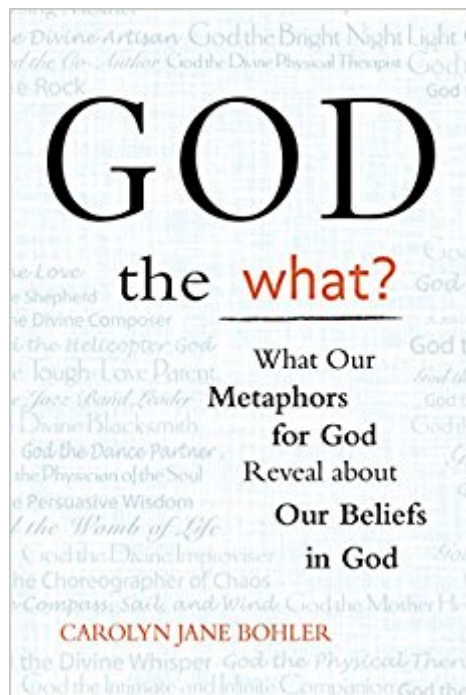The book was found

God The What?: What Our Metaphors For God Reveal About Our Beliefs In God

Synopsis

Challenge our common images of God by blowing the lid off conventional God-descriptors. "We do not have to let go of one sense of God to take up another. Neither do we need to go about challenging old metaphors. What is crucial is to find a metaphorâ •or two, or sixâ •that creatively point toward what we believe."â •from Chapter 1Let Carolyn Jane Bohler inspire you to consider a wide range of images of God in order to refine how you imagine God to have and use power, and how God wills and makes divine will happenâ •or not. By tapping into your God-given ability to re-imagine God, you will have a better understanding of your own beliefs and how you, God and the world relate to each other.Wonderfully fresh and down to earth, Bohler uses playful images, moving stories and solid scholarship to empower you to break free of old habits and assumptions, whatever your faith tradition. She encourages you to explore new names for God that are not only more consistent with what you believe, but will also deepen and expand your experience of God. Think about â |God the Choreographer of ChaosGod the Nursing MotherGod the Jazz Band LeaderGod the Divine BlacksmithGod the Divine Physical TherapistGod the Team Transformerâ | and more

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Customer Reviews

"No book can be more helpful than this one in guiding pastors and lay people to come to greater clarity about what they really believe about God. Guides us in critical reflection in a way in which all can participate. At once genuinely popular and genuinely theological."â •John B. Cobb, Jr., professor emeritus, Claremont School of Theology"Titillating ... an adventure in 'metaphor

wondering' and in multidimensional faith."â •Rev. Dr. Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, professor of pastoral care, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist Universityâ œA treasure house of word pictures, some conventional and some outrageously original. A testimony to the inveterate need, on the part of humanity, to connect with God.â •â •Rabbi Neil Gillman, professor of Jewish thought, The Jewish Theological Seminary of Americaâ œLays out the implications of our choices of metaphors for the Divine and expands our minds with practiced and practical suggestions. A must for all who wish to leave parochial worlds!â •â •Nancy Corcoran, CSJ, Catholic chaplain at Wellesley College; author, Secrets of Prayer: A Multifaith Guide to Creating Personal Prayer in Your Lifeâ œScholarly and accessible â | will help seminarians and seekers, professors and pastors explore new ways to talk about the Divine. Deftly compels the reader to continually nuance the mystery and complexity of our Godâ •no matter what our faith tradition. A book we've been waiting for!â •â •Marsha Foster Boyd, president, Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit

Carolyn Jane Bohler was the Emma Sanborn Toussant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Counseling at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, for twenty-one years. She has served three different United Methodist churches in Southern Californiaâ •in San Diego, Tustin and Redlands. She was also campus chaplain at Simpson College in Iowa and hospital chaplain intern in downtown Los Angeles and San Francisco. She is the author of six books, includingOpening to God: Guided Imagery Meditation on Scripture(published under the name Stahl) and a children's book, God Is Like a Mother Hen and Much, Much More. She is now enjoying retirement back in Dayton, where she is embracing a new role as grandmother.

If you are looking for theology in an genuinely exploratory mode, this is a great book.Bohler focuses on some of the metaphors we do (or might) use to understand God, rather than on some set of metaphors we "ought" to use. Thus, while there is some attention to the old, familiar images, such as Father, Rock, Divine Potter, etc., the author's deepest and most interesting thinking is in developing new ones: God the Bright Night Light, the Nursing Mother, the Jazz band leader, and as a coach (to name just a few).There is an ENORMOUSLY helpful checklist in the appendix for individuals or groups to use as a way of clarifying their own metaphors and the theology behind them -- and it asks how strongly you believe each one, which is a significant addition that spurs a lot of discussion.The checklist alone would be worth the price of the book for the busy pastor or harried group leader scrounging for resources at the last minute.For more conservative or traditional types, I suspect this may be a bad fit (although I say that as a progressive). God as Divine Mother has to be

o.k. for you. (Though the book itself would try to get you thinking about why you have such a stake in one gender over the other. A good question...but not everyone's cup of tea.)As a way of doing theology, the book's emphasis is squarely on helping people find language for how they're seeing and experiencing God now -- it's based on an inductive, relational, process-oriented way of thinking and shies away from definitive answers.I'm currently using it for a confirmation class and we've all loved it.My students feel like they're getting permission to talk about the God they know, and not marching orders about the God they're supposed to believe in. A lot of wonderful discussion has come from it. So has a lesson that our relationship with God and the metaphors we use to know God can change. Many have already had that experience, even though they are young. Now they know that this is not only o.k., but normal.It works well with teens and adults. A particular note for those raised in an atmosphere of toxic religion: this book could be exhilarating but terrifying.Progressive Christians should ABSOLUTELY buy this book.

This book makes you think outside the box and look at God in new ways. I can be a great teaching and preaching tool. Young people would definitely like the examples given in the box.

This book stretches the imagination in the way we think about God and relate to God.

Basically I thought "why was this book written?" Not for people who have a faith and have lived most of their life.

Metaphors are like keys that open our minds to new understandings in insights. This is particularly true when we are dealing with God since man has never been able to directly see or comprehend God. In God the What?, author Bohler makes a very strong case for the importance of metaphor in our discussion about God. How we visualize and talk about the divine greatly influences how we relate to God. The conversations that she inspires are extremely important and open the reader's conscience to new concepts and visions of God. This is an excellent, well written book for anyone who is willing to ask questions and search for answers.

Lively and engaging throughout, Carolyn Bohler draws from her life as a seminary professor, a pastor and a mother to give us hundreds of ways to think about God. This is an excellent read for inidividuals and a easy-to-use resource for pastors or small group leaders in churches. Indices of scriptures and metaphors are provided as well as discussion guides and reflective questions. As

Prof. John Cobb says, "No book can be more helpful than this in guiding pastors and lay people to come to greater clarity about what they really believe about God."

If we're talking about God, we HAVE to use metaphors. This book explores various metaphorical ways of trying to understand God, which only helps you be conscious of the metaphors--and the possibly LIMITING metaphors--we use to think about the nature of God.

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