 , esp. v.13-14 . Why are our comparisons/ analogies/ descriptions/ explanations/ memes about God always inadequate/ incomplete? What part do questions, mystery, uncertainty, even doubt, play in your/ our grasp of God? How do all these help us grow in faith & understanding? Why is God always <i>more</i> ___ <i>[insert]</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> v.2 : What did 'Egypt' represent for the Hebrews? <i>[slavery, oppression, suffering, pain, grief]</i> Where was God? How did God respond to their cries? Where were the Hebrews at this point? Have you ever felt 'in between', in the wilderness, drifting, maybe 'out of Egypt' but not yet 'in the Promised Land'? <input type="checkbox"/> v.3 : Why (then & now) are there so many different ideas about/ version of 'gods'? Why was Moses and Deut.6:4 so radical? There is simply <i>God</i> - One Creator God. Why is 'my god is better than your god' so unhelpful and misses the point? Why is God most perfectly seen/ understood in Jesus? <input type="checkbox"/> v.3 : If thought of as a <i>commandment</i> , what does v.3 traditionally sound like/ imply? What difference does receiving it as a <i>promise</i> make? e.g. You shall not have/ need for 'other gods' <i>because I AM all you need, I AM the/ your One Creator God, with you in good and bad times.</i>		
 Go further	<input type="checkbox"/> How should we/ do you engage with other religions? Jesus says <input type="checkbox"/> What did Jesus mean when He said, "I AM <i>the</i> Way, <i>the</i> Truth, <i>the</i> Life. Noone comes to the Father except through me"? John 14:6 . "There's only one Way to God, but many ways to Jesus.		

 Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> Almost as varied & complex as café drinks, there are different degrees of relationship. When are you 'on a first date', 'going out', 'dating', 'exclusive', in a 'committed relationship'...? What best describes your relationship to/ with God today? Are you ready to take it to the next level? How would that feel? What difference would that make?
 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Get into conversation with someone outside & beyond the Church about life, faith, and belief. Ask questions. Listen. Engage. Experience God in the conversation Matthew 18:19-20 .
 Pray	Dear God, Thank you that You are _____. Right now, I choose to say ____ [YES/NO] to You. Help me to turn away from____, and to turn towards You, my God. Thank you, Jesus, for continuing to expand my thinking and capacity for God. Lead me in the adventure of faith with You, my One Creator God, without limit, rival, or comparison. Amen.
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.