

The Allure of God and the Lure of Love

Christina Bucher

1. As a group, make two lists. First, make a list of things you feel you know about God. Second, make a list of the things about God that are unknowable. Is your trust in the divine greater if you feel you know God more, or if you know God less? Why?
2. Bucher says, “The allure of God is the power of God to attract, not to coerce.” In what way does God attract you? Is there any way in which God uses coercion or threats to get people to believe and follow? If so, what are the threats?
3. Was “omnipotence” in the list of things you know about God? Name several stories from the New Testament in which Jesus uses power. Then name several stories in which Jesus refrains from using power. Why does Jesus refuse to use power at times? What does his refusal say about the nature of God? Which activity of God—power or passion—has been more meaningful in your life? Why?
4. Christina Bucher writes, “Living in relation to God means we experience both joy and sorrow, that there are times when our souls are filled with the love that comes from God, but there are other times when we feel empty, lost, abandoned.” Is it possible to be in a relationship with God and still feel abandoned? In what way? Who abandons whom?
5. Just as Jesus responded with love rather than force, choosing the cross over the power to save himself, we choose love over force. How do you use love over force as a parent? A neighbor? A citizen? An enemy?