



## What Is God Really Like?

**T**hat is a very profound question, asked by children and adults alike. Answers range from the image of an old man in a white robe with a beard; the all-seeing eye on the back of the dollar bill; “the big guy” up there. Such answers seem frivolous when we think about the dynamic force behind the Big Bang from which evolved everything in the billions of galaxies that we know exist. What is such a God really like?

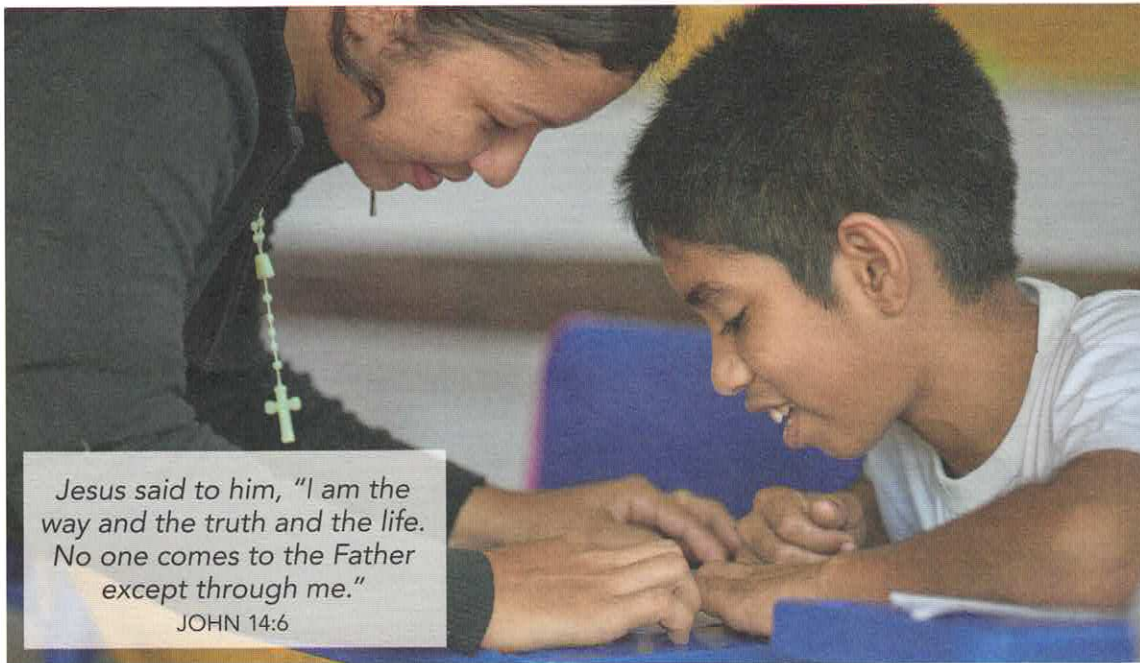
### FOR Reflection

- \* How do you think of God?
- \* Why do you suppose you think of God in that way?

The disciples were probably not thinking of astrophysics when they asked Jesus about God. Their questions flowed from Jesus’ constant reference to God as Father. That title in itself tells us something about God. It tells us that God, like a father, is the source of Jesus’ being and existence.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that he is about to return to his Father. He also assures them that they also will have a place with the Father. However, like us, they still are not sure what this Father is like. Jesus responds to their lack of understanding and suggests: “Look at me!” His life is lived for others. He is one who cares for those in need rather than walks past them, who forgives rather than condemns, who endures misunderstanding without retaliating, who tolerates the pettiness of others without being snide. Why is it so hard for us to realize that *this* is what God is really like?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



*Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

JOHN 14:6

ONS PHOTO/PAL JEFFREY

# Dear Padre,

## Are there models I can use to help me better understand what a mother is to do or be?

**A** great model for mothers is the Blessed Virgin Mary. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* uses the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix when speaking of Mary (CCC 969). These titles are important in explaining Mary's special relationship to us, her children. We can also use these titles to show how mothers today can relate to their children and spouses.

Mary encourages us in our efforts to follow Christ. So it is the duty of all mothers to be a guiding presence to their children as they begin to pray and learn to follow the Lord.

As Advocate and Helper, Mary assists us by her own prayer and example. Mary prays for us, and we only have to read Scripture to understand Mary's example of listening to God. Today's mothers share the task of praying for their children and spouses. A mother's example of listening for God can teach her children the importance of seeking God's will.

As Benefactress, Mary is a patron and invites us to receive the graces that only her Son can bestow. In today's family, a mother offers a constant stream of love and encouragement to her spouse and children. She is the patron of love, a refuge from the harshness that life can bring.

As Mediatrix, Mary brings people together to be coworkers with Christ in the work of salvation. Also, a mother is a mediator, a coworker with Christ, helping her children and spouse on their journeys toward salvation. Her family is a little church where heaven and salvation are proclaimed. Happy Mother's Day!



VIRGIN AND CHILD (1649) BY CARLO MARATTI/ALONSO/SHUTTERSTOCK

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR  
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### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Be my ambassador, [Mary] says to us, giving food to the hungry, drink to those who thirst, a refuge to those in need, clothe the naked and visit the sick. Come to the aid of your neighbor, forgive whoever has offended you, console the grieving, be patient with others, and above all beseech and pray to God.*

—HOMILY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016



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## Calendar

### Monday

MAY 11

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:5–18

Jn 14:21–26

### Tuesday

MAY 12

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:19–28

Jn 14:27–31a

### Wednesday

MAY 13

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:1–6

Jn 15:1–8

### Thursday

MAY 14

St. Matthias,  
Apostle

Acts 1:15–17, 20–26

Jn 15:9–17

### Friday

MAY 15

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:22–31

Jn 15:12–17

### Saturday

MAY 16

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:1–10

Jn 15:18–21

### Sunday

MAY 17

Sixth Sunday  
of Easter

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17

1 Pt 3:15–18

Jn 14:15–21

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